

NEWS RELEASE

Payette National Forest

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Clem Pope, (208) 634-0600

PAYETTE FOREST SEEKS COMMENTS ON PROPOSAL TO REPAIR CABIN CREEK AIRFIELD

McCALL - The Payette National Forest is seeking comments on the proposed plan to repair the Cabin Creek airfield in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. The airstrip has been closed since mid-June due to damage from Cow Creek overflowing its channel.

Repairing the airfield would require moving about 1500 cubic yards of fill material. Preventative measures to protect the airstrip from a future flood would require additional channelization of Cow Creek, with a backup system of overflow ditches and dykes.

The proposed Forest Service action is to repair the Cabin Creek airstrip to its previous operating standards by following wilderness management direction and using non-motorized, non-mechanized methods. Forest officials have identified using horse drawn equipment or hydraulic fill techniques to perform non-motorized, non-mechanized repair.

Other possible alternatives that have been identified and will be considered as part of the evaluation are: no action; restore Cabin Creek airstrip to previous operational standards using motorized/mechanized equipment; provide comparable and reasonable alternative(s) for accessing the area.

Implementing the repair method selected after the evaluation will depend on funding and contractor availability. Once a repair method is selected, it would take between 50 and

120 days to fix the airfield.

Comments regarding the proposed Forest Service action, or other possible response options to the Cabin Creek airfield damage, are an important part of the evaluation and will help Forest officials in their decision. Written and oral comments received will be made available for public inspection. To be most useful, comments should be received by July 15.

Send comments to: Cabin Creek Airstrip, Krassel RD, Payette NF, Box 1026, McCall, Idaho 83638. For further information, please contact Clem Pope, District Resource Specialist, at (208) 634-0616.

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