

DECISION NOTICE
AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR

CABIN CREEK AIRSTRIP REPAIR

USDA FOREST SERVICE
PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST
KRASSEL RANGER DISTRICT
VALLEY COUNTY, IDAHO

This document contains a decision regarding action designed to repair the Cabin Creek airstrip and restore Cow Creek to a more natural function. The project area is in the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness. The Forest Service prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) discussing the need for action, management alternatives to the proposed project, environmental impacts of the proposed project and the alternatives, and showing the agencies and persons consulted, and is available to the public. The Cabin Creek airstrip is located in T21N, R12E, Section 24.

Decision:

After review of the environmental analysis, evaluation of the alternatives and the public comments generated in response to a pre-decisional release of the EA, I have decided to adopt Alternative 2 as the selected course of action. This alternative provides for rehabilitation of the Cabin Creek airstrip and restoration of Cow Creek, in the Frank Church - River of No Return (FC-RONR) Wilderness. As described in the EA as the Proposed Action, Alternative 2 will involve the following:

- * Repair of the Cabin Creek airstrip landing surface, requiring movement and compaction, of approximately 1200-1500 cubic yards of material moved from identified areas adjacent to the airstrip.
- * The work will be by non-motorized work methods, involving horse drawn equipment (fresnos, slips, graders, rollers and wagons...), determined to be the minimum necessary tool to do the identified work. Exception to the general prohibition on the use of mechanized (wheeled) equipment in this Wilderness will be limited to the actual work on the Cabin Creek airstrip.
- * The majority of the needed fill material will be obtained in conjunction with rehabilitation to more natural conditions of an approximate 350 foot reach of Cow Creek at the north end of the airstrip.
- * Disturbed areas along Cow Creek and adjacent to the airstrip, will be stabilized with plantings of native vegetation.

The objective of the proposed action is to restore the Cabin Creek airstrip to the same operating standard that existed prior to the June 1996 run-off overflow from Cow Creek. This event gullied the center section of the landing surface the length of the 1750+ foot runway, involving the loss of an estimated 1000 cubic yards of fill and surface material.

In conjunction with this work, the Forest Service will restore Cow Creek to a more natural condition (including the deepening and widening of overflow channels), reducing the potential for a future recurrence of the airstrip damage due to an overflow of Cow Creek. This will have the added benefit of improving water quality and fish habitat conditions.

The following mitigation requirements will be applied to project activities:

Measure: Limit work to periods without snow, runoff or saturated soils.

Objective: Limit sediment production.

Measure: Adhere to BMPs (Best Management Practices) and apply Forest Service soils and water conservation practices (involving specific sediment reduction measures, such as; silt fences, slash windrows, straw, timing of work during low flow and driest season).

Objective: Reduce impacts to soil and water.

Measure: Restore operating dimensions/margins at the Cabin Creek airstrip that previously existed.

Objective: Restore aesthetic conditions that previously existed - do not change the visual impact of the airstrip due to reconstruction from that which previously existed.

There will be a designated Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) and/or Project Coordinator/Inspectors, with specific duties and responsibilities to ensure that work is conducted in compliance with the terms of the contract and any mitigation measures are implemented.

Subsequent to project completion the Forest Service will: conduct annual inspections of the airstrip, monitor spring run off flows of Cow Creek as a measure to prevent a recurrence of the 1996 washout of the airstrip and within budget allocation, conduct maintenance to preserve safety features and operating conditions of the airstrip. Following the rehabilitation of Cow Creek, the Forest Service will monitor the stream for successful functioning of the restoration work (i.e. near natural flow characteristics achieved).

Reason for the Decision:

This course of action was selected, considering information disclosed in the Cabin Creek Airstrip Repair EA, based on the following rationale.

Alternative 2 best responds to the Purpose and Need identified in the EA (pages 1 & 4). This course of action restores a means of access to the Wilderness that was established prior to the 1980 Central Idaho Wilderness Act (CIWA). The work will improve resource conditions with a restoration of Cow Creek to more natural conditions, while utilizing work methods that meet Forest Service "minimum tool" policy for activities in Wilderness.

It is my determination that Alternative 2 is consistent with the 1964 Wilderness Act, the Central Idaho Wilderness Act, the Forest Plan and other relevant management direction described on pages 4-5 of the EA.

Alternative 2 is responsive to the issues identified and documented in the EA (pages 5-9 of Part I and pages 29-48 of Part III):

Access - repair of the Cabin Creek airstrip will restore an established means of access to the Wilderness.

Wilderness - Opportunities for solitude and a primitive recreation experience:

Repair activities will result in a short term reduction in opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation experience. However, by employing non-motorized work methods these types of impacts will be minimal and the work will be more in keeping with the Wilderness environment. After the work, the opportunities for solitude and a primitive recreation experience will be returned to that which existed prior to the airstrip's damage and closure.

Wilderness - Natural appearance and integrity:

The original construction of the Cabin Creek airstrip modified the natural flow path and function of Cow Creek. Restoration of Cow Creek to a more natural function will improve the natural appearance and integrity of the Wilderness at this location.

Watershed - Alternative 2 restores Cow Creek to a more natural function, increasing creek stability and reducing the potential of a future recurrence of a run-off event that would damage the airstrip. The direct introduction of sediment to Cow Creek will be significantly reduced by stabilization of the oversteepened stream banks.

Fisheries Habitat - Effects to fish are directly related to watershed conditions. Alternative 2 improves habitat conditions by reducing sediment introduction and improving water quality. The disturbance during project activities and impacts associated with the presence of work crews and stock will be limited and short term.

It is my determination that Alternative 2 provides the best balance between protection of the Wilderness and its component resources, while restoring use of an airstrip which had previously established use and provides access to this remote portion of the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness.

Alternatives Considered:

Part II of the EA (pages 13-25) describes the proposed action (Alternative 2) as well as alternatives to the proposed action. Pages 25-28 of the EA addresses Mitigation Measures, Implementation and Management Requirements and Project Monitoring.

Alternatives Considered in Detail:

Four alternatives (including a No Action option) to the Proposed Action were considered in detail (pages 19-25).

Alternative 1 - No Action:

This alternative (described on pages 19-20 of the EA) would not provide for airstrip repair, nor Cow Creek restoration. The disturbed condition of Cow Creek and the gully on the Cabin Creek airstrip would be allowed to seek its own natural balance, which would occur over a period estimated to be 20-50 years.

There would be a loss of access opportunities under this alternative, and during the 20-50 year period of allowing the situation to stabilize there would be a level of sediment entering the system, lowering water quality and potentially impacting fish habitat.

Alternative 3 - Fill for Airstrip Repair Obtained in Conjunction with Rehabilitation of Cow Creek Using Motorized Equipment:

This alternative (described on page 23 of the EA) attempts to meet many of the same resource benefits as the proposed course of action, with the exception that motorized equipment is used. Use of motorized equipment has the potential of reducing the project period, returning the airstrip to use sooner. However, in following the Forest Service "minimum tool" concept for work in Wilderness, as discussed on pages 37-39 of the EA, it was determined that there is high likelihood that the project can be successfully completed without use of motorized equipment. Therefore, in conformance with this concept, use of motorized equipment is not desirable unless it is definitely established that the work cannot be completed without such use.

Alternative 4 - Fill for Airstrip Repair Obtained from Hillside Locations Using non-motorized Work Methods:

This alternative (described on pages 23-25 of the EA) was designed to avoid any disturbance of Cow Creek, leaving it in an essentially status quo condition, while repairing the airstrip with non-motorized work methods. This course of action would fail to take advantage of an opportunity to improve conditions in conjunction with the airstrip repair. Cow Creek would continue to be a source of sediment, lowering water quality and impacting fish habitat. The short term impacts associated with a restoration of Cow Creek to more natural conditions (increased sediment introduction) are outweighed by the long term gains with decreased sediment introduction and improved water quality.

Alternative 5 - Fill for Airstrip Repair Obtained from Hillside Locations Using Motorized Work Methods:

This alternative (described on page 25 of the EA) was designed to avoid any disturbance of Cow Creek, leaving it in an essentially status quo condition, while repairing the airstrip using motorized equipment, shortening the project's likely duration. This course of action would fail to take advantage of an opportunity to improve conditions in conjunction with the airstrip repair. Cow Creek would continue to be a source of sediment, lowering water quality and impacting fish habitat. The short term impacts associated with a restoration of Cow Creek to more natural conditions (increased sediment introduction) are outweighed by the long term gains with decreased sediment introduction and improved water quality from a stream restored to more natural conditions.

Alternatives Considered and Eliminated from Detailed Study:

Several alternatives were initially formulated that were eliminated from detailed study due to reasons described in the EA (pages 13-19).

No Repair of Cabin Creek Airstrip While Rehabilitating Cow Creek and Stabilizing Washout:

As proposed, this course of action (as described on page 13 of the EA) would use non-motorized work methods to restore more natural flow dynamics to Cow Creek and stabilize the gully in the Cabin Creek airstrip. This option would result in a loss of aircraft access opportunities, failing to satisfy the Purpose and Need for Action as described on pages 1-4 of the EA.

Alternative Access:

This alternative considered opportunities (page 14 of the EA) to provide equivalent air access to lower Big Creek without repair of the Cabin Creek airstrip. The success of this course of action was contingent on the ability to improve the Soldier Bar airstrip to a standard that would provide air access that would be equivalent to what Cabin Creek airstrip provided prior to the runoff damage. It was concluded that it was unlikely that this opportunity was realistic due to topographic limitations at Soldier bar.

Change Emphasis and Improve Resource Conditions:

As described on pages 15-16 of the EA, this course of action looked at the opportunities to improve the operating standard of the Cabin Creek airstrip, while de-emphasizing Soldier Bar airstrip and discontinuing maintenance at that location, focusing public use at the Cabin Creek airstrip. Several advantages and disadvantages related to this course of action were identified, however it was dropped from serious consideration and detailed evaluation due to: 1) the level of improvement that would be required at Cabin Creek with attendant potential to increase use could be projected to detract from the Wilderness setting, and 2) the controversial nature and potential difficulty related to eliminating maintenance or discouraging use at Soldier Bar.

Repair Airstrip Using Fill From Deposition Location:

Page 17 of the EA discusses the possibility of re-using the material that washed from the airstrip in June of 1996 to repair the airstrip. This material was captured in an abandoned irrigation reservoir and represents a potential source of fill material. It was decided that removing fill from other locations offered greater advantages.

Negotiate to Use Taylor Ranch as a Public Airfield:

This option is discussed on page 17-18 of the EA. Taylor Ranch does not offer the same operating standard as Cabin Creek, and its use is currently restricted. It is unlikely that the University of Idaho would be interested in making this facility available to unrestricted public use.

Reconstruct Airstrip in a Different Location:

Two different options of this alternative are discussed on page 18 of the EA. In both cases the resultant airstrip would be short, with very limiting operating conditions.

Place Culvert in Cabin Creek Airstrip Gully:

Page 18-19 addresses one option to reduce fill requirements to repair the Cabin Creek airstrip, and provide some degree of run-off protection. Placing 1750 feet of culvert down the middle of a Wilderness airstrip was not deemed to be desirable.

Defer to Wilderness Plan:

This course of action is addressed on page 19 of the EA. Such an option was deemed to be unresponsive to the situation, particularly as it was associated with a delay of unknown length.

Implementation and Management Requirements:

As described on page 26 of the EA, it is planned that project implementation will be by contract. In this case, a solicitation will be offered describing the work and requesting bids. The availability of interested and qualified contractors, bid prices and available funds, will dictate the issuance of a contract to complete the work.

The work will be flagged and staked on the ground with an appropriate level of Forest Service oversight to monitor the contractor's work as it was being conducted to ensure consistency with the terms and specifications of the contract. The movement of materials and equipment needed by the contractor to complete the project will be consistent with regulations for management of the area. Exception to the general prohibition on the use of mechanized (wheeled) equipment will be limited to the actual work on the Cabin Creek airstrip.

Mitigation Measures:

The following mitigation requirements will be applied to project activities (page 25 of the EA):

Measure: Limit work to periods without snow, runoff or saturated soils.

Objective: Limit sediment production.

Enforce: Project Contract & FSH 2509.22 Soil & Water Conservation Practices.

Responsibility: Project Coordinator, COR (Contracting Officer's Representative), designated Project Inspector(s)

Measure: Adhere to BMPs (Best Management Practices) and apply Forest Service soils and water conservation practices (involving specific sediment reduction measures, such as; silt fences, slash windrows, straw, timing of work during low flow and driest season).

Objective: Reduce impacts to soil and water.

Enforce: Project Contract & FSH 2509.22 Soil & Water Conservation Practices.

Responsibility: Project Coordinator, COR (Contracting Officer's Representative), designated Project Inspector(s)

Measure: Restore operating dimensions/margins at the Cabin Creek airstrip that previously existed.

Objective: Restore aesthetic conditions that previously existed - do not change the visual impact of the airstrip due to reconstruction from that which previously existed.

Enforce: Project Contract to return airstrip to previous operating standard and restore Cow Creek to more natural conditions.

Responsibility: Project Coordinator, COR (Contracting Officer's Representative), designated Project Inspector(s)

Project Monitoring:

As discussed on page 27 of the EA, a Forest Service representative will be present during actual work as necessary to ensure work meets terms and conditions of the contract and satisfies contract specifications. There will be a designated Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) and/or Project Coordinator/ Inspectors, with specific duties and responsibilities to ensure that work is conducted in compliance with the terms of the contract and any mitigation measures are implemented.

Subsequent to project completion the Forest Service will: conduct annual inspections of the airstrip, monitor spring run off flows of Cow Creek as a measure to prevent a recurrence of the 1996 washout of the airstrip and within budget allocation, conduct maintenance to preserve safety features and operating conditions of the airstrip.

Following the rehabilitation of Cow Creek, the Forest Service will monitor the stream for successful functioning of the restoration work (i.e. near natural flow characteristics achieved). This will be measured using the following criteria:

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| * gradient | * riffle to pool ratio | * width to depth ratios |
| * substrate | * longitudinal profile | * channel cross section |
| * sinuosity | * average bankfull width | |

Public Involvement:

The Forest Service conducted the following actions to involve the public and keep interested individuals informed of the decision making process:

* The Forest Service published Legal Notices requesting comments on the Proposed Action for repair of the Cabin Creek airstrip in the Star News, McCall, ID, and Idaho Statesman, Boise, ID, on June 27, 1996.

* A direct mailing of a News Release requesting comments on the Proposed Action for repair of the Cabin Creek airstrip was made on June 28, 1996 to identified media, businesses (outfitters & guides and air services), agencies, organizations and individuals.

These actions generated over 200 comments and were used to formulate the issues that guide the analysis and evaluation documented in the EA.

The Forest Service sent two status reports to a mailing list of commenters and interested parties in July 1996 and January 1997

The Payette National Forest Supervisor released the EA for a 30 day pre-decisional comment period April 3 to May 5, 1997. The Forest Service received a total of 22 comments. These comments were analyzed and similar concerns were combined. The summarized comments were grouped and addressed. The responses to each identified concern were incorporated as an Appendix into a final draft of the EA. A copy of the identified issues with Forest Service responses, will be provided to each commenter with the Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact.

Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations:

The entire project area is within National Forest system lands. The action is consistent with relevant Plans, Laws, regulations and policies.

Consistency with Forest Plan:

The Payette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1988) incorporated the direction of the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness (FC-RONRW) Management Plan by reference (Forest Plan I-2).

The current Wilderness Management Plan recognizes Cabin Creek as one of the landing strips in the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness available for public and administrative access. Restoration of the airstrip is consistent with the direction (page 81) in the FC-RONR Wilderness Management Plan. The Plan provides direction to "maintain present established landing dimensions and approach clearances", and further directs that, "Maintenance will generally be by primitive (non-motorized) methods. Approval for use of motorized equipment is required from the Regional Forester or Chief on a case-by-case basis".

The Proposed Action satisfies the soil and water objectives in the Payette Forest Plan (IV-70) and direction in the FC-RONR Wilderness Plan (pages 38-40). Rehabilitation of Cow Creek as part of the airstrip restoration project would be conducted consistent with management direction for soil and water and is projected to provide improved water quality as compared to that which currently exists or that existed prior to the airstrip damage event in June 1996.

Alternative 2 is consistent with the Forest Plan goal for fish habitat as described on page IV-37 and direction in the FC-RONR Wilderness Plan for wildlife and fish (pages 29-31). The Decision Notice for the Environmental Assessment addressing Interim Strategies for Managing Anadromous Fish-producing Watersheds in Eastern Oregon and Idaho, Washington and Portions of California (commonly referred to as "PACFISH") amended the Payette Forest Plan and established management requirements intended to protect anadromous fish habitat. All action will be consistent with this management direction. Several PACFISH Riparian Management Objectives (RMOs) would be improved by action to repair Cow Creek.

Forest Service Manual:

The decision recognizes policy direction contained in the Forest Service Manual (Chapter 2320 - Wilderness Management): "where there are alternatives among management decisions, wilderness values shall dominate over all other considerations except where limited by the Wilderness Act, subsequent legislation, or regulations." The FSM further states that, "in wildernesses where the establishing legislation permits resource uses and activities that are nonconforming exceptions to the definition of wilderness as described in the Wilderness Act, manage these nonconforming uses and activities in such a manner as to minimize their effect on the wilderness resource".

Forest Service policy directs Wilderness managers to evaluate and scrutinize every planned action to determine if it is necessary to achieve the management objectives for the area. If a planned action is determined to be necessary, it must be accomplished using methods and equipment that have the least impact on the physical, biological and experiential characteristics of the wilderness. In wilderness, how you carry out the management action is as important as the end product. This is referred to as the "minimum tool concept". This decision recognizes this direction in selecting the work to be completed by non-motorized methods.

Wilderness Act & Central Idaho Wilderness Act:

The proposed project is consistent with these Acts as they pertain to aircraft use and repair of the Cabin Creek airstrip in the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness.

Congress designated the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness as designated as Wilderness in the Central Idaho Wilderness Act (CIWA) of July 23, 1980. Section 7 of that Act specifically addresses continuation of aircraft uses, "the landing of aircraft, where this use has become established prior to the date of enactment, shall be permitted to continue... the Secretary shall not permanently close or render unserviceable any aircraft landing strip in regular use on national forest lands ... for reason other than extreme danger to aircraft, and in any case not without the express written concurrence of the agency of the State of Idaho charged with evaluating the safety of backcountry airstrips."

The Wilderness Act of 1964, as enacted September 3, 1964, and amended October 21, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136) provides Congressional policy to secure for the American people, an enduring resource of wilderness for the enjoyment of present and future generations. It defines wilderness as areas untrammelled by people that offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and directs agencies to manage wilderness to preserve natural ecological conditions. With certain exceptions, the Act prohibits motorized equipment, structures, installations, roads, commercial enterprises, aircraft landings and mechanical transport. The Special Provisions of Section 4 (d) (1) provide for a continuation of aircraft use where such use had been established.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):

The Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact document compliance with NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1508.27) for implementing NEPA.

National Forest Management Act (NFMA):

Management action and practices prescribed in this proposal provide for adequate resource protection, including soils and water, riparian, wetlands, and vegetation resources. The mitigation measures and management requirements specified and described in the EA provide needed resource protection.

Endangered Species Act (ESA):

The decision was determined to not have adverse effects to threatened, endangered or sensitive animal and plant species as documented in the Biological Evaluations and Assessments for the project. The Forest Service has completed required consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service on a Biological Assessment prepared for chinook salmon.

Clean Water Act:

The project has been reviewed for consistency with this Act. In compliance with the Clean Water Act, a section "404" permit will be acquired from the Army Corps of Engineers (coordinated with the State of Idaho Department of Water Resources) for action that would involve work in Cow Creek as part of rehabilitating that stream.

National Historic Preservation Act:

The Cabin Creek Ranch, which, as private property, was served by the airstrip, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The airstrip is within the boundaries of the NRHP site but is considered non-contributing. A Forest Service professional cultural resource manager conducted an inventory of the immediate area of the airstrip in 1996 after the damage to the airstrip, and did not discover any buried or previously unrecorded cultural material. No cultural or historic sites will be affected by the repair work. The Forest Service has consulted with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding the Proposed Action.

Federal Aviation Act:

The Federal Aviation Act, as amended (Title 49, United States Code, section 1349) establishes restrictions on using Federal funds for the construction, maintenance, or operation of any landing area. Cabin Creek has been listed with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as a public landing area. Management policy is to operate all Forest Service airstrips in accordance with applicable FAA regulations and state requirements.

Finding of No Significant Impact:

I have reviewed the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for significance (40 CFR 1508.27) and I have determined this is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. This determination was made considering the following factors of context and intensity:

Context:

The proposed action is site and project specific. There are no known, or anticipated, long or short-term effects that will significantly impact the quality of the human environment. After the short term project to repair the airstrip, with specific and identifiable effects due to work activities, the situation will stabilize and return to the conditions that existed prior to the June 1996 event which damaged the Cabin Creek airstrip. There are four other Forest Service maintained airfields on the Krassel Ranger District, three in the Wilderness, as well as an airfield under Special Use Permit to the State of Idaho for operation and maintenance. Work to keep these airfields operational is an ongoing activity and management concern. Work to repair the airstrip and return it to its previous operating standard by non-motorized means is compatible within the context of a Wilderness.

Intensity:

1. The proposed action entails activities that will have impacts that are both beneficial and adverse. The EA attempts to describe these trade-offs in Part III of the EA under the heading Affected Environment and Environmental Effects (pages 29-48). It is my determination that overall, the positive impacts of the proposed action out weigh any adverse impacts, with regard to the critical issue areas of: access, Wilderness, watershed and fisheries habitat.

2. The proposed action will not adversely affect public health or safety (reference page 48 of the EA). Further, repair of the Cabin Creek airstrip will provide a safer means of aircraft access to lower Big Creek than provided by the Soldier Bar airstrip.

3. The proposed activity occurs wholly within a classified Wilderness on National Forest System lands. The work will be conducted using the "minimum necessary" tool, and will improve aspects of Wilderness conditions related to the natural function of Cow Creek, while restoring conditions of use at this location that existed prior to the damage and closure of the Cabin Creek airstrip.

The proposed action will not adversely affect unique characteristics, there will be no impact on historic or cultural resources (reference page 11 of the EA), on prime farmlands, ecologically critical areas or wild & scenic rivers (reference page 48 of the EA).

4. The effects of the proposed action on the quality of the human environment are not likely to be highly controversial. There are opposing opinions regarding the proposed action (reference summary of public comment, Appendix 4 of the final EA). It is my judgement that the controversy is limited in scope and not high.

Public comment revealed that the controversy which does exist is primarily focused on the decision to repair or not repair the Cabin Creek airstrip, but there is not controversy related to the actual physical environmental effects of the project.

5. It is unlikely that the proposed action will affect the human environment in any uncertain or unknown manner, or that unique or unknown risks are present. The proposed action is well defined, over a limited area. The project has little potential to present unknown risks to the human environment.

6. It is not anticipated that the proposed action will establish a precedent for future actions. This is viewed as a discretionary action by the Forest Service, based on site specific management considerations. Undertaking the project as proposed should not be precedent setting.

7. This action is unrelated to other actions with the potential to cumulatively contribute to significant impacts. Cumulative effects are addressed on pages 32, 39, 41-42 & 47 of the EA. There are no projects planned in the immediate vicinity of Cabin Creek. Human presence, associated primarily with recreation activity, could cause minor disturbance and alter the natural environment to some degree.

8. There is no evidence the proposed action has any potential to impact or affect cultural resources (page 11 of the EA). The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has been consulted regarding this project.

9. No known unique, threatened or endangered species or their habitats will be adversely affected. This issue is addressed on page 10 of the EA for wildlife, page 11 for plants, and in greater detail on pages 9 and 42-48 for fish. The Forest Service prepared a Biological Evaluations and/or Assessments for plants, wildlife and fish. The Forest Service consulted with other Federal agencies as required by Federal law and regulation during preparation of these documents.

10. The proposed action will not violate any Federal, state or local law requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (reference pages 12 & 48 of the EA).

Implementation Date:

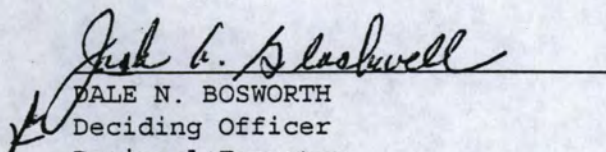
Implementation is scheduled to begin following the publication and appeal period for this decision. If no appeal is received, implementation of this decision may occur on, but not before, five business days from the close of the appeal filing period. If an appeal is received, implementation may not occur for 15 days following the date of appeals disposition, depending on the nature of that disposition.

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities:

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215.7. A written Notice of Appeal must be postmarked by August 11, 1997, which is 45 days after the legal notice announces this decision in the Boise Idaho Statesman. Mail the Notice of Appeal to Chief, Forest Service, PO Box 96090, Washington D.C. 20090-6090. The Chief is the Appeal Deciding Officer. Appeals must meet content requirements of 36 CFR 215.14. Copies of the Environmental Assessment are available at the following Forest Service offices: Regional Office, Intermountain Region, Ogden, Utah; Payette National Forest, Supervisors Office, McCall, Idaho; Krassel Ranger District, Payette National Forest, McCall, Idaho.

Contact Person:

For additional information concerning this decision of the Regional Forester, contact the Krassel Ranger District; Fred Dauber, District Ranger or Clem Pope, Resource Specialist, Payette National Forest, PO Box 1026, McCall, Idaho 83638 (208) 634-0600.


DALE N. BOSWORTH
Deciding Officer
Regional Forester

6/16/97
Date