



File Code: 1950

Date: May 17, 2010

Dear Interested Party:

The Jarbidge Ranger District requests your comments and concerns on our proposed Dave Creek Bull Trout Habitat Enhancement Project.

The purpose of this proposed action is to maintain and improve existing bull trout habitats through protection of riparian conditions, water quality, and the streambed from potential impacts of cattle grazing through construction of a new fence within the Dave Creek grazing allotment. The need to protect and improve proposed critical habitat for federally threatened bull trout within the Jarbidge River Drainage requires implementation of new measures to reduce potential for undesirable livestock grazing impacts along Dave Creek, Jack Creek and Jenny Creek.

The Jarbidge Ranger District proposes to construct approximately 8 miles of new fence along the canyon rims of Dave Creek and Jack Creek to create a riparian pasture that will be managed to limit grazing impacts on bull trout habitats, including an annual closure to all grazing after August 15th to assure spawning activities are undisturbed. The fence shall be the standard four wire (3 barbed-bottom smooth) pounded t-post and welded steel pipe construction design as was built last year to replace fire damaged fences on the Jarbidge and Mountain City Ranger Districts.

The Forest Service will conduct an environmental analysis on this project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). As part of this analysis, we invite you to comment on the project at this time.

Based on our experience with fence construction, initial concerns for this proposed project include:

- The effects on riparian areas and water quality
- Impacts on wildlife species and wildlife habitat (including aquatic wildlife).
- Impacts on threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant species.
- Impacts to other National Forest System land users including, but not limited to livestock permittees.
- Impacts to heritage resources.
- Impacts to adjacent private lands.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. Regulations (36 CFR part 800) concerning protection and preservation of historic properties give the public, local governments,



and other entities the opportunity to participate in the review and evaluation of effects to cultural sites. In addition to commenting about impacts to historic sites, certain individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking may participate as consulting parties in the Section 106 process. The Forest Service shall consider all written requests to participate as consulting party. We will coordinate our review of impacts to heritage resources with our NEPA review for this project.

Your written comments and concerns should be sent to Dave Creek Project Leader Dirk Netz at the above address. Comments may also be faxed to 775-752-1799 or e-mailed to: comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-rubymtns-jarbidge@fs.fed.us . Please include "2010 Dave Creek Project" in subject line. All comments provided in response to this letter become part of the project record and will be made available to the public if requested under the Freedom of Information Act. This may include names, addresses and any other information provided with the comments.

The Forest Service requests your comments on this project by June 25, 2010. We also ask that you inform us of whether or not you wish to remain on the mailing list for this project. If we do not hear from you regarding your interest, we may remove you from the project mailing list.

For more information on this project, please contact Dirk Netz at (775) 778-6132. Thank you for your interest in management of your national forests.

Sincerely,

/s/Gar Abbas
GAR ABBAS
District Ranger

Figure 1. Location map of project area

