DECISION MEMORANDUM

GOLDEN TROUT TEMPORARY BRIDGE PLACEMENT PROJECT, BUTTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

FEATHER RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

BACKGROUND

The existing bridge crossing South Fork Feather River at Golden Trout was damaged when a large tree traveling down river hit the metal I-beam support on the upstream side of the bridge, causing metal beam to spread apart about 2 inches, and an approximately 10 inches crack to develop in the I-beam. After a visit by a bridge inspector, the Regional Structural Engineer notified Plumas National Forest to close the bridge immediately. The structure was closed and a Forest closure order was issued. There is currently no access across the river from either side.

PROPOSED PROJECT ACTION AND DESCRIPTION

We are proposing to install an 85 feet long temporary bridge next to the existing bridge. This will allow for fire engines, fire crews, the public, and Forest Service administration to cross the stream without resource damage. The proposal will involve moving material from a borrow source (aggregate base from government pit on Road 22N27) to construct approaches to the temporary bridge.

PURPOSE OF ACTION

Providing a temporary crossing, improves the safety of the traveling public, prevents resource and property damage, and protects watersheds.

NEED FOR ACTION

This action is needed to provide temporary crossing at South Fork Feather River located at Golden Trout Crossing. The Regional Structural Engineer will be performing an on-site visit in the fall to determine permanent repair or replacement of the damaged bridge.

Collaborative Involvement

This project was presented at the December 11, 2019 meeting of the Feather River Ranger District Collaborative and at the Butte County Forest Advisory Committee meeting on September 23 and December 16, 2019.

Public Involvement

This action was listed (PALS #56820) as a proposal on the Plumas National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA), on September 13, 2019, as well as the Forest Program of Work (POW). The project was updated and revised incorporating current project development design features, involving public input, using specific resource specialists for review and analysis.

Level of Significance

As the responsible official, I am responsible for evaluating the effects of the project relative to the definition of significance established by the CEQ Regulations (40 CFR 1508.13). I have found that the Context and intensity of the analyzed resource areas do not meet the threshold nor the criteria for extraordinary circumstances or potential negative or significant effects in the area of potential effect.

Results of Review and Analysis - Findings

I find that there are no extraordinary circumstances that would warrant further analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS. I took into account resource conditions identified in agency procedures that should be considered in determining whether extraordinary circumstances might exist:

- Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species – No issues
- Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds – No issues.
- Congressionally designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas – None present.
- Inventoried roadless areas or potential wilderness areas – None present.
- Research natural areas – None present.
- American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites – There are no known American Indian religious or cultural sites within the project area.
- Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas – The entire project area has been surveyed for cultural resources and there are no known cultural resources in the project area.

Cumulative Effects

Established by the Chief, this is one of a category of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and which have been found to have no such effect in procedures adopted by the agency in implementation of regulations (40 CFR 1508.4).

Decision

I have decided to approve the project and proposed action with the requirements, design features, best management practices, or mitigation measures listed in this Decision Memorandum.

This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA). The applicable category of actions are identified as 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(18) restoring wetlands, streams, riparian areas or other water bodies by removing, replacing, or modifying water control structures…to allow waters to flow into natural channels and floodplains and restore natural flow regimes to the extent practicable where valid existing rights or special use authorizations are not unilaterally altered or canceled. This category of action(s) is applicable because based on the Agency's experience and knowledge of regularly and routinely removing, replacing, or modifying water control structures, where there are no extraordinary circumstances, the responsible official can conclude the actions will not have significant effects.

Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations

This decision is consistent with the Plumas National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. As amended by the 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA).

Administrative Review (Appeal) Opportunities

This Decision does not provide for any "appeal" or "objection" opportunities. All public and stakeholder input was received and considered during the FRRD collaborative process for this project. Once this Decision is signed the project or proposed action may be implemented immediately, notwithstanding any other law or regulation from another agency that would preclude its immediate implementation.

Implementation Date and Requirements

This action may be implemented immediately following the delivery and discussion of the Regulatory Requirements, Best Management Practices (BMPs), Design Features, and/or Mitigation Measures required by this Decision Memorandum with those responsible for implementation. A notice of receipt or acknowledgement must be received by the Responsible Official or their designee and maintained with this Decision Memorandum prior to implementation and maintained until the project is complete and reviewed by District officials.

CONTACT

For additional information concerning this decision, contact: Herman Wendell, 530-532-7466, herman.wendell@usda.gov.

27 Jan 2020

David B. Brillenz
District Ranger
Feather River Ranger District
Plumas National Forest

Date

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; 92) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.