



File Code: 1950-1

Date: February 2, 2004

The North Fork Ranger District is proposing to develop a rock material pit to provide riprap and road surfacing material along the lower Salmon River Road. The proposed location is along the Colson Creek Road (Forest Road #123). A vicinity map is attached to this letter for your reference.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to develop a long-term riprap and road surfacing material source for the lower end of the Salmon River Road and adjacent areas. This source could be used to provide rock for a variety of projects including road repairs and improvements; bridge and culvert protection; and possibly fisheries, wildlife, or recreation site improvements. A need exists to develop a material source that will not adversely impact the Salmon River Canyon scenic values, is below Cove Creek Bridge, and is within reasonable haul distance to various locations along the lower Salmon River Road.

Proposed Action

The proposed pit is located along the Colson Creek Road approximately 1.6 miles from its junction with the Salmon River Road. Legal description is T. 23 N., R. 16 E., NW ¼, SE ¼, Section 24 B.M. Actual disturbance would occur on approximately three acres of National Forest land. The pit would be visible for a short distance along the Colson Creek Road.

The following actions would be required to develop and operate the material pit:

- Clear an estimated 6 CCF of timber ranging from pole size to small saw log size from approximately one acre;
- Remove and store overburden and non-suitable rock from the area below the rock outcrop;
- Develop a combination of pit and berm below the rock outcrop to catch and process rock removed from the source;
- Construct approximately 600 – 800 feet of road suitable for an excavator and drilling equipment to access above the rock outcrop; and
- Utilize appropriate traffic controls, including short-term road closures, on the Colson Creek Road during blasting and periods of heavy truck traffic.

The enclosed drawing depicts the proposed pit development. The material pit would be developed for long-term use to supply needed rock products for the area. An immediate need exists to finalize repairs to the Salmon River Road at Fountain Creek that was damaged by high water in 2003. No improvements to the Colson Creek Road are needed to facilitate anticipated haul from the pit.



Opportunity to Comment

This letter provides an opportunity to comment regarding the proposed action. This analysis is being completed under revised 36 CFR 215 appeal regulations, which became effective June 4, 2003. Please be aware that there are many changes in the appeal regulations that are important to understand:

- (1) Your comments must be substantive. This means that comments must be within the scope of, are specific to, and have a direct relationship to the proposed action. They must include a supporting reason that I should consider in making a decision.
- (2) Your comments must be timely. This means that comments must be submitted within 30 days of when this notice appears in the *Recorder Herald*.
- (3) You must comment on this proposed action to be able to appeal any future decision. If you submit comments, you must either sign the comments or otherwise verify identity in order to be able to appeal.
- (4) Your comments can be submitted in either written format to our mailing address, delivered to our office, sent via e-mail, facsimile, or presented orally in person at our office.

Please direct comments on the proposed action to:

Patty Bates, District Ranger
North Fork Ranger District
11 Casey Road
P O Box 180
North Fork, ID 83466
Telephone: (208) 865-2700
Facsimile: (208) 865-2739
E-mail: comments-intermtn-salmon-challis-northfork@fs.fed.us

Your comments will continue to help refine the proposed action, any alternatives, as well as the environmental analysis. Pursuant to 36 CFR 215.3(a), this proposal is subject to legal notice and opportunity to comment. Comments on the proposed action will be accepted for 30-days following publication of a legal notice (36 CFR 215.5(b)(1)(iv)). You may submit comments by letter, telephone, facsimile, electronically (in Word or .rtf format) or office visit (during the hours of 8 AM to 4:30 PM). In order to be eligible for appeal, comments must be substantive and timely. Pursuant to 36 CFR 215.2, substantive comments are within the scope of the proposed action and would include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider.

NOTICE: 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; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR parts 215 or 217.

For additional information on the project, contact IDT Leader Tony Beke at (208) 756-5101, or e-mail tbeke@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Patty Bates

PATTY BATES
District Ranger

Enclosures (2)