

BiOp Project Site Tour Evaluation Summary

Project Name: Broady Creek Road Closure/Decommissioning.

Date: October 14, 2010

Rating (H,M,L): Low to Medium Move to Proposal (Y/N): Yes

Present:

Coby Menton, Jeff Oveson, Jeff Yanke, Alan Miller, Larry Cribbs, Shirley Cribbs, Clayton Lamb, Rod Childers, Timmie Mandish, Dan Gambeta, Kathy Fisher, Ben Rau, Ted Taylor.

Base project evaluation on information presented in the prospectus, information presented by the project sponsor, conditions at the site and on-site discussion. Complete and turn in to GRMW at end of site tour.

Background

Species benefitted: Joseph Creek Steelhead and resident aquatic species.

Habitat metric: Reduce fine sediment levels in Broady Creek.

Restoration activities: Close and decommission roads, remove shallow culverts, install drainage dips, fill inside ditches, out slope and seed with native seed roads 4600545, 4600555, 4655065, and 4600505 all in the Broady Creek area.

Total cost: \$80,000 (email from Alan on 10/18 suggesting total cost is estimated at \$80,000)

BPA request: \$60,000

Addresses key/limiting environmental attributes (fisheries & water quality)

Consider the anticipated habitat improvements, proximity to salmon or steelhead spawning or rearing stream reaches, affect on salmon, steelhead or bull trout habitat, water quality or quantity, and the need to improve the existing condition.

Broady Creek serves as spawning and rearing habitat for ESA-listed steelhead. The Joseph Creek population is managed for wild production only, and is a population of interest in the Snake River basin. Broady Creek, and the greater Joseph Creek basin is water quality limited for fine sediment levels. Fine sediment can compact spawning gravels and reduce macroinvertebrate production. The project proposed to address current excess road sediment inputs to Broady Creek and tributaries including mass failure contributions.

Proposed Actions

Do proposed actions address limiting factors. Are actions clearly defined and appropriate to address limiting factors.

Proposed actions should reduce sediment input to fish bearing streams. Entire treatment area includes non-fish bearing tributaries as well as intermittent sections. Benefits would be gained by treating all roads as proposed, but fish benefits are somewhat less in some areas. Actions are balanced with need to use road(s) for administrative use. Storm proofing will reduce the chance of mass failure of road surface in the future.

Technical merit

Is the project is technically sound, i.e., are objectives well defined, do proposed actions address problems identified in the prospectus, are techniques technically sound, are proposed actions cost-efficient.

Reducing use of roads can contribute to reducing fine sediment to streams and storm proofing will reduce the chance of mass failure in the future. As proposed and with \$39K in US Forest Service cost share, the actions appear cost effective for the benefits gained.

Compliments other past, present, or expected restoration projects

Comprehensive, ties in with projects that are completed, on going or identified in planning documents.

This project compliments several other road closures and culvert improvement projects in the Joseph Creek Watershed. Methods to reduce sediment contribution to Joseph Creek and tributaries are a high priority in the area. Past and complimentary projects include the Peavine and Summit Road closures, Doe, Billy & Summit Creeks culvert replacements, and the Chesnimnus Creek Road resurfacing.

Recommendations for improvement

Close roads and decommission spur roads, remove shallow culverts, create drain dips at other culverts, and seed with native plants.

Things reviewers liked about the project

As presented the project has good cost share from the US Forest Service through the Legacy Roads Fund. Strategies to reduce sediment, an identified limiting factor, will improve stream conditions in the Joseph Creek Watershed.

Things reviewers didn't like about the project

Competing interests with OHV users are an issue with this project and continued recreational use at high levels may further contribute fine sediment to Broady Creek and tributaries following treatment. If implemented project benefits will not be easily quantified and some reviewers feel that improvement to habitat may be minimal.

Misc comment

An email from Alan Miller on 10/18/10 indicates that the project cost is estimated at \$80,000. The US Forest Service has received \$39,000 from the Legacy Roads Fund of which \$19,000 will pay for FS time, contracting and management. This leaves \$20,000 for project implementation and if follows that \$60,000 will be requested from GRMW/BPA.

Contingencies

Clarify budget.

Issues that need to be addressed

The travel management plan and implementation need to be clarified.

Next steps

Submit proposal.