



File Code: 1950/2350

Date: March 4, 2004

Dear Interested Party:

The Greys River Ranger District is initiating this scoping statement to provide a starting point for public input. The District proposes to evaluate the impacts and feasibility for conducting trail maintenance and improvements for the 2004 field season.

Background Information

The analysis area is used extensively for dispersed camping, hiking, packing, horseback riding, fishing, snowmobile, ATV, and other recreational pursuits. Permitted sheep and cattle graze on allotments throughout the area. The analysis area provides important habitat for elk, moose, trout and many other species of wildlife.

The Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) for the Bridger-Teton National Forest sets the goal of meeting resource challenges with an objective of solving management problems and resolving issues (Chapter 1, pg 16). LRMP standard and Guidelines for motorized trail use include (Chap 4, pg 141):

- National Forest Development Trail Standards
- Trails signing Guidelines
- Trails Condition Standards

Desired future condition (Chap 4, pg 151) for the proposed project area is to provide roaded recreation opportunities that are compatible with other multiple use objectives.

Purpose and Need

Three trails are proposed for improvement on the Greys River Ranger District for the 2004 season (see attached map):

- Wickiup Knoll: Trail #191 is 4.4 miles long and located 4 miles SE of Afton, south of Dry Canyon.
- Murphy Creek to Squaw Creek: Trail #183 is 6.8 miles long and located approximately 26.5 miles North of Afton.
- Dry Creek Lake to Trail Fork Trail: Trail #182 is 8 miles SE of Afton and is approximately 3.8 miles long

These trails receive high public use and improvements such as signs/markers, tread, width, and drainage would benefit the users and improve safety. Improvements will reduce erosion and sedimentation benefiting wildlife, fisheries, and vegetation. Providing improved trails will also aid the Forest Service and the state in promoting and encouraging responsible trail use.

Proposed Action



Trail maintenance includes constructing drainage structures (waterbars, culverts, etc) , signing, brushing-out trails, adding and replacing trail markers and closing/rehabilitating “short-cut” trails that are causing resource damage. Steep portions on 2.0 miles of the Murphy Creek to Squaw Creek trail need to be re-routed to improve user safety and reduce erosion. Work on the trails will be accomplished using a trail dozer and trail backhoe to close trails, and pulaskis, rock bars, shovels, and chainsaws for brushing-out and light trail improvements. These improvements are intended to reduce soil loss and reduce future trail maintenance cost.

Initial Issues

The Forest Service has identified the following issues.

- Effect this project may have on watershed conditions.
- Effect this project may have on unplanned roads and trails (unmanaged motorized off-trail use).
- Effect this project may have on wildlife, plant, and fish habitat.

Your comments are valuable in identifying issues for detailed analysis and identify additional issues related to the propose action.

Decision to be Made

As the Greys River District Ranger, I will decide whether or not to implement the proposed action or another alternative developed in response to specific resource issues. I may choose one alternative or select components from each alternative.

How to Get Involved

This is your first opportunity to participate in the environmental analysis for this project. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requires that the potential effects of Federal actions and alternatives to those actions be disclosed to the public. All interested parties have an opportunity and are encouraged to participate in the process. We ask that you submit your comments in writing to assist in issue and alternative development. Issues identified during scoping will be used to develop alternatives to the proposed action. Please provide specific rational for your comments and opinions to assist us in the analysis for the project.

Comment or questions regarding this project should be submitted to:

District Ranger
Greys River Ranger District
P.O. Box 339
Afton, WY 83110
Telephone 307-885-3166 FAX 307-885-1339
Email: mailroom_r4_bridger_teton@fs.fed.us subject: Greys River Trail Improvement 2004

This scoping document and map are also available online at www.fs.fed.us/btnf/projects/.

To ensure your comments will be included in this analysis, comments should be postmarked by **April 5, 2004**. Persons not responding to this mailing will not receive further information regarding this project. If you wish to participate in this environmental analysis or be kept informed of the process but are unable to respond to this scoping document, please contact David Fogle at the address or phone number above.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered regarding these projects. If you need more information on submitting comments anonymously, please contact us or refer to 36 CFR 215 and 7 CFR 1.27(d).

Sincerely,

CHARLENE BUCHA GENTRY
District Ranger