

File Code: 1950

Date: May 19, 2020

I am writing to you as individuals and groups that collaborated with us, responded during scoping, attended field trips or showed interest in the Piquett Creek Project on the West Fork Ranger District of the Bitterroot National Forest. I would like to thank you for your interest and input that has been useful to us as we developed the plan for the project. The feedback we received has been incorporated into the project where appropriate. The decision memo was signed on May 19, 2020 and all the decision documents are now available to be viewed on the Piquett Creek Project website. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56774>

With the Piquett Creek Project, we are utilizing a different approach that will allow for public involvement and input, not only in the planning stages, but also throughout the implementation process. We would like to invite you to participate with helping us to develop and refine project activities and locations that will occur during implementation.

Along with this letter, there is a draft implementation map and draft unit tables that are to be used in combination with the project activity cards (Appendix C-Piquett Creek Activity Cards), to provide detail about the potential activities proposed for each unit. These documents are also posted on the project [website](#). Forest staff developed the draft units and proposed activities as a starting point based on existing conditions and the parameters of the decision. None of this is set, so there is ample opportunity to change or adapt unit locations and activities with your feedback. Our goal is to gather input from the public, collaborators and partners so that we can develop a strong implementation plan that will meet the purpose and need for the project.

Initially, we had intended to hold a public workshop so we could gather around maps and have some discussions. Unfortunately, under the current COVID-19 situation, that is not advisable and may not be for the near future. It is still very important for us to get your input and feedback on the implementation plan. Desired feedback and potential changes to the draft implementation proposal should focus on how well the activities meet the purpose and need and move the areas towards the desired conditions. At this point, the decision has been signed and comments should not focus on the decision, but how to best implement the decision.

We want to offer some flexible methods to gather your feedback and input:

- Respond by email with feedback: seth.carbonari@usda.gov
- Mail a hardcopy response to
 - o Seth Carbonari –Piquett Creek Project
 - 6735 West Fork Road
 - Darby, MT 59829
- Contact myself or David Fox david.fox@usda.gov by email or at 406-821-3269 and we can set up a time to have a phone conversation or web meeting.
- My staff and I could virtually join in a meeting or discussion that your group is hosting.



- If you would like hardcopies of the decision or draft implementation material, please contact us and we can arrange for those to be made available.
- I request that feedback be provided by June 19. I plan to share the final implementation plan shortly after that.
- Implementation of the final plan is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2021, unit layout and road upgrades are expected to occur later this summer.

Thank you again for your valuable involvement in this process. This is a new process for project planning and implementation and we are striving to improve as we learn. I look forward to feedback and continuing to work with you on this and future projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Seth A Carbonari". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

SETH A. CARBONARI
District Ranger

Attachments: Piquett Creek Draft Implementation Map, Piquett Creek Draft Unit Tables