

LEGAL PROOF OF PUBLICATION

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Attention: SUSAN DIXON

**PAYETTE NTL FOREST / USDA FOREST SERVICE
500 N MISSION ST BLDG 2
MCCALL, ID 836383805**

**LEGAL NOTICE
Scoping Period
Huckleberry Landscape Restoration Project
Council Ranger District
Payette National Forest
Adams County**

The Payette National Forest is soliciting scoping comments for the Huckleberry Landscape Restoration Project on the Council Ranger District in Adams County, Idaho. The scoping documents are available electronically on the project webpage: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50218>. The Huckleberry Landscape Restoration Project is located approximately 15 miles west of New Meadows, Idaho. Proposed treatments include timber harvest, thinning, prescribed fire, road treatments and road decommissioning, and recreation improvements. The Huckleberry project area is approximately 67,000 acres within the Council Ranger District on the Payette National Forest. The project includes approximately 42,600 acres of vegetative treatments in the project area to improve wildlife habitat for Northern Idaho Ground Squirrels (NIDGS) and species that rely on habitat similar to the white-headed woodpecker, and to move vegetation toward the desired conditions specified in the Forest Plan. Approximately 9,000 acres are in areas designed to mitigate fire risk to values at risk. The vegetation treatments include commercial treatments on 37,700 acres, non-commercial treatments on 42,500 acres and prescribed burning on 67,000 acres. Prescribed burning will occur on acres previously treated for vegetation management and wildlife habitat improvement. Some of these treatments would occur in community wildfire mitigation treatment areas. Fuel loading and fuel continuity would be altered to reduce surface fire potential as well as crown fire potential.

The proposal also includes changes to the Forest System Road network to reduce road-related impacts to water quality and fish habitat, as well as to reduce overall road density. These proposed changes include 57.7 miles of system road decommissioning and restoration of at least 70 miles of unauthorized roads. The project proposal includes 13 opportunities that have been identified to improve fish passage and hydrologic connectivity. In the Bear Creek subwatershed, two trail bridges are proposed on FS Trail 228 where the trail crosses Mickey Creek and Wesley Creek. Both of these streams are bull trout critical habitat.

The recreation proposal focuses on improving existing developed and dispersed recreation opportunities and facilities, trail maintenance and relocation to improve watershed conditions and the recreational user's experience. Work includes improving potable water well, coordinating dispersed camping along roads open to motorized travel 300 feet off the road to protect NIDGS, installing trail signs, hardening dispersed camping sites, decommissioning and replacing existing restroom facility with single vault restroom at the Bear trailhead, along with three fire rings and two metal stock hitch rails.

Trail work will include bringing the 33 miles of trails consisting of two-wheel motorized and non-motorized trail up to defined trail class standard for each trail. This includes signing at all trail junctions, new signing at trailheads lacking proper signs, and trail reestablishment and potential relocation where the trail is undefinable.

Payette National Forest Supervisor Keith Lannom will be the Responsible Official for this project. Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, and electronic comments concerning this project will be accepted. Send written comments to Keith Lannom, Forest Supervisor, 500 N. Mission Street, Building 2, McCall, Idaho 83638. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to comments-intermtn-payette@fs.fed.us, or via facsimile to 208-634-0744. Email comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) and Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx). Please put "Huckleberry Landscape Restoration Project" in the subject line of the email comments. Comments must have an identifiable name attached or verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic comments. The office hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Oral comments may also be provided at the New Meadows Ranger District Office during normal business hours via telephone 208-347-0300 or in person.

To aid understanding and review of the proposed action, the public is invited to a public meeting on Tuesday October 18, 2016, from 4 to 6 pm at the Council Ranger District Office, 2092 Highway 95, Council, Idaho, 208-253-0100. Ranger District Staff will be available to discuss the project and answer your questions. Specific written comments on this project will be accepted at this meeting.

Comments may also be submitted through the Huckleberry Landscape Restoration Project web page at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50218>. To submit comments using the web form select "Comment on Project" under "Get Connected" on the right panel of the project's web page. To be most helpful please submit your comments within 45 days of the publication of the Notice of Intent to publish an Environmental Impact Statement in the Federal Register. Publication of the Notice of Intent is expected to occur on September 30, 2016. A copy of the Notice of Intent will be available on the project web page. Your comments will help us refine the proposal and identify preliminary issues, interested and affected persons, and possible alternatives. Comments received in response to this request will be available for public inspection on the "Public Comment/Objection Reading Room" on the project web site: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50218>.

This project is being planned under authorization of the Pre-decisional Administrative Review Process defined by 36 CFR 218. Individuals and entities who submit specific written comments during the scoping period will be eligible to object. A second comment opportunity will also be provided during the notice and comment period for review of the draft Environmental Impact Statement and those who provide specific written comments during this comment period will also be eligible to object.

For further information on the Huckleberry Landscape Restoration Project, please contact Kim Pierson, New Meadows District Ranger, by email kpierson@fs.fed.us or by telephone at 208-347-0300.

Pub. Sept. 30, 2016

JANICE HILDRETH, being duly sworn, deposes and says: That she is the Principal Clerk of The Idaho Statesman, a daily newspaper printed and published at Boise, Ada County, State of Idaho, and having a general circulation therein, and which said newspaper has been continuously and uninterruptedly published in said County during a period of twelve consecutive months prior to the first publication of the notice, a copy of which is attached hereto: that said notice was published in The Idaho Statesman, in conformity with Section 60-108, Idaho Code, as amended, for:

1 Insertions

Beginning issue of: 09/30/2016

Ending issue of: 09/30/2016

Janice Hildreth
(Legals Clerk)

STATE OF IDAHO)

.SS

COUNTY OF ADA)

On this 3rd day of October in the year of 2016 before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared before me Janice Hildreth known or identified to me to be the person whose name subscribed to the within instrument, and being by first duly sworn, declared that the statements therein are true, and acknowledged to me that she executed the same.

Anna Lannom
Notary Public FOR Idaho
Residing at: Boise, Idaho

My Commission expires: 08/17/2022

