

USDA
Forest Service

Intermountain
Region

Sawtooth
National Forest

Ketchum Ranger District

July 1, 2016



Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact

Deer Creek Road Realignment and Riparian Restoration Project

USDA Forest Service - Intermountain Region
Sawtooth National Forest
Ketchum Ranger District
Blaine County, Idaho

Township 2N, Range 16E, Section 12; and Range 17
E, Sections 6 and 7 B.M.

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DECISION NOTICE

BACKGROUND

Deer Creek is a major drainage located on the south west portion of the Ketchum Ranger District on the Sawtooth National Forest. It consists of narrow valley bottoms with perennial creeks that are surrounded on either side by steeper upland slopes. The area is identified as Management Prescription Category (MPC) 4.2 - *Roaded Recreation* in the Revised Sawtooth Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (2012) (Figure 1). Lands within this management prescription category primarily have uses emphasizing dispersed and developed recreation, including both motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. Multiple trailheads, numerous designated dispersed camp sites and an extensive road and trail network currently exist in the drainage.

The Deer Creek Watershed was identified as a forest-wide priority for wildlife habitat restoration in the 2012 Sawtooth Wildlife Conservation Strategy. As such, the Sawtooth National Forest (SNF) developed an integrated watershed restoration project intended to improve forest health, enhance wildlife and fish habitat, reduce the potential for uncharacteristic fire behavior near private lands and communities, and provide sustainable recreation opportunities in the Deer Creek area. An environmental assessment (EA) was completed and a decision notice was authorized on July 15, 2013.

Three weeks after the decision notice was authorized, the Beaver Creek Fire ignited and burned 93,132 acres of national forest lands; 69% of the Deer Creek drainage was burned in this fire. Severe rain events in September of 2013 triggered substantial debris flows in the burned area that resulted in major sedimentation release into the main Deer Creek floodplain, damming of the natural river channel approximately 5 miles west from the Forest boundary. This event forced water flows from Deer Creek onto the roadway, washing-out a large section of the existing Deer Creek Road and damaging bridge infrastructure.

These events created a large scale change of condition in the watershed, greatly affecting fish and wildlife habitat, stream channel integrity, existing road and recreation resources and public access within the drainage. The drainage was mostly closed to the public from August 2013 – July 2015. Access was restored to the public during the summer of 2015; however significant road integrity and water quality concerns remain, especially in the vicinity of the North Fork Deer Creek confluence where the Deer Creek Road crosses the creek three times in less than half a mile distance (**Appendix 1, Figure 1**), constricting the natural flow of the channel and contributing to degraded water quality conditions.

The proposed action will realign the Deer Creek Road to the adjacent upland slope, remove three bridges and creek crossings, and install one new crossing over North Fork Deer Creek (**Appendix 1, Figure 1**). This action is part of more comprehensive post-fire restoration treatments that will be implemented to restore floodplain and riparian function and condition, improve water quality and fisheries habitat, provide sustainable recreation and public access in the Deer Creek drainage, and maintain existing recreation opportunities in the Deer Creek Watershed, consistent with the Sawtooth Forest Plan direction (ROS/MPC 4.2)

THE DECISION

It is my decision to select Alternative 2, the Proposed Action, as displayed in the *Deer Creek Road Realignment and Riparian Restoration Project Environmental Analysis* (EA).

The project would improve water quality and provide sustainable access to the drainage by realigning 3650 ft. of road onto the south facing slope above the floodplain, removing 3 bridge crossings over Deer Creek, installing one crossing (culvert or bridge) at the North Fork Creek and removing 0.5 mile of the existing Deer Creek Road from the riparian floodplain (**Appendix 1, Figure 1**). The new road segment would proceed onto the south-facing upland slope approximately 0.3 miles east of the North Fork Deer Creek Road, just prior to the location where the road currently turns to the south to cross Deer Creek. Here the new road alignment would fork; the right fork traveling north and descending the slope to connect to the existing North Fork Deer Creek Road and left fork continuing to travel to the west, cross the North Fork Deer Creek, and travel near the toe of the south-facing slope approximately 0.2 miles until it finally connects to the end road terminus at the existing Deer Creek day-use area and trailhead.

The rock materials removed from the road re-alignment would be hauled eastward toward the Forest boundary and could be used to build up other sections of Deer Creek Road to the east that require heavy road maintenance(**Appendix 1, Figure 1**). Additionally, along this heavy road maintenance section, in sections where the current roadway is affecting the stream channel, riparian zone, or floodplain and the road could be moved to a more upland location at the toe of the slope, the Forest may realign up to one additional mile of road segments using those rock materials.

Following the road realignment completion, riparian and floodplain restoration would occur, including: obliteration of the replaced roadway and removal of three bridges and their abutments, native revegetation, installation of large woody debris to capture and store sediment in the riparian zone, stream channel restoration and floodplain reconnection, and facilitation of passive restoration by reintroducing beavers. Activities also include installing erosion control measures such as native revegetation, use of coir logs, jute mats or other natural materials, as needed, to help stabilize the disturbed areas and promote natural recovery.

RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION

In reaching my decision, I have sought to carefully and objectively assess all the public comments and the analysis of issues disclosed in the EA. While there is support for the goals of the proposal, the main concerns raised by the public and agencies focused on the short-term impacts to water quality, impacts to the scenic or visual environment, concern for slope stability in the location of the road cut and the potential to introduce or expand nonnative plant distribution in the project area. I believe my decision addresses the environmental concerns, and balances these identified concerns while maintaining the existing recreational opportunities that the area provides. My decision is based on the following considerations:

1. **There is a need** restore floodplain and riparian function and condition;
2. **There is a need** to improve water quality and fisheries habitat;
3. **There is a need** to provide sustainable recreation and public access in the Deer Creek drainage;
4. **There is a need** to maintain existing recreation opportunities in the Deer Creek Watershed, consistent with the Sawtooth Forest Plan direction (ROS/MPC 4.2).

The No Action alternative does not contribute to meeting or moving the project area conditions towards the needs outlined above.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The proposal was provided to the public and other agencies for comment during scoping between November 20 and December 20, 2015, with four comments received.

The proposal has been listed in the Sawtooth Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions from November 2015 to present.

The formal 30-day notice and comment period occurred from February 3 – March 3, 2016. A letter announcing the 30-day ‘Notice of Proposed Action’ comment period along with the EA was sent to everyone that had previously commented on this project. The EA was posted on the Sawtooth National Forest public website. Seven comments were received during the 30-day comment period.

The final Environmental Analysis and draft Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the project was released for a 45-day objection filing period on April 27th, 2016. One objection was received during this period and was subsequently withdrawn by the individual filing the objection.

ISSUES AND ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Scoping input was reviewed to determine the key issues that would drive the analysis documented in the Environmental Assessment (EA). The ID Team did not identify any key issues internally or from public comments that would lead to the development of substantive alternatives. Non-key issues were identified and project design features were developed to address concerns. Discussion of these non-key issues are further described in the EA completed for the Deer Creek Road Re-alignment and Riparian Restoration Project (April 2016).

The No Action and Proposed Action alternatives were described and analyzed for the Deer Creek Road Re-alignment and Riparian Restoration Project. The analyses of these alternatives are available in the EA completed for the Deer Creek Road Re-alignment and Riparian Restoration Project (April 2016). Two Alternatives were considered but eliminated from further analysis based on the findings that they did not fully meet the purpose and need of the project.

FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS

Consistency with Sawtooth Forest Plan

This decision, as based on the 2016 EA, with required mitigation measures in place, is consistent with the Sawtooth Forest Plan goals and objectives and standards and guidelines. A Forest Plan Consistency Checklist is made part of the project record.

Endangered Species Act (as amended)

Based on resource reports completed for this project concerning threatened and endangered plant, fish, and wildlife species, correspondence with US Fish and Wildlife Service, and detailed discussions contained in the Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation (Project File), it was determined that implementing the project would not adversely affect listed species or critical habitat or jeopardize the continued existence of species proposed for listing.

This project tiers to and lies within the range of effects identified in the Deer Creek Watershed Project, which was authorized in July 2013, and remains consistent with the concurrence of determination of effects to TEPC that was received. A biological assessment and evaluation was completed for that project

that evaluated the effects to TEPCS species that occur or have habitat within the Deer Creek drainage and concurrence was received from the USFWS for this action on *June 7, 2013* (project record). This project also tiers to and lies within the range of effects identified in that analysis and remains consistent with the concurrence of determination of effects R4 Sensitive species.

Additional checklists and analyses were completed for TEPC plants, terrestrial wildlife, and fisheries species to account for activities that were not described in the 2013 Deer Creek Watershed Project. Checklist, worksheets and technical reports for this project are located in the Project Record. This decision is consistent with the Endangered Species Act.

National Historic Preservation Act (1966) and American Antiquities Act (1906)

As mandated by the NHPA, a cultural resources inventory was performed and the area was surveyed by the Forest Archeologist. A cultural/heritage resources survey of the project area was conducted in 2012 and 2015, and it was determined that the project will have no effect on any significant Native American religious or cultural resources, and will not impact archaeological sites, historic properties or areas. (*SHPO Concurrence, April 9, 2013 and September 5, 2015*; project record).

Clean Air Act (1977 as amended) and Idaho Air Pollution Rules

This decision is in compliance with the Clean Air Act, which defines the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for various sources of pollutants that must be met to protect human health and welfare, including visibility. This decision will also meet all NAAQS.

Clean Water Act

Within the State of Idaho, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality has the responsibility under the Federal Clean Water Act to promulgate surface water quality standards. Idaho's water quality standards are developed to protect public health and welfare, enhance the quality of water, and meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) before dredged or fill material may be discharged into the waters of the United States. Before the permit is issued, the USACE ensures that the proposed project has taken steps to avoid wetland impacts, or minimize potential impacts on wetlands. This permit is an essential part of protecting wetlands.

A portion of the proposed work will occur in the floodplain, and there are also wetlands in the action area. Activities would provide long-term benefits to aquatic resources. Any negative effects would be localized, temporary or short-term and will be mitigated with BMPs and project design criteria. The project will maintain water quality to support Beneficial Uses, consistent with the State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 303d standards (IDEQ2011). All necessary permits and authorizations will be obtained prior to implementation, including a Joint Application Section 404 Permit from the State of Idaho and Army Corps of Engineers, as well as coverage under the Stream Channel Protection Act MOU with the Idaho Department of Water Resources. The project, as designed, will comply with the Clean Water Act.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

This project has complied with the 36 CFR 218 Regulations. The one objection that was received during the objection period was withdrawn by the individual who filed the objection. Once the Decision Notice has been signed, it may be implemented immediately.

Contact

For additional information concerning this decision or the Forest Service appeal process, contact the Ketchum Ranger District Office in Ketchum, 206 Sun Valley Road, during normal business hours from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. (208) 622-5371.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

I have reviewed the Council on Environmental Quality regulations regarding determination of the significance of environmental impacts (40 CFR 1508.27), and I have determined that this decision is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. This determination is based on the thorough environmental assessment process completed for this project and was made considering the following factors.

Context - This action occurs on the Ketchum Ranger District and involves realigning of approximately 0.5 miles of the Deer Creek Road, in the vicinity of the North Fork Deer Creek confluence, out of the floodplain and onto the adjacent upland. Three bridges, which cross the main Deer Creek channel along this segment, would be removed and one new bottomless culvert would be installed to provide a crossing over the North Fork Deer Creek. Heavy road maintenance would also be completed in the vicinity of Wolfstone Creek along the main Deer Creek Road. My decision, to select Alternative 2, will have effects which are summarized in the EA as well as the project file. Cumulative effects of past management, combined with ongoing activities, and reasonably foreseeable actions are discussed in Chapter 3 of the EA, in the project file, and in the 2013 Deer Creek Watershed Project EA, which the effects of this project tier to. These effects were considered in my determination. My decision is consistent with the management direction, standards, and guidelines outlined in the amended 2012 Sawtooth Forest Plan.

This action is designed to improve riparian and watershed health conditions, moving the drainage towards the desired condition, while maintaining current recreational access and opportunities in the area.

After careful consideration of the EA and the project record, it is my finding that the effects of this action are not significant. My finding that the impacts are not significant is not biased by the beneficial impacts described in the analysis.

Intensity - The following were considered in evaluating the intensity of identified environmental effects:

1. Environmental Effects: I considered beneficial and adverse impacts associated with the alternatives as presented in Chapter 3 of the EA and in the project file. The impacts from the Decision are within a range of effects identified in the Forest Plan. The overall impact of the decision does not result in significant adverse impacts. Impacts of the Decision are not unique to this project. The road realignment and watershed improvement treatment described in this action have long been used by the Forest Service and other land management agencies to restore floodplains and watersheds to a healthier, more resilient condition. On this basis, I conclude that the specific and cumulative adverse effects of the decision are not significant (see EA Chapter 3).

2. Public health or safety: The EA documents and discusses effects as well as mitigation for public safety associated with watershed treatments identified. Locations within the project area will be signed to the public during road realignment and floodplain restoration activities. I find with this decision that there are no known effects on public health and safety. This project does not involve national defense or security.

3. Unique characteristics of the area: Based on field reviews, literature research, the Forest Plan, and information in the EA and the project file, I find that this decision results in no significant effects on unique characteristics such as historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farm lands, wetlands, or wild and scenic rivers. Based on the same information, I find that no significant adverse effects are anticipated to

any environmentally sensitive or critical resource. This action is outside of the boundary of the Buttercup Mountain IRA. I conclude the decision will have no effect on these unique resources.

4. Controversy: I find the effects on the human environment are not highly uncertain and are unlikely to involve unique or unknown risks. There is no substantiated controversy over the effects. The EA documents and discusses the effects in Chapter 3, and there is additional documentation on effects in the Project Record. Public comments and opinions are contained in the Project Record and summarized in the EA, Chapter 1.

5. Uncertainty: I find the impact analysis shows the effects to the environment are not uncertain and do not involve unique or unknown risks (see EA Chapter 3). This action is similar to other riparian restoration and road realignment actions taken on many National Forests including the Sawtooth National Forest. Pertinent scientific literature has been reviewed and incorporated into the analysis process. The technical analyses conducted for the determination of impacts to the resources are supportable with use of accepted techniques, reliable data and professional judgment. Issues of public concern and possible environmental effects of the selected alternative have been adequately addressed in the analysis of this decision. Therefore, I conclude that there are no highly uncertain, unique or unknown risks.

6. Precedent: The decision does not set a precedent for Forest Service of such projects. Any future decisions will need to consider all relevant scientific and site-specific information available at the time a proposal is made.

7. Cumulative impact: I find the cumulative impacts are not significant. Cumulative effects are addressed for each resource in Chapter 3 of the EA. Past, present, and foreseeable future projects that interact with the decision were evaluated and the combined effects are not significant.

8. National Register of Historic Places; Significant scientific, cultural or historic resources: I find the action will have no adverse effect on districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office sent concurrence for the project (*SHPO Concurrence, April 9, 2013 and September 5, 2015*; project record). I find the action will not cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

9. Endangered or threatened species: I find the action will not adversely affect or jeopardize the continued existence of any federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or Forest Service listed sensitive species or their critical habitat. Based on resource reports completed for this project concerning threatened and endangered plant, fish, and wildlife species, correspondence with US Fish and Wildlife Service, and detailed discussions contained in the Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation and Checklists (Project File), it was determined that implementing the project would not adversely affect listed species or critical habitat or jeopardize the continued existence of species proposed for listing.

This project tiers to and lies within the range of effects identified in the Deer Creek Watershed Project, which was authorized in July 2013, and remains consistent with the concurrence of determination of effects to TEPC that was received. A biological assessment and evaluation was completed for that project that evaluated the effects to TEPCS species that occur or have habitat within the Deer Creek drainage and concurrence was received from the USFWS for this action on *June 7, 2013* (project record). This project also tiers to and lies within the range of effects identified in that analysis and remains consistent with the concurrence of determination of effects R4 Sensitive species.

10. Legal requirements for environmental protection: I find the action is consistent with Federal, State, and local laws and requirements for the protection of the environment. Applicable laws and

regulations were considered in the EA. The action is consistent with the 2012 Sawtooth Forest Plan (Project Record – Forest Plan Consistency Checklist). This action does not threaten to violate Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

Based on the above, I find that there are no significant impacts, and therefore an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.



Kurt J. Nelson
Ketchum District Ranger - Sawtooth National Forest

July 01, 2016
Date

Appendix 1

Deer Creek Road Realignment and Riparian Restoration Maps

Deer Creek Road Realignment Project

Ketchum Ranger District
Sawtooth National Forest



January 2016

 Project Area

 Floodplain Restoration

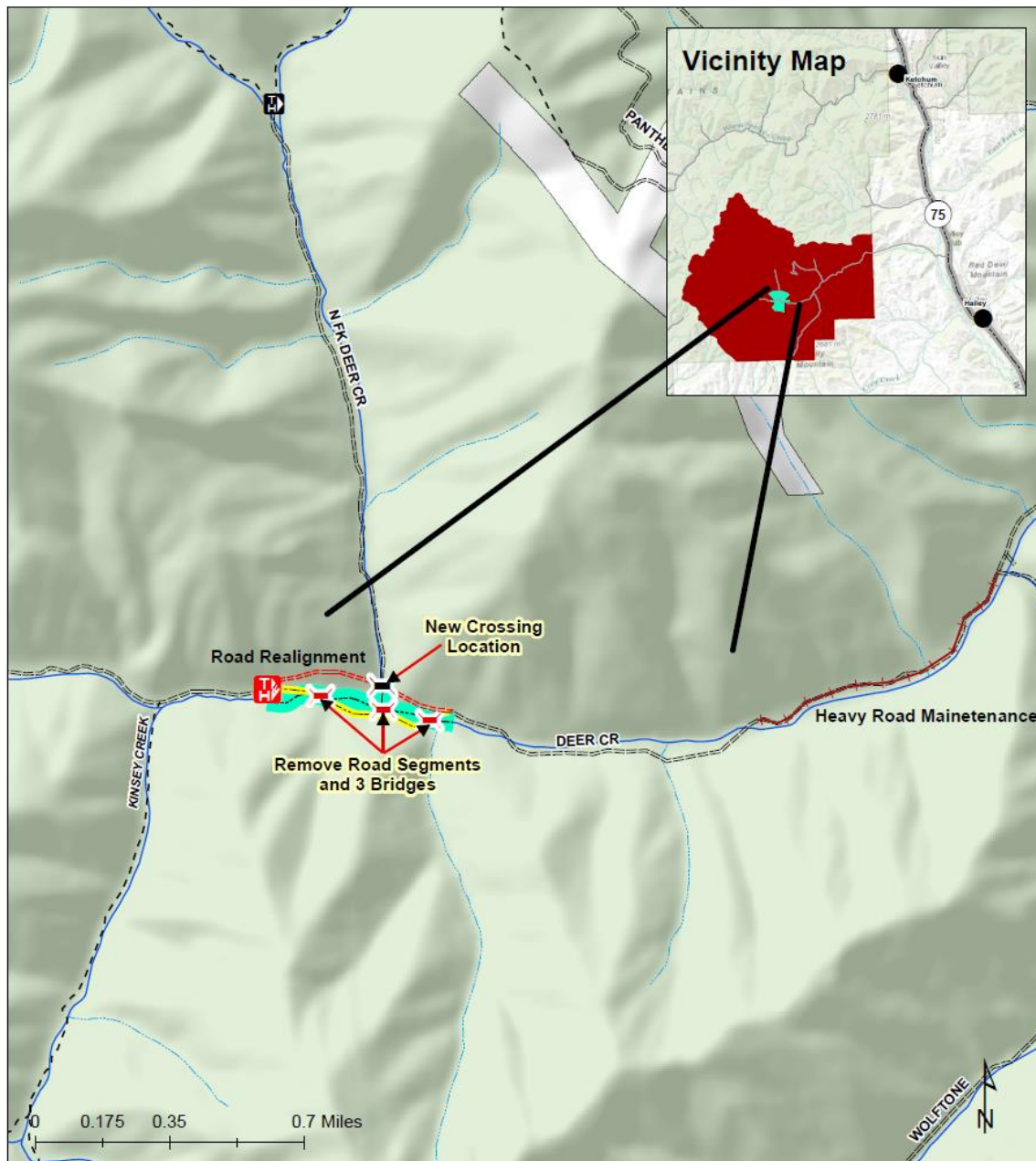


Figure 1. Deer Creek Road Realignment and Riparian Restoration Project Map.

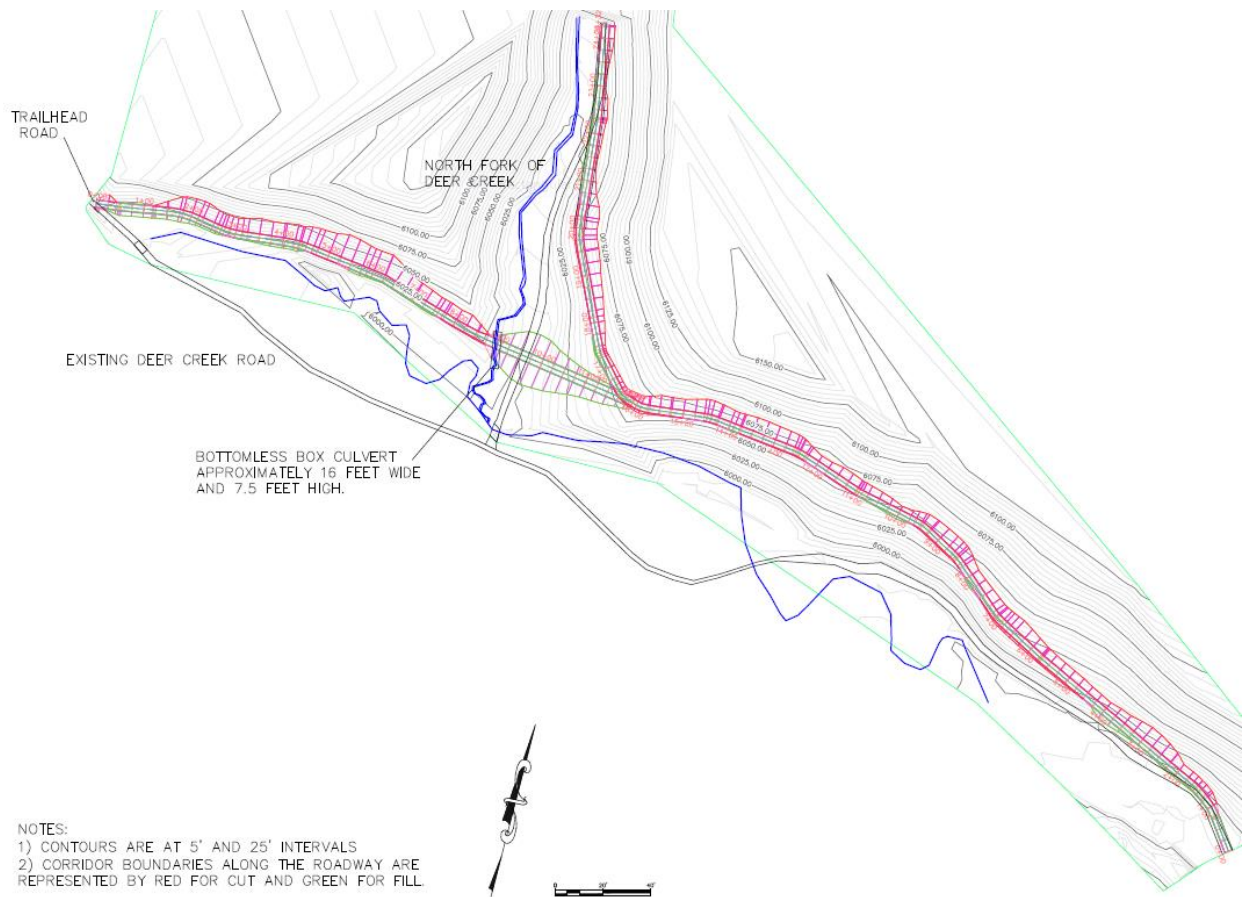


Figure 2. Deer Creek Road Realignment route configuration and design.

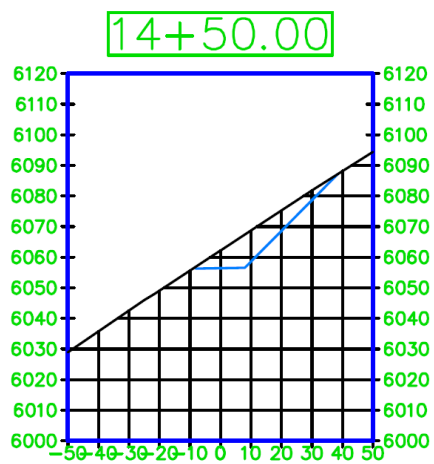


Figure 3. Side view of the average road cut required for the new Deer Creek Road Realignment.

Appendix 2

Design Criteria for Project Implementation

Soils/Water/Riparian/Aquatics (SWRA)

- Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs) are delineated as directed in Appendix B of the Forest Plan. For the Project Area, the RCA is delineated as follows: for forested perennial streams the buffer is flood prone width or two site potential tree heights (150-foot slope distance), whichever is greatest; for forested intermittent streams the buffer is flood-prone width or one site potential tree height (75-foot slope distance), whichever is greatest; for any non-forested streams the buffer is the extent of the flood prone width or riparian vegetation (whichever is greatest).
- Provide an Aquatic Management Zone (AMZ) buffer of suitable width between the road's edge and the stream channel to ensure that no sediment is mobilized from the roadway into the stream channel during storm events. For this project, the minimum suitable buffer width is site-specific and dependent on roadfill gradients and width, road surface gradient, and the stability of the roadcut. The minimum buffer distance will be calculated and designated by the aquatic biologist during the final road alignment surveys.
- Design the road surface drainage system to intercept, collect, and remove water from the road surface and surrounding slopes in a manner that minimizes concentrated flows in ditches, culverts and over fill slopes and road surfaces. Use a distance interval between drainage features that is suitable for the road material, gradient, and expected traffic levels.
- Where drainage culverts are needed, ensure that the concentrated flows will not cause hillslope erosion or gullies downslope toward the floodplain and stream channel. Provide a sufficient buffer distance at the outfall of road drainage structures for water to infiltrate before it is able to reach the waterbody.
- Leave existing rooted trees or shrubs at the toe of the road's fillslope or benchcut to help stabilize the road edge.
- If there are any excess and unsuitable materials removed from the hillslope and road cut, those materials will be deposited and stabilized only in pre-designated waste rock sites.
- Locate stream crossings where the channel is narrow, straight and uniform, and has relatively flat terrain, to the extent practicable. Where lateral channel instability exists, design the road crossing large enough to account for natural channel adjustments and possible channel shifts over the design life of the structure.
- Design and install crossings to sustain bank full dimensions of width, depth, and slope and maintain streambank resiliency and continuity through the structure.
- Align any culverts with the natural stream channel and orient the crossing perpendicular to the channel, to the extent practicable.
- Design the stream crossing structures to have sufficient capacity to convey peak annual flows and flood flows without appreciably altering streamflow and channel characteristics.
- Fuel and chemical storage will be located outside of the RCA.
- Trees or snags that are felled within RCAs would be left unless determined by the District Fisheries Biologist/Hydrologist to not be necessary for achieving soil, water, riparian, and aquatic desired conditions (as per Forest Plan guidance.)

- Heavy equipment (excavator or backhoe) used to excavate fill and remove culverts from effected creeks and floodplains within the project area would not be operated in the wetted creek (with the exception of the bucket). The machinery may have to cross the creek channel one or more times in order to access the far side of the stream crossing site.
- The project would be performed in late summer or fall to minimize the amount of water flowing in the creek through the site.
- To reduce sedimentation and turbidity associated with removal of the culvert and fill, cofferdams (in the form of sand or gravel bags, tarps, and/or straw bales) would be installed in North Fork Deer Creek upstream and downstream of the culvert to dewater the stream channel, with streamflow routed around the excavation site with hoses, pipes, and/or pumps.
- Prior to excavation, blocknets will be used to restrict fish access to the worksite, and fish at the site will be netted and moved upstream to prevent mortality.
- The road decommissioning work, including the removal of bridges or culverts where practicable, will follow the Best Management Practices outlined in the Programmatic BABE for Stream Crossings in Idaho (USFS and BLM 2011).
- To prevent streambank erosion and streambed disturbance, minimize the number of stream crossings by heavy equipment and minimize ground disturbance within the RCAs.
- Where there is potential for increased streambank erosion and sediment deposition into the active stream channel, use of erosion control materials (eg. silt fencing, straw wattles, coir logs) will be required.
- Prior to culvert removal, cofferdams or other erosion structures shall be constructed to isolate work areas from flowing water on fish-bearing streams. This should minimize sediment delivery and stream turbidity and prevent injury to aquatic organisms. Immediately prior to cofferdam construction and equipment entry into the stream, fish passage will be blocked with nets, then aquatic organisms in the project area will be netted and placed upstream of the work area to minimize direct injury.
- Fish passage shall be provided at all proposed and reconstructed stream crossings of existing and potential fish-bearing streams unless protection of pure-strain native fish enclaves from competition, genetic contamination, or predation by exotic fishes is determined to be an overriding management concern.
- To accommodate floods, including associated bedload and debris, new culverts, replacement culverts, and other stream crossings shall be designed to accommodate a 100-year flood recurrence interval unless site-specific analysis using calculated risk tools or another method, determines a more appropriate recurrence interval.
- Mechanical equipment should be inspected to ensure that it is free of leaks and clean of contaminants such as cleaning agents, motor oil and hydraulic fluids to prevent soil or water contamination.
- Equipment refueling will occur outside of the riparian zone in an upland location. Refueling within the RCA will be allowed only in pullouts on the opposite side of the road away from the stream away from flowing water. Spill containment kits with absorbent pads (capable of absorbing petroleum products) will be kept on hand in case a spill occurs.
- Equipment staging and parking areas should be located outside the riparian zone in weed-free sites, unless no other alternative exists.
- In excavation areas adjacent to flowing or standing water (including streams, wetlands or side channels), sediment filtering devices (ie. silt filter fence, wattles, weed free straw bales, etc.) shall be used to limit delivery of disturbed soils and fill material into the creeks. These should be placed between the work area and flowing water to intercept sediments that might be flushed/spread from the work site.
- To avoid release of contaminated soils into the stream, do not allow road surface or roadbed materials to enter the stream during maintenance and decommissioning actions.

- Excavation and other equipment used in the proposed action will not ford or travel in any wetted stream channel except as necessary to complete the proposed actions.
- Following disturbance of any riparian or streambank vegetation, native plantings and/or seeding will be used to re-establish riparian vegetation and provide long-term bank stabilization. A Sawtooth National Forest botanist will be consulted to identify appropriate seed mixtures for use.
- Where reasonable and practical location alternatives exist, new recreation facilities and trails should be located outside of RCAs. When new recreation facilities and trails must be located in RCAs, they shall be developed such that degrading effects to RCAs are mitigated.
- Fish passage shall be provided at all proposed and reconstructed stream crossings of existing and potential fish-bearing streams unless protection of pure-strain native fish enclaves from competition, genetic contamination, or predation by exotic fishes is determined to be an overriding management concern.
- Where reasonable and practical location alternatives exist, new recreation facilities and trails should be located outside of RCAs. When new recreation facilities and trails must be located in RCAs, they shall be developed such that degrading effects to RCAs are mitigated.
- Pump intake screens shall meet National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) screening criteria (NMFS 1996). For example they will have openings not exceeding 3/32-inch diameter and a surface area proportionate to the pump intake capacity. The objective is to provide a positive barrier to fish entrainment and maintain a velocity of no more than 0.4 feet per second at the surface of the intake screen to avoid impingement.

Scenic Environment and Visual Resources

- Ensure revegetation of all disturbed areas immediately or within one year of project completion.
- Develop cut slopes from road development to mimic natural topographic patterns from the characteristic landscape (e.g. natural undulations common to the native slope should be incorporated into the finished grading for the road cut).
- Where slope cuts exceed 3:1, work with the Forest landscape architect to develop slope stabilization techniques including, but not limited to, dry-stack rockery or pinned soil matting to allow slopes to ‘hold’ and establish vegetation.
- Remove and stage topsoil and vegetative material from initial excavation to place back on disturbed slopes for growing medium and seed source.
- Stumps within 100’ of travel routes (roads) will be cut flush (to w/in 4”) of ground and cuts will be angled away from travel routes. Stumps from 100-300’ will be cut to within 8” of the ground or as close as possible to the ground.

Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants

- Only approved treatments and herbicides will be used to treat noxious weeds. Treatments would comply with the “*Biological Assessment and Biological Evaluation of Effects from Noxious and Invasive Weed Management Program on Fisheries, Terrestrial Wildlife and Rare Plant Species, Fairfield Ranger and Ketchum Ranger Districts, and Sawtooth National Recreation Area, Sawtooth National Forest, April 6, 2012*”
- To prevent invasion/expansion of noxious weeds, earth-disturbing equipment shall be high pressure washed to remove all visible plant parts, dirt, and material that may carry noxious weed seeds, and/or invasive life forms, prior to entry into the project area, after working in noxious weed areas before traveling to an uninfested area and upon leaving the project area, as warranted.

- As needed to prevent erosion and minimize the risk of invasion or expansion of noxious weeds, reseed or revegetate areas where the soil has been exposed by ground-disturbing activity using native plant materials or a Forest Service botanist-approved native seed mix.
- New and existing populations of noxious weeds within and adjacent to the project areas would be avoided or inventoried and treated under the District's noxious weed program prior to project implementation.
- Gravel or borrow material source sites will be identified prior to implementation. Sites shall be noxious weed free or if noxious weed species are present, an effective treatment and monitoring mitigation measures would be fulfilled.
- Staging areas, when required, will be located in previously disturbed areas that are noxious weed free. Rehabilitation will occur following completion where/as necessary.
- Materials such as hay, straw, or mulch that are used for rehabilitation and reclamation activities shall be free of noxious weed seeds.
- Ongoing inventory, monitoring and treatments would begin prior to Deer Creek Watershed Project implementations and continue throughout the implementation period and for 5 years following project completions.

Wildlife

- Loss of large trees or snags (>24" DBH) (i.e. Legacy Trees) would be avoided during trailhead and trail layout.
- No projects involving vegetation removal would occur between May 1 and August 1 to avoid disturbance to TES/MIS wildlife species nesting and denning, migratory bird nesting, elk calving and deer fawning, except if surveys conducted by District Wildlife Biologists show that none of these species would be disturbed by the proposed activities.
- New trail layout would avoid known MIS/TES wildlife dens/nests or raptor nests.

Recreation/Public Safety

- Notify public of road construction and possible hazards prior to implementation through official press release.
- Post warning and/or closure signs in the Deer Creek drainage during road construction to inform the public of construction operations and truck traffic hazards.
- Notify affected outfitters and the general public of trail and road closures that would occur during big game hunting seasons.

Appendix 3

Response to Comments on the Proposed Action Notice & Comment Period: FEBRUARY 3 – MARCH 5, 2016

This Response to Comments is prepared to meet the intent of 36 CFR 215.6(4)(b) *Consideration of comments*. (1) The Responsible Official shall **consider** all written and oral comments submitted in compliance with paragraph (a).

The Legal Notice of the 30-Day Opportunity to Comment on the *Deer Creek Road Realignment Project* was published in the Idaho Mountain Express newspaper in Ketchum, Idaho on February 3, 2016. The Legal Notice initiated a 30-day comment period during which comments on the Proposed Action were accepted from the public and interested agencies and organizations. During that period, six submissions were received. Table 1 lists the number assigned to each submission, the name and organization of each commenter, and each commenter's city and state.

Table 1. Respondents to the Deer Creek Watershed Project Proposed Action				
Letter Number	Name	Organization	City	State
1	Dani Mazzotta	Idaho Conservation League	Ketchum	ID
2	Sarah Michael	Resident	Hailey	ID
3	Len Harlig	Resident	Sun Valley	ID
4	John Marvel	Resident	Hailey	ID
5	Kris Wirth	Resident	Hailey	ID
6	Steve Edsall	Resident	Bellevue	ID

Following the comment period, individual comments were extracted from each submission, entered into a spreadsheet, categorized according to the issue addressed, and screened to determine how they would be addressed.

All submissions were reviewed by the decision maker. The individual submissions and the spreadsheet breakdown of full comments by category are included in the project record. Table 2 summarizes the issues identified in comments and notes the letter that raised each issue.

Table 2. Issues Identified for the Deer Creek Watershed Project Proposed Action

LTR #	ISSUE / CONCERN	Code	FS response	How the comment will be considered
2	An alternative that looks at relocating the trailhead and parking downstream. The 2013 Deer Creek Watershed Project EA identified a Lower Deer Creek Parking area which provides for “ATV and horse trailer parking area along Deer Creek Road West of Panther Gulch and east of Wolfstone Road”. Development of this lower parking area would enable recreational access to the North Fork of Deer Creek and Kinsey Creek and upper Deer Creek trails.	Alternative	Addressed through Alternative considered but eliminated.	Refer to the EA.
3	It would make better planning and environmental logic to abandon the present inadequate and nature-threatened road, correct the present deficiencies of the stream bed and riparian areas, provide only foot traffic access to the public land mountain areas from a Deer Creek trailhead on flatland, and direct motorized access to other less fragile canyons. While convenience is naturally desired, sound environmental planning is more important than simple convenience and there are multiple public land accesses within a reasonable distance of Deer Creek; none of which would cause the problems that the Deer Creek hillside road realignment would cause.	Alternative	Addressed through Alternative considered but eliminated.	Refer to the EA.
5	I would favor the closure of the road at an appropriate place in lieu of a new bridge; including a small parking lot with toilet and foot bridges to the trails.	Alternative	Addressed through Alternative considered but eliminated.	Refer to the EA.
1	The road should be designed to mitigate impacts on Deer Creek from erosion and sedimentation.	Erosion, Sedimentation, Soil Stability, Water Quality	This is a goal of the proposed project and is directly tied to the purpose and need. Project will adhere to National BMPs for Water Quality Management as described in Mitigations section of	Refer to Project Design features section of EA and the Aquatics Specialist Report.

			EA and in the Aquatics Specialist Report. The proposed project relocates the road away from Deer Creek creating a buffer between to the two.	
1	Road and trail maintenance associated with this project should use preventative erosion measures that discourage sedimentation release.	Erosion, Sedimentation, Soil Stability, Water Quality	Trail maintenance is outside the scope of this analysis. It was covered under the 2013 EA and 2016 Post-fire Restoration CE. Any road maintenance associated with the proposed work will adhere to National BMPs for Water Quality Management as described in Mitigations section of EA and in the Aquatics Specialist Report.	Please refer to the Proposed Action, Project Design Criteria and BMPs
1	All construction activities should be fully overseen and directed by the USFS to ensure that Best Management Practices (BPM) are utilized.	Erosion, Sedimentation, Soil Stability, Water Quality	The project specifications will contain those National BMPs for Water Quality Management that are relevant. An engineering representative will be on site to ensure their implementation.	Please refer to the project design criteria and BMPs
1	We highly recommend the use of sediment retention structures such as silt fences or waddles during road relocation and decommissioning activities. These structures should remain in place until the risks of sediment are minimized.	Erosion, Sedimentation, Soil Stability, Water Quality	Project will adhere to National BMPs for Water Quality Management as described in Mitigations section of EA and in the Aquatics Specialist Report.	Refer to Project Design Criteria section of EA and the Aquatics Specialist Report.
1	We encourage the Forest Service to re-vegetate any disturbed locations as quickly as possible with native plant species to prevent erosion and the spread of noxious weeds.	Erosion, Sedimentation, Soil Stability, Water Quality	This is part of the proposed action.	Please refer to the Proposed Action and Project Design Criteria.
1	All road base material should be removed from the floodplain and the floodplain should be re-contoured to the natural grade.	Erosion, Sedimentation, Soil Stability, Water Quality	This is a key component of the proposed restoration project. The methods described herein have been incorporated into the project design features.	Please refer to the Proposed Action and Project Design Criteria.
1	All equipment transportation plans should be designed to prevent degradation to existing roadways. Where necessary, temporary bridge structures (such as plywood) should be utilized to protect riparian resources.	Erosion, Sedimentation, Soil Stability, Water Quality	Project will adhere to National BMPs for Water Quality Management as described in Mitigations section of EA.	Please refer to the project design criteria and BMPs

3	The realignment project would increase the possibility of future erosion, sediment release, and debris flow from the new cuts and fills on the hillsides rather than correct the current problems.	Erosion, Sedimentation, Soil Stability, Water Quality	The concern of creating future erosion and landslide hazards by realigning the Deer Creek road is valid. The landslide and erosion hazard of the new segment is completely within the stable category as depicted by GIS Data. The old road segment has a landslide and erosion hazard of moderate along approximately 300 feet, low along approximately 1,200 feet, and stable along the remaining 1,200 feet. The underlying bedrock and soil for the realignment is compatible with road construction despite the steep slope. Using a full bench cut design for the new road will significantly reduce the risk of erosion and slope failure of the new segment.	Please refer to the Proposed Action, Project Design Criteria and BMPs.
1	Forest Service should take this opportunity to identify any dispersed camping locations that are adversely impacting riparian areas or other resources. Any campsites that are known to be problematic should be closed and rehabilitated. We encourage the Forest Service to identify where sustainable campsites exist and consider implementing a primitive designated campsite system.	Erosion, Sedimentation, Soil Stability, Water Quality/ Recreation	Thank you for your comment. The relocation of dispersed campsites was addressed in the 2013 Deer Creek EA. As described in that document, problematic campsites will be relocated, closed or rehabilitated where needed and appropriate, and as funding allows.	Outside the scope of this project; covered under the 2013 EA
1	The Forest Service should submit a biological assessment on all possible threats to any Forest Service sensitive species, candidate species, listed species, and focal species that may be affected by this project.	Fish, Wildlife and Plants	The project fully complies with ESA. A biological assessment/biological evaluation (BABE) was completed to analyze all aspects of the proposed project to ESA listed, candidate, and proposed species; and to Forest Service sensitive species. Refer to the BABE completed for this project for more information. The proposed project was determined to have “no effect” on ESA-listed, Candidate or Proposed listed species of wildlife, plants and fish. A wildlife technical report was completed for the project analyzing the effects of the proposed activities upon big game, MIS, TES, and migratory bird species. Specific design criteria were incorporated into the proposed action to avoid,	Already completed, thank you for your interest and comment. Refer to the Technical Reports for plants, wildlife and fish and the “No Effect” BAs for more specific information regarding the potential effects of the proposed activities on plants wildlife and fish.

			minimize, and mitigate effects of the proposed activities on wildlife. .	
1	Any adverse impacts to threatened or endangered wildlife and plants need to be minimized and mitigated. The area should also be thoroughly surveyed for plants of concern during the appropriate times of year.	Fish, Wildlife and Plants	The proposed actions comply with ESA and the SNF Forest Plan standards and guidelines regarding Regional Forester's Sensitive and Forest Watch species. Biological assessments/biological evaluations were completed to analyze the effects of the proposed action on ESA-listed, Candidate, and Proposed listed species as well as Regional Forester's Sensitive and Forest Watch wildlife, fish and plant species. No known occurrence of other ESA listed, candidate, Regional Forester's Sensitive and Forest Watch plant species.	See the Specialists' Technical reports as well as the "no effect" BAs for wildlife, fish and plant species.
1	We appreciate the management practices that were outlined in the EA as necessary to install the culvert. We encourage the Forest Service to complete this component of the project in as timely a manner as possible to mitigate impacts to fish and other aquatic organisms.	Fish, Wildlife and Plants	Thank you for your comment.	Please refer to the Project Design Criteria and BMPs.
1	If trees are removed as part of this project, the Forest Service should survey the area and mark any large diameter or seed bearing trees that are not to be removed.	Fish, Wildlife and Plants	Thank-you for your comment. Effects to wildlife and plants a have been evaluated and considered as part of this proposed action.	Please refer to the Project Design Criteria and BMPs. Refer to both the Wildlife Technical Report and the BABE for more specific information regarding the potential effects of the proposed activities on wildlife.
3	The realignment project would disturb wildlife habitat and migration.	Fish, Wildlife and Plants	Thank-you for your comment. Effects to wildlife and plants a have been evaluated and considered as part of this proposed action.	Refer to both the Wildlife Technical Report and the BABE for more specific information regarding the potential effects of the proposed activities on wildlife.
1	Road reconstruction and proposal activities should avoid disturbing any historical structures or mining features in the area. The Forest Service should consider coordinating with the State Historic Preservation Office to	Heritage	SHPO (State Historic and Preservation Office) concurrence has already been submitted and received for this project, dated 17AUG2015. No historic properties/ resources were located within the project area.	Please refer to the Project Design Criteria and BMPs.

	ensure that historic features in the project area are not disturbed. Special instruction should be provided to contractors in the event artifacts are found.			
1	The Forest Service should ensure that any road re-location activities are not disturbing historic mining sites. We are concerned that disturbance to historic mining sites could lead to unintended releases of toxic metals and other contaminants into Deer Creek.	Heritage/ Mining	The segment of road proposed for realignment and new construction does not encounter or interfere with former mining sites.	The proposed action does not overlap with historic mining sites.
1	While we understand that mine site reclamation is outside the scope of this project, we recommend that in the future the Forest Service consider other project opportunities to address historic mine contamination across the Ketchum Ranger District.	Heritage/ Mining	Thank-you for your comment.	This comment is outside the scope of this proposed action.
2	A no action alternative should have been undertaken and evaluated.	NEPA Analysis	The EA includes a description of the No Action Alternative. The project record includes an analysis of the No Action Alternative.	Refer to specialist reports in the project Record.
4	To meet the legal minimum the Forest Service needs to include in a final EA a no-action alternative and full analysis of at least one reasonable alternative that would relocate the trailhead as far downstream on Deer Creek as needed for parking and a turn-around and that would also restore the former roadway from the new trailhead up to the North Fork of Deer Creek as a single track trail with needed modest relocations to remove the trail from the riparian zone and flood plain of Deer Creek. Part of this alternative could analyze, if there is no Forest Service land suitable for parking and a turn-around, the possibility of acquiring the private land at	NEPA Analysis	The regulation states that the Action Agency must address and Action and No Action in an Environmental Assessment [36CFR220.7(b)2)]. The EA addresses a No Action Alternative, Proposed Action Alternative and two Alternatives that were considered but eliminated from consideration due to the alternatives not meeting the purpose and need, in addition to existing Forest Plan direction and to previous decisions made on the District. The proposed action is in compliance with the Sawtooth Forest Plan.	Refer to the EA and project record.

	Panther Creek or any other suitable private land areas for turn-around and parking areas at the relocated end of the Deer Creek road.			
4	Please include in the final EA for the proposed Deer Creek Road relocation project the cost and source of funding for each alternative as part of the analysis. Since the cost of each alternative will vary considerably, the public interest in knowing the cost should enable the Forest to include the cost as part of your analysis of the social and economic impacts of the project alternatives.	NEPA Analysis	This decision will be made based on resource objectives as defined in the purpose and need. The decision maker will not be using economics to base their decision.	Addressed in the Purpose and Need.
1	Disturbed areas need to be stabilized to prevent erosion and expansion of noxious weeds.	Noxious Weeds	Compliance with SNF Forest Plan standard NPST03 would require seeding where considered necessary to prevent colonization of non-native plant species. The proposed action included noxious weed management. This action consists of surveys and appropriate treatments in the Deer Creek drainage.	Please refer to the Project Design Criteria and BMPs. The Proposed Action takes into consideration noxious weed prevention and control and soil erosion control.
1	The site should be monitored for noxious weeds up to three years following the restoration activities and road relocation.	Noxious Weeds	The proposed action included noxious weed management and monitoring. This action consists of surveys and appropriate treatments in the Deer Creek drainage.	The Proposed Action, Project Design Criteria and BMPs take into consideration noxious weed prevention and control.
1	Work or volunteer crews trained in noxious weed recognition and removal should patrol the roadbed and restoration site regularly including within 100' on either side of the road and mechanically remove any weeds.	Noxious Weeds	Thank you for your comment. The proposed action included noxious weed management. This action consists of surveys and appropriate treatments in the Deer Creek drainage. Noxious weed identification materials could be provided to contract and volunteer crews. Most Sawtooth employees are able to identify noxious weed species and are instructed to report all infestations for treatment and pull individuals if feasible.	The Proposed Action, Project Design Criteria and BMPs take into consideration noxious weed prevention and control.
1	All equipment should be power washed before entering public lands.	Noxious Weeds	The proposed action included noxious weed management.	The Proposed Action, Project Design Criteria and BMPs take into

			Compliance with SNF Forest Plan standard NPST03 and NPST04 requires equipment washing.	consideration noxious weed prevention and control.
1	The Forest Service should consider working with the 5B Restoration Coalition to develop a volunteer noxious weed education, monitoring, and removal program for Deer Creek and other areas of the Forest.	Noxious Weeds	Thank you for your comment. The 5B Coalition is an important partner for the Ketchum Ranger District. The Responsible Official will take your recommendation under consideration. The proposed action included noxious weed management. This action consists of surveys and appropriate treatments in the Deer Creek drainage.	The Proposed Action, Project Design Criteria and BMPs take into consideration noxious weed prevention and control.
1	All re-vegetation and restoration activities should be paired with appropriate noxious weed treatments.	Noxious Weeds	The proposed action included noxious weed management. This action consists of surveys and appropriate treatments in the Deer Creek drainage.	The Proposed Action, Project Design Criteria and BMPs take into consideration noxious weed prevention and control.
3	An equally important consequence of the realigned road proposal on steep hillsides in the Deer Creek Canyon is the threat that private developers who want to build on the hillsides which are under the County's authority will use the County's participation in the proposed Forest Service project as a legal argument to demand equal protection for their own hillside development.	Opinion	Thank you for your comment and opinion. Blaine County is an important partner to the Ketchum Ranger District. Federal land are not bound by county ordinances. The Sawtooth National Forest Plan directs management of Scenic, Recreation and other resources. The project is in compliance with the Sawtooth Forest Plan.	Refer to the Project Record for resource specialist reports. Also to the Project Purpose and Need, Project Design Criteria and BMPs.
5	I see the "hi-way" as insignificant; what use is it? I would prefer to discourage ATVs loggers and miners, and the development of the area in general.	Opinion	Addressed through Alternative considered but eliminated.	Refer to the EA
2	There are multiple access points for ATVs, two- track motorbikes, mountain bikes and hikers to trails in the Deer Creek watershed and also from Greenhorn Gulch and from trails available off Croy Canyon Road. I believe that the Forest Service can maintain excellent recreational opportunities in Deer Creek without relocating the road along Deer Creek on the hillside.	Recreation	A range of alternatives, including a No Action, Proposed Action and and Alternatives Considered but Eliminated are described and evaluated in the EA. The proposed action is in line with the Sawtooth Nation Forest Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) and the 2008 Travel management planning. The area is currently identified as "Roaded Recreation" under the ROS system. According to the FP we are required	Refer to the EA and the Recreation Reports in the Project Record for alternatives discussion, evaluation and rationale. Also, See the 2008 Sawtooth N.F. Travel Management Plan. This plan analyzed motorized and mechanized trail use, the sustainability of trails and the provision of a

			to “Manage, operate, and maintain a year-round recreation program that offers a broad range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities and experiences in a range of settings as reflected by the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum ” (SNFP pg III 66 REG001). Also, Objective REOB02 requires the FS to “Utilize the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) to evaluate and tailor proposed projects and activities in order to maintain desired recreation opportunities and the quality of recreation experiences.” (SNFP pg. III 66). The proposed area was identified and analyzed as a Roaded Recreation the 2003 Forest Plan, during the 2008 travel management planning the area was identified as an access point for motorized use and roaded recreation, a change in this designation would be inconstant with previous decisions. The re-alignment of the current road is also constant with the current Forest Plan direction in regards to management of facilities and roads. Guideline FRGU11 states “where opportunities to mitigate facilities and road management practices causing degradation have been identified, consider mitigating through measures such as relocation, closure, and changes in management strategy, alteration, or discontinuance. (FP pg. III 63). Guideline FRGU05 also gives direction to “where practical alternatives exist, roads in RCAs that are degrading riparian-dependent resources should be evaluated for obliteration or relocation. (FP pg. III 63). The relocation of the current road to the adjacent hillside would directly mitigate current degradation of the Deer Creek stream. Based on previous analysis that gives direction to maintain access to the current facilities and trails in the Deer Creek Drainage along with Forest Plan direction for the management of facilities and roads the current	spectrum of recreational trail experiences across the Ketchum RD, including the Deer Creek Watershed.
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			proposal is constant with our Forest Plan guidance and previous analysis that also involved public involvement..	
1	While we are concerned about road densities across public lands, we believe the Deer Creek drainage, if designed properly, is a logical access point to the network of area trail systems because of its proximity to the communities of Hailey and Ketchum. We encourage the Forest Service in the future to evaluate other areas on the district that may be suitable for decommissioning, especially user-created routes.	Road Density	Thank you for your comment. The Ketchum Ranger District regularly evaluates the transportation infrastructure on the district, as well as user created routes for restoration opportunities.	Outside the scope of this project.
5	A hillside road would interrupt the tranquility of the canyon and change the historic character.	Scenic Values	Views of and from road sections in this narrow canyon corridor are of short duration and are often obscured by topographic features or vegetation. Road development design guidelines will require revegetation and naturalistic finish grading to be consistent with the Visual Quality Objective.	Please refer to the project scenery-specific design features that will mitigate this potential issue.
3	The proposed Deer Creek Road realignment is out of conformance with Blaine County's intent to preserve its natural environment and protect its residents and visitors. I have several areas of concern for the road realignment proposal even though I understand that USFS projects on public lands are not legally bound by Blaine County's Mountain Overlay District (MOD) Ordinance. Nevertheless, both USFS and BLM have been cooperative with Blaine County over the past 25 years in respecting Blaine County's efforts to minimize development and building on the County's hillsides and mountains. The proposed road realignment in Deer Creek Canyon would have a substantial impact, both physically and from a present and future planning perspective, if it took place.	Scenic Values	While the development of the road will create a linear feature on the landscape – proposed revegetation and grading will mitigate the effect to the greatest extent practicable. As a new or relocated Forest travel route, the road will become a key viewing area from which future management actions on Forest lands within its viewshed will be surveyed and analyzed. Development of this road/travel route will be consistent with adopted Forest Visual Quality Objectives.	Please refer to the project scenery-specific design features that will mitigate this potential issue.

	If any similar proposed road realignment project applied for a County permit on private land it would be denied. The road realignment proposal cannot meet the requirements of the MOD Standards of Evaluation. Not only would it violate the County ordinance, but it would directly conflict with one of the <i>Guiding Principles</i> of the County's Comprehensive Plan: The hills and mountains of our community are to be preserved in their natural state, and land uses on them shall be strictly regulated. <i>The County's Mountain Overlay District is intended to preserve the beauty and integrity of our mountains and foothills. Primary purposes of the County's strict hillside regulations include preserving the natural character and aesthetic values of our hillsides, protecting wildlife habitat, maintaining slope and soil stability, and preventing unsafe development in areas at risk from wildfire and avalanches or debris flow. Any weakening of these regulations would be in direct conflict with this principle.]</i>			
1	We encourage the Forest Service to consider winter road closures for portions of the Deer Creek road, especially when snow conditions make passage a challenge. The Forest Service should coordinate any closures with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.	Travel Management	Thank you for your comment. This project is not a travel management project. Ongoing forest management within this Management Area (04- Big Wood) is in compliance with the Sawtooth Forest Plan and Wildlife Resources Objective 0475 that says we will coordinate with IDFG on winter road closures.	Outside the scope of this project.
2	The ecological health of Deer Creek would benefit by de-commissioning the current road. This decommissioning is consistent with the approach that the Forest Service has taken in removing more than roads in other areas of this drainage.	Watershed Health	Thank you for your comment. Road decommissioning through obliteration is a key component of this proposed project.	Please refer to the description of the proposed action, Project Design Criteria and BMPs.