

File Code: 1950

Date: June 19,th 2015

Dear Interested Citizens,

The Hood River Ranger on the Mt. Hood National Forest has identified you as an individual, agency, or organization that might be interested in commenting on our proposal to re-route approximately 4 miles of the Cooks Meadow trail #639. The legal description of the project is Township 02 S., Range 10 E., Section 22, 27, 34. The proposed project would occur within the general area of Forest Roads 4410, 4420. The attached map shows the project location and proposed action area.

Background

The Cooks Meadow Trail System provides recreationalists with numerous non-motorized trail opportunities and multiple opportunities for scenic views. Currently the trail follows the 4410 road for the first approximately 4 miles of the trail. Currently there are user conflicts along the road where non-motorized and motorized users utilize the same segments of road and trail. There is an opportunity to provide a safe experience for non-motorized users, including mountain bikers, equestrians, and hikers. Preliminary scoping with local equestrians, hiker and mountain bike organizations have provided supportive comments of this project and have indicated partnership agreements.

Purpose and Need for Action

There is a need to reroute existing trail users off the 4410 road, where high volume motorized and non-motorized users have a higher likelihood of conflicting use. The purpose of the project would be to relocate non-motorized use off the 4410. By connecting an existing non-motorized trail and relocating route off a forest road, this project would create a safer trail experience for recreation users.

Proposed Action

This proposal would reroute approximately 4 miles of the Cooks Meadow Trail. This project would establish better trail lay-out by removing the current route off a forest road way and rerouting in the forest environment, providing a safer trail experience.

This would consist of minimal clearing due to the openness of the area, a tread width of 24 inches and a clearing limit of 36 inches wide or 6ft centerline of tread and 10'high would be applied where needed. The more difficult trail standard (FS Manual 2309.18.31b, Exhibit 01) would be used.

Visitors would experience panoramic views of Mt Hood. This proposal would create a safe trail experience for recreation users. Additionally, this proposal would provide trail related recreation opportunities that serve public needs and meet land management objectives while emphasizing the natural setting of the National Forest.

Decision to be Made

The Hood River District Ranger will decide whether to reconstruct / reroute the Cooks Meadow Trail # 639. The work will be analyzed under category 4: "Repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline



boundaries” (FSH 1909.15-2007-1, 31.1, 2/15/07). The analysis for this project will be undertaken by an interdisciplinary team and documented in a project file. If it is determined that no extraordinary circumstances exist (see FSH 1909.15, Chapter 30.3), the proposed project may be documented in a Decision Memo.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this proposal, please bring them to our attention **by July 19, 2015**. Send comments to Casey Gatz, 6780 Highway 35, Mt. Hood-Parkdale, OR 97041. For more information, you may contact Casey Gatz at (541) 352-1255 or cgatz@fs.fed.us. Electronic comments may also be submitted to commentspacificnorthwest-mthood-hoodriver@fs.fed.us

Sincerely,

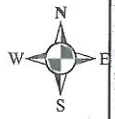





JANEEN TERVO
District Ranger
Hood River Ranger District

Enclosure: Cooks Meadow Trail Relocation Map



Cooks Meadows
 National Forest: Mt Hood
 Ranger Districts: Hood River / Barlow



-  Cooks Meadows Proposed Trail
-  Wilderness
-  Existing NFS Trail

