

## Request for Comments

USDA Forest Service

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

King County, WA

Middle Fork Trail #1003 Relocation (MP 3.04 to 3.83) and Pratt Bar Trail Construction

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District, is preparing a Decision Memo for Middle Fork Trail #1003 Relocation and Pratt Bar Trail Projects. The Middle Fork Trail #1003 Relocation Project would reroute about 3,140 feet of the trail between miles posts 3.04 and 3.83 to a bench above the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River, decommission about 2,815 feet of high water flood damaged and slide prone trail, and construct approximately 1,250 of spur trail to restore trail access to scenic viewpoints and dispersed camping sites along the current trail route. The Pratt Bar Trail would construct about 1,100 feet of trail on a closed road to provide access to the Pratt Gravel Bar from the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Road. The projects are located in T24N, R10E, SW ¼ Section 25, SE ¼ SE ¼ Section 26, and NE ¼ NW ¼ Section 36 (Middle Fork Trail Relocation) and T24N, R10E, SE ¼ Section 30 (Pratt Bar Trail). The proposed action description and other information are available on the Forest's website at: [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/mbs/projects](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/mbs/projects), at the Snoqualmie Ranger District Office, and from: Steve Johnson, (360) 802-5313 or [stevenljohanson@fs.fed.us](mailto:stevenljohanson@fs.fed.us).

The Forest Service is combining the scoping period with the notice and comment period into one 30-day public comment period on the Proposed Action, as provided by 36 CFR 215.5 regulations.

In light of a recent court ruling (*Sequoia ForestKeeper v. Tidwell*, 11-cv-00679-LJO-DLB (E.D. Cal.)), the Forest Service will provide public notice, comment, and opportunity for administrative appeal for projects and activities documented with a Decision Memo (36 CFR 220.6(e)) until new instructions are issued by the Washington Office, or the Agency issues regulations addressing the Court's ruling. Only those who provide comment or express interest in this proposal during this comment period will be eligible to appeal the decision pursuant to 36 CFR part 215 regulations.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of this notice in Snoqualmie Valley Record the newspaper of record. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period.

Written comments must be submitted to: Jim Franzel, Snoqualmie District Ranger, 902 S.E. North Bend Way, Bldg 1, North Bend, WA 98045. Office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 – 4:30 Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Oral comments can be provided at the Responsible Official's office during normal business hours by telephone, (360) 802-5313, or in person. Electronic comments must be submitted in a

readable format such as an e-mail message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), .pdf, or Word (.doc) to: [comments-pacificnorthwest-mtbaker-snoqualmie-snoqualmie@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificnorthwest-mtbaker-snoqualmie-snoqualmie@fs.fed.us).

Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the Project Record and available for public review.

In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for appeal eligibility. A scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 215.6.