Forest Service Willamette National Forest McKenzie River Ranger District 57600 McKenzie Hwy McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413 Tel (541) 822-3381 FAX (541) 822-7254

File Code: 1950-1

Date: February 22, 2007

Re: Upper McKenzie Boat Launch Projects

Environmental Assessment

To: Interested Public:

The McKenzie River Ranger District has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Upper McKenzie Boat Launch Projects, and it is now available for 30-day public review and comment. The EA can be viewed on the Willamette National Forest web site at www.fs.fed.us/r6/willamette/. You may also request a copy of the document by contacting the Ranger District at the number listed above.

This EA examines two action alternatives that would relocate or modify Frissell, Paradise, and Bruckart boat launches; and the no action alternative. Alternative B, the proposed action, would do the following:

- (1) **Frissell Boat Launch** relocate to the opposite side of the river and just downstream of the Frissell-Carpenter Bridge, install a pre-cast concrete ramp, add a loop road, staging site, and parking sites; and rehabilitate the existing launch site.
- (2) **Paradise Boat Launch** reconstruct by installing a pre-cast concrete ramp wide enough to serve two ramps, provide an additional staging site, and provide additional parking in the Paradise day use area.
- (3) **Bruckart Boat Launch** relocate to a site downstream of Bruckart Bridge on the same side of the river, install a pre-cast concrete ramp, add a loop road, a staging site, and parking sites; and rehabilitate the existing launch site and loop road.

This proposal responds to the need to provide developed recreation opportunities in the upper McKenzie River that are compatible with individual management area objectives and sensitive to public demand and use. In addition, the Upper McKenzie River Management Plan (1992) called for the development of a Capital Investment Program proposal for the Buck Bridge (Frissell) dispersed recreation area. It would include the re-establishment of restroom facilities, the consideration of building a new boat launch on the west side of the McKenzie, and closing the boat launch on the east side of the McKenzie. This proposal would implement most of these recommendations. However, a portable restroom facility is proposed rather than a permanent structure.

Frissell and Paradise boat launches are located in the Upper McKenzie Watershed. Bruckart Boat Launch is located in the Quartz Cr. McKenzie Tributaries Watershed. Legal locations include T.16S, R.6E, Sec. 1 (Frissell); T.16S, R.6E, Sec. 9 (Paradise); and T.16S, R.5E; Sec. 19





(Bruckart); Lane County, Oregon. Project implementation is estimated to begin during the summer of 2008.

Reviewers should provide the Forest Service with their comments during the 30-day comment period. Comments must be submitted to Mary Allison, District Ranger, McKenzie River Ranger District, 57600 McKenzie Highway, McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413, (541) 822-3381, fax (541) 822-7254. The Ranger District Office is open from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted to: commentspacificnorthwest-willamette-mckenzie@fs.fed.us. As the Responsible Official, I will accept oral, electronic, and written comments during the comment period, which ends 30 days from the date this notice is published in the Register-Guard, Eugene, OR, the Forest's official newspaper of record. This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 215. Appeals must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 215.14. Only individuals or organizations who submitted comments or expressed an interest in the project during the comment period may appeal. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who only submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Part 215. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied; the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without names and addresses.

Additional information about the project may be obtained by contacting Interdisciplinary Team Leader Ray Rivera, at 541-822-3381, (by email at rrivera@fs.fed.us). Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mary Allison

MARY ALLISON
District Ranger