

**SCOPING and
NOTICE of PROPOSED ACTION
for
SAGE CREEK MATERIALS PIT PROJECT**

Salmon-Challis National Forest
North Fork District
July 2004

Introduction

The North Fork Ranger District of the Salmon-Challis National Forest is proposing the expansion of a small existing rock pit located in the Sage Creek drainage, southeast of the Sage Creek Road (FR #005), approximately 0.3 miles from the junction with the Salmon River Road (FR #030). The pit would be used to develop a long term rock materials source for road repair and improvements; bridge and culvert protection; and potential fisheries, wildlife, and recreation site improvements in the Salmon River corridor. Other materials pits in the area contain rock which is suitable for crushing and surfacing, but not as a riprap source. An immediate need exists to provide riprap material to portions of the Salmon River Road which have sustained heavy scouring. The estimated total disturbance to Forest Service system lands would be 2 acres.

The proposed pit is located adjacent to a granite talus slope, with granite cliffs above. There are few trees (5 – 10), and low brushy vegetation.

LOCATION

The legal description for this site is T.24 N., R.20 E., NE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Sec. 20, Boise Prime Meridian, Lemhi County, Idaho. This location is outside of the Wild and Scenic River Corridor.

PURPOSE and NEED

The purpose of the project is to develop a new rock source for riprap and ditch armoring materials for roads, bridges, and project sites within the Salmon River Corridor. The need to develop these locations is due to a lack of quantity and quality rock materials in the area, particularly of riprap quality. Currently approved locations lack the quantity needed for present and future needs. A need exists to develop a source that will **not** adversely impact the scenic nature of the Salmon River Canyon or the winter range of big game animals in the surrounding area.

PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed rock pit is designed to cover an area approximately 370 feet long by 160 feet wide, for a total disturbed acreage of 2 acres. The pit floor is designed to slope 2% - 4% southeastward away from Sage Creek Road to assure internal pit drainage. The walls would slope at ¾ :1. The Forest Service will work with the contractor to develop a pit plan with proper drainage taking all precautions to assure no sediment runoff over the road and into the stream.

The first phase of development would utilize rock from an area 160 feet long by 120 feet wide. An anticipated 4000 cubic yards would be mined. Future uses of this site would include dispersed camping (hunting) and a long-term material source for future projects.

The proposed action includes the following:

- Clearing a minimal number of trees (5-10) ranging in size from pole to small saw logs (approximately 3CCF).
- Remove and store overburden and non-suitable rock in the area below the rock outcrop.
- Expand the existing pit floor and maintain the berm between the rock source and Sage Creek.
- Utilize appropriate traffic controls if needed, including short-term road closures on the Sage Creek Road during blasting and periods of heavy truck traffic.
- No road improvements to Sage Creek Road are planned at this time to facilitate anticipated haul out of the pit.
- Full pit development would affect approximately 2 acres of National Forest Service land.

The public is invited to comment on the proposed action. Only those who submit timely and substantive comments will be accepted as appellants. Substantive comments are those within the scope of, are specific to, and have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons that the Responsible Officials should consider in reaching a decision. Each individual or representative from each organization, submitting substantive comments must either sign the comments or otherwise verify identity in order to attain appeal eligibility. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project. Comments must include the information required pursuant to 36 CFR 215.6(a)(3), as published in the Federal Register on June 4, 2003.

Please send written comments to: Terry Hershey, C/O Susan Anderson, Team Leader, North Fork Ranger District, 11 Casey Road, P.O. Box 180, North Fork, ID, 83466. Phone (208)-865-2700, fax: (208)-865-2739. Comments may also be delivered to the above address during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, excluding Federal holidays. The opportunity to comment ends 30 days following the date of publication of this legal notice in the *Recorder Herald*. Comments also may be submitted to the following email address: comments-intermtn-salmon-challis-northfork@fs.fed.us. Email comments must be in Word or rtf format.

If you have any questions please contact Susan Anderson, Team Leader, 50 Highway 93 South, Salmon, ID, 83467 or call (208)-756-5160.