



File Code: 1950-1/2300

Date: 25 February 2009

Dear Interested Participant:

On 13 December 2007, the Pinedale Ranger District, Bridger-Teton National Forest released a scoping document for public comment on a series of proposed recreation improvement projects on National Forest System lands located within the Fremont Lake area, beginning approximately 3 miles north of Pinedale in Sublette County, Wyoming. After review of comments received from the public and other agencies from the 2007 scoping effort, a Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team developed a modified project proposal to enhance existing recreation facilities and improve natural resource conditions within this planning area.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a description of the "Modified Proposed Action" for the Fremont Lake Recreation Enhancement Project so that you may submit formal comments regarding this proposal pursuant to the Notice, Comment, and Appeal Procedures at 36 CFR 215. **Only those who comment on this modified project proposal during the 30 day comment period will be eligible to appeal the final decision for this project.**

Modified Proposed Action:

The Modified Proposed Action includes many of the actions proposed in the December, 2007 Proposed Action, including upgrading existing developed recreation facilities, road widening and resurfacing, implementation or modification of regulations, and motorized travel management modifications within the Fremont Lake area.

A Vicinity Map, Analysis Area Map, and Modified Proposed Action Summary, with conceptual drawings and maps, are attached. A summary of differences between the 2007 Proposed Action and the 2009 Modified Proposed Action is also attached.

Purpose & Need:

As with the initial proposed action, the purpose of the Modified Proposed Action for the Fremont Lake Recreation Enhancement Project is not to encourage increased visitor use within this recreation complex but to improve existing facilities and increase the efficiency of recreation management operations within the Fremont Lake area to better serve the recreating public and protect natural resources in this area.

The primary purpose of the Modified Proposed Action is to:

1. Address Health & Safety issues
2. Enhance water quality protection measures for the Fremont Lake Municipal Watershed
3. Ensure that Forest Service developments fit the landscape niche
4. Provide quality facilities for the appropriate scale of visitor use



Issues:

The following issues have been identified by a Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team for this project:

1. **Water Quality:** Fremont Lake serves as the unfiltered drinking water source for the Town of Pinedale. In addition, Fremont Lake is a popular site for boating, fishing, and swimming. Projects located within the Fremont Lake watershed should be designed to protect the water quality of Fremont Lake, particularly in the vicinity of the Town of Pinedale water intake.
2. **Cultural Resources:** Historic and prehistoric sites are documented within the Fremont Lake area. Projects located within this analysis area should be designed to avoid historic properties and to protect sites from indirect effects that may result from concentrated public use and erosion of land surfaces.
3. **Visual Quality:** The aesthetic value of Fremont Lake, from the shoreline as well as on the lake, is important to protect. Facilities within the analysis area should be designed to be rustic but high quality and blend with the natural landscape to minimize visual impacts.
4. **Mule Deer Migration Corridor:** The area directly south of Fremont Lake serves as part of a critical mule deer migration corridor for the Sublette Mule Deer Herd. Projects, activities, and events within this analysis area should be designed to minimize impacts to mule deer during their spring and fall migration periods.
5. **Moose Crucial Winter Range:** A portion of the analysis area serves as crucial winter range for the Sublette Moose Herd. Projects, activities, and events within this analysis area should be designed to minimize impacts to winter range habitat and wintering moose.
6. **Unmanaged Recreation Use:** Recreation use at Fremont Lake lacks a coordinated management approach, which adversely affects resource conditions and detracts from the overall quality of the visitor experience at Fremont Lake. Recreation use within the analysis area should be managed as a whole, with adequate public information and enforcement designed to maximize resource protection and provide a high quality visitor experience.
7. **Facility Condition:** Developed facilities within the analysis area are in poor condition, lack a common theme, do not meet Health and Safety and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, and are difficult to maintain in their present condition. Facilities within the analysis area should be designed to serve the appropriate scale of visitor use, meet Health and Safety and ADA requirements, present a common theme and connection, and be economically maintainable.

Request for Comments

The Bridger-Teton National Forest has determined that this project is to be analyzed within an Environmental Assessment (EA). A copy of the EA for this project, when completed, will be available from the Pinedale District Office upon request, or from the Bridger-Teton National Forest website at: www.fs.fed.us/r4/projects .

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, and electronic comments on the Modified Proposed Action will be accepted **for 30 calendar days following publication of the legal notice of the opportunity to comment in the Casper Star Tribune**. The publication date in this newspaper of record is the exclusive means of calculating the comment period for this proposal. You should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Comments must be submitted to the Responsible Official: **District Ranger Thomas Peters, Pinedale Ranger District, 29 East Fremont Lake Road, P.O. Box 220, Pinedale, WY, 82941-0220, fax: 307-367-5750**. Office hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in rich text format (.rtf) or Word (.doc) to comments-intermtn-bridger-teton-pinedale@fs.fed.us .

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this Proposed Action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. 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 Freedom of Information Act (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 name and address within 15 days. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Cindy Stein at 307/367.5717.

Sincerely,

THOMAS PETERS
Pinedale District Ranger

CC: Cindy Stein

Attachments (4)