



File Code: 1950-1
Date: 03/27/2008

Dear Forest User:

The Naches Ranger District will be analyzing road management actions to address flood damage in the Deep Creek drainage near Bumping Lake.

An intense storm in November, 2006 caused flooding in Deep Creek that damaged Forest Roads (FR) 1800 at mile post 13.7 and 1808 at mile post 3.6. Approximately one mile south of Bumping Lake, FR 1800 crosses Deep Creek with two, 12 foot wide culverts. These culverts are not capable of efficiently passing streamflows at flood stage. Consequently, water velocity is reduced, causing the deposition of gravel, rock and sediment, and raising of the streambed. The 2006 flood elevated the streambed to a level that caused the formation of a side channel to flood over 150 feet of FR 1800. Approximately 5-10 percent of the stream flow continued to inundate FR 1800 throughout the summer of 2007, and federally protected bull trout (both juveniles and adults) have occupied the new side channel on the road. As a result, FR 1800 which provided access to the Fish Lake Way and Swamp Lake trailheads and FSR 1809 to Granite Lake and Miners Ridge have been closed to public motorized vehicle use.

The second flood damaged site is on the FR 1808 crossing of Deep Creek 3.5 miles south of Bumping Lake. This crossing has a single 12 foot wide culvert supplemented with a road dip designed to act as an emergency overflow during high water. The culvert inlet plugged with logs and debris diverting the entire flow over the dip. The force of the water cut through the road fill leaving a gap approximately 15 feet deep by 75 feet wide. As a result, FR 1808 was closed to public motorized vehicle use and prevented motorized access to Deep Creek Horse Camp, wilderness trails #1105 and #980, the Copper City Jeep Trail #654.

The Deep Creek Flood Repair Project is located in the upper Bumping River, Deep Creek and Granite Creek drainages south of Bumping Lake. It is west of Naches, Washington in Township 15 North, Range 11 East, Sections 12, 13, and 36; Township 15 North, Range 12 East, Sections 2-4, 8-10, 15-17, 20, 21, 28 and 29; Township 16 North, Range 11 East, Section 36; Township 16 North, Range 12 East, Sections 32-35.

Wenatchee National Forest Plan land allocations within the project area emphasize scenery management (Scenic Travelway ST1 and ST2). Northwest Forest Plan allocations emphasize Late successional forest conditions (Late Successional Reserves) and streamside protection (Riparian Reserves). The project area is entirely within the Bumping River Watershed.

Deep Creek is a perennial stream that is occupied by rainbow, cutthroat, brook, and bull trout, kokanee salmon, and sculpin. Bull trout are a Threatened species protected under the Endangered Species Act, and Deep Creek supports the third largest bull trout population in the entire Yakima River basin. Both flooded road crossings are within sensitive bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Refer to the attached map to identify site specific locations for each proposed action.

- **Convert FR 1800 to a non-motorized trail, from its junction with FR 1808 (mile post 13.5), to its end at Swamp Lake trailhead, remove the existing twin culverts, replace them with a trail bridge and/or a ford. Convert FR 1809 to a non-motorized trail, from its junction with FSR 1800, approximately 0.75 mile south of Bumping Lake, to its end at Miners Ridge.**



- **Develop a new trailhead to serve the Granite, Fish and Swamp Lakes and Miners Ridge areas approximately 1.4 miles southeast of Bumping Lake Campground utilizing, to the extent practical, structures and facilities relocated from existing sites above the closure. This would extend the trail to Swamp Lake Trailhead approximately 3.5 miles.**
- **Install a bottomless arch culvert where FR 1808 washed out (mile post 3.6), repair other lesser road damage above that location and re-establish motorized public access to Deep Creek Horse Camp/Trailhead and the Copper City Jeep Trail.**

The proposed actions are consistent with the Bumping/American Watershed Assessment and the Wenatchee Forest Plan. Restoring unimpeded fish passage in Deep Creek at these road crossings is identified in the Yakima Subbasin Salmon Recovery Plan as a recovery action for the Deep Creek bull trout population.

The planning process for the Deep Creek Flood Repair Project is currently underway. The proposed actions presented here represent the District's initial proposal to address specific issues in the project area. Your personal knowledge of this area can help identify additional issues and opportunities. They in turn will be used to develop alternatives to the proposed actions that address these issues. Specific comments are of the greatest value to the alternative development process. **Receipt of comments by May 1, 2008 would be most helpful**, although comments received anytime during the analysis period will be accepted and given consideration. These comments would become part of the public record for this project unless specifically requested that they not be disclosed. It is planned that alternative development will be completed in May, 2008, with an environmental analysis ready for public review by August, 2008, and a decision for the Deep Creek Flood Repair Project Area occurring in September, 2008. Additional information about this project can be obtained by contacting Gary Torretta at (509) 653-1433 or Marge Hutchinson at (509) 653-1430 or (509) 852-1100.

How to Comment on this Project:

E-mail comments to scoping_comments_naches@fs.fed.us (please include *Deep Creek Flood Repair* on the subject line), or mail your comments to:

Randall Shepard, District Ranger
Naches Ranger Station
10237 Highway 12
Naches, WA 98937

Sincerely,

/s/ *Randall D. Shepard*

RANDALL D. SHEPARD
District Ranger