



United States Department of the Interior

Redwood National Park
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, California 95531

A38 (Lower B500 Road Removal)

April 8, 2019

Dear Friend of the Parks:

The National Park Service (NPS) is seeking your input on a proposal to remove the final 0.8 mile segment of an abandoned logging road, called the Lower B500, in the Larry Damm Creek watershed. The project area is located in Redwood National Park, approximately five miles from the town of Orick in Humboldt County, California. Larry Damm Creek is the first major tributary encountered at the lower reaches of Lost Man Creek, part of the Prairie Creek watershed, a major tributary to Redwood Creek. The project area encompasses the lower reach of Larry Damm Creek just upstream of its confluence with Lost Man Creek (enclosed project maps).

We are currently conducting public scoping to identify issues and information needed to assess the environmental effects of the proposed action. This scoping letter describes the purpose and need for the project, a list of preliminary issues, and the environmental review process as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the project is to protect park resources, especially threatened salmonids and their habitat in Larry Damm Creek, by reducing the potential for erosion and sedimentation from the Lower B500 Road.

Public Law 95-250 directed the NPS to protect the existing irreplaceable park resources, including streams, through the rehabilitation of areas within the park that contribute sedimentation from past logging disturbances and road conditions.

Removing the Lower B500 road is needed to eliminate the threat of sediment delivery from the road into Larry Damm Creek; improve fish habitat conditions by restoring drainage patterns affected by the placement of the road adjacent to the stream; and improve watershed function by restoring hydrologic patterns altered by the road.

Previous restoration activities over the last 20 years have removed the most of the B500 and other road segments in the Larry Damm watershed. This final segment of road is not needed for access to watershed restoration (already completed), other administrative uses (no facilities), or visitor use (none in this watershed). Removal of the road will address road surface and drainage structures degradation, and eliminate erosion potential. Removal of this last segment of the B500

road would restore watershed function by eliminating artificial barriers or interception of water coming off hillslopes from inboard ditches and plugged culverts, and would protect habitat occupied by three threatened salmonid species.

Preliminary Issues

The NPS has identified the following issues to be considered in the EA:

- Effects on rare, sensitive, threatened and/or endangered plants and animals and their habitats
- Effects on water quality
- Effects on floodplains and wetlands
- Effects on vegetation and wildlife
- Effects on historic and prehistoric sites or features
- Effects on visitor use and experience

Environmental Assessment Process

The NPS is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) that will consider a full range of alternatives in accordance with the NEPA. Your early involvement in the process will assist us to determine the environmental issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EA. The EA will be distributed to interested or affected persons, organizations, agencies, and tribes for review and comment. The consultations and responsibilities of the NPS for public input regarding the potential effects to historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulation 36 CFR 800 will be completed through the EA process. The NPS will make a final decision on the proposed action at the end of the review period after considering all comments.

Schedule:

The tentative schedule for the project is as follows:

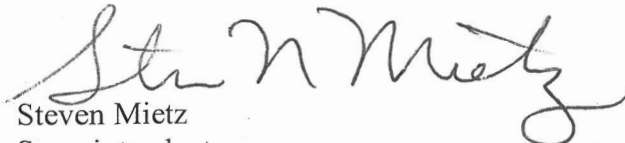
Public Scoping	April 2019
Prepare EA	May 2019
Public Comment Period	June 2019
Complete Project Planning	July/August 2019
Initiate Project Implementation	September 16, 2019

We are soliciting input on this proposal from interested individuals, adjacent private landowners, organizations, and agencies to understand, address, and incorporate public views, issues, and concerns.

If you have any issues, new information, or input you believe should be considered in the environmental assessment or NHPA processes that will be prepared for this proposal, please send them in writing by April 22, 2019 to Steven Mietz, Superintendent, Redwood National Park, 1111 Second Street, Crescent City, California 95531.

If you have further questions regarding this project, please contact Leonel Arguello at (707) 465-7780 or via e-mail at leonel_arguello@nps.gov or visit the project PEPC page at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/LowerB500>.

Sincerely,



Steven Mietz
Superintendent

Encls.