



File Code: 1950-1

Date: January 27, 2009

Dear Interested Public:

The Krassel District of the Payette National Forest is seeking comments on the proposed action for the Reed Ranch Airstrip Project. The Idaho Transportation Department, Division of Aeronautics, has submitted a Special Use Application to the Forest Service to operate and maintain the Reed Ranch Airstrip for public use.

The Reed Ranch, including the airstrip, was acquired by the Forest Service as part of the Brundage Land Exchange in 2006. The Division of Aeronautics proposes to make the strip available for public use from May through October and for emergency use only from November through April. As part of their application, they would install two windsocks, one at either end of the airstrip, and three tie downs along the southwest corner of the airstrip. Road access to the airstrip would be gated and only administrative use would be allowed. Only minor maintenance of the airstrip would be required. For a more complete description of the proposal see the enclosed project description.

The project is located approximately 18 miles east of McCall. The airstrip is on the Krassel Ranger District in T18N, R6E, sections 15 & 22.

The Forest Service is combining the scoping period with the notice and comment into one public involvement effort for the project. Your comments in response to this letter will be considered as we prepare the Environmental Assessment (EA), and there will be no comment period following publication of the EA.

After close of the comment period, the Forest Service will release the EA and decision. The decision will be subject to appeal under 36 CFR 215. The comment period ends 30 days following date of publication of the legal notice in the *Idaho Statesman*. If the time period expires on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, comments are due by the end of the next Federal working day. Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the project record and available for public review. Only those who submit timely comments will have standing to appeal the project decision (36 CFR 215.5(b)(1)(vi)). The project description will also be available on the Internet at www.fs.fed.us/r4/payette/publications/.

Comments on this project may be submitted electronically, through the mail, by fax, or hand delivered. Comments must be postmarked by the 30th day following publication of the legal notice in the *Idaho Statesman*. Electronic comments may be sent to comments-intermtn-payette-krassel@fs.fed.us. They need to be in message, text, .doc, or .rtf format. Written comments should be sent to Joe Harper, Krassel District Ranger, 800 West Lakeside Avenue, McCall, Idaho 83638-3602 or fax 208-634-0433. Hand delivered comments can be taken to the McCall Ranger District office at 102 West Lake Street, McCall, Idaho during business hours. The Responsible Official is Suzanne Rainville, Payette National Forest Supervisor.



For further information regarding this project, please contact Dan Anderson, Interdisciplinary Team Leader at 208-634-0400, fax at 208-634-0433, or email at danderson02@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Suzanne C. Rainville
SUZANNE C. RAINVILLE
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures