



File Code: 1950

Date: December 19, 2008

Dear Friend of the Ashley,

I am proposing to implement Phase II of the East Galloway Trail (#1196) project started during the summer of 2008 when a designated motorized (ATV) trail was rerouted around a wet meadow and turnpikes were installed on other sections of damaged trail to improve drainage and improve trail tread conditions. Implementation of Phase II would target another wet meadow having similar conditions with poor drainage, and two creek crossings along the trail, both receiving resource damage. The project would take place during the summer months of 2009 to include (1) rerouting a portion of the East Galloway Trail (#1196) away from another wet meadow, (2) improving two creek crossings, (3) and to finish conducting heavy maintenance along the trail.

The East Galloway Trail #1196 is part of the Outlaw ATV Trail and is located south of the Red Cloud Loop National Scenic Backway, between Trout Creek Guard Station and Oaks Park Reservoir (T.1S., R.20E., Sec.15&22). Refer to the attached map for the exact project location.

The purpose of the reroute would be to (1) rehabilitate and abandon approximately ½-mile of trail bisecting a northern meadow that is impacted with deep ruts and multiple braids; and (2) to create a realignment that is approximately ¾-mile long located away from the meadow onto a higher surface with better drainage. The realignment would be located through a lodgepole timber stand that is east of the meadow. The trail tread along this alignment would provide better drainage and would incorporate hardier surfaces with exposed bedrock.

The trail reroute would start approximately 100 yards southeast of the trailhead (40°44'18"N, 109°39'52"W) and would end at approximately mile-marker 0.5 (40°43'56"N, 109°39'41"W). Two stream crossings where the trail crosses North Fork Ashley Creek would be fortified by placing native rock along the approaches to the creek. Some minor earthwork could require utilizing a compact trail dozer (SWECO) to reduce the slope of the approaches on the trail. Trail work would be conducted during the summer months of 2009 when surface conditions would be drier and more suitable for trail work. Equipment ranging from primitive hand tools to a narrow trail dozer (SWECO) could be used to rehabilitate the old trail and to align the reroute.

This project is made possible by UT State Trails Grant funding in combination with a Forest Service Legacy Roads and Trails grant, and Ashley National Forest crews and funding. This project is in compliance with the Ashley National Forest Plan (1986). Trail work would comply with agency standards and guidelines as identified in "Standard Specifications for Construction and Maintenance of Trails" (EM-7720-103) and "Managing Degraded Off-Highway Vehicle Trails in Wet, Unstable, and Sensitive Environments" (0223-2821-MTDC).



I believe this project, as identified by the specific actions listed above, may be excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS, but requires a project or case file and decision memo as directed by 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(1)—Construction and reconstruction of trails. Any decision issued under this authority would not be appealable under 36 CFR 215. However, determination of the appropriate level of analysis and documentation will be made only after reviewing specialist reports, biological evaluations/assessments, public comments, and other pertinent information and analyses.

You are invited to comment on the project at this time. Comments that are specific are most helpful. Comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project. Send your written comments to:

Earl Kerns, Acting District Ranger
Vernal Ranger District
355 North Vernal Ave.
Vernal, UT 84078

Comments can also be e-mailed to comments-intermtn-ashley@fs.fed.us. It would be most useful to receive your electronic comments in MS Word (*.doc) or rich text format (*.rtf). Comments are due by **April 1, 2009**. For further information concerning this proposal, please contact Omero Torres by phone at (435) 781-5124.

Thank you for your interest and participation in the management of the Ashley National Forest.

Sincerely,

EARL KERNS
Acting District Ranger

Attachment: Project map

East Galloway Trail #1196 -- Phase II Project

