



## Organization of the Environmental Assessment

### SUMMARY

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**CHAPTER 1 *Introduction:*** This chapter includes information on the history of the project proposal, the purpose of and need for the project, and the agency's proposal for achieving that purpose and need. This chapter describes the regulatory framework and prior planning documents used in this assessment. This section also details how the Forest Service informed the public of the proposal and how the public responded. The decisions to be made are also described in this chapter.

**CHAPTER 2 *Comparison of Alternatives, including the Proposed Action:*** This chapter provides a more detailed description of the agency's proposed action and alternatives for achieving the stated purpose. The ID Team developed the alternatives based on issues raised by the public and other agencies. This chapter also includes possible design criteria and mitigation measures that accompany the proposed action and alternatives to avoid or minimize environmental impacts. Finally, this chapter provides a summary table of the environmental consequences associated with each alternative.

**CHAPTER 3 *Environmental Consequences:*** This chapter describes the potential environmental effects of implementing the proposed action and the alternatives. It begins with a section describing past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities within the Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation project area, and then documents effects and outcomes for each issue identified for detailed analysis in Chapter 2. Each resource section provides a summary of effects and a discussion of consistency with the Payette and Nez Perce Forest Plans and environmental law. The end of the chapter supplements environmental law consistency from the resource sections, and shows potential conflicts with plans and policies of other jurisdictions, and specifically required disclosures.

**CHAPTER 4 *Agencies and Persons Consulted:*** This section provides a list of preparers, and agencies and persons consulted during the development of the environmental assessment.

### APPENDIX A – LITERATURE CITED

### APPENDIX B – MAPS

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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

December 2008



# Environmental Assessment

## Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation

Spring Bar Boat Ramp, Carey Creek Boat Ramp,  
Wind River Trailhead, and Vinegar Creek Boat Ramp.

Salmon River Ranger District, Nez Perce National Forest and  
Krassel and McCall Ranger Districts, Payette National Forest  
Idaho County, Idaho

**Responsible Official:**

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ACTING DISTRICT RANGER  
Salmon River Ranger District  
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(208) 839-2211



Vinegar Creek Boat Ramp ~ Salmon River



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## 0 SUMMARY

The Nez Perce National Forest proposes to renovate four recreation sites along the Salmon River road (Forest Road #1614) including Spring Bar Boat Ramp (T24N, R3E, Section 15), Carey Creek Boat Ramp and Day Use Facility (T24N, R4E, Section 3), Wind River Trailhead (T24N, R4E, Section 2), and Vinegar Creek Boat Ramp (T25N, R5E, Section 31). The ID Team designed the proposed improvements to provide for user convenience and safety and to reduce impacts to natural resources.

The project area is located on the Salmon River Ranger District, Nez Perce National Forest, and the Krassel and McCall Ranger Districts, Payette National Forest in Idaho County, Idaho.

This action is needed because the recreation sites along the Salmon River road do not meet the demand for parking, loading and unloading, and restroom and other improvements and facilities during much of the boating and trail use season. Employees of the Salmon River Ranger District have observed congestion regularly at the four recreation sites and received feedback from private parties, outfitter and guide businesses, and Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) members requesting improved facilities.

A comment period for the proposed action produced 17 written comments from the public and state and federal agencies, showing overwhelming support for the project. Through external and internal scoping, the Forest Service interdisciplinary team identified the following issues: potential effects on visual resources, habitats for some threatened, endangered, proposed, and sensitive fish, wildlife, and plant species, water quality, susceptibility to weed spread and infestation, and heritage resources. The Forest Service worked closely with the public to identify these issues and concerns, and to develop alternatives that addressed them.

In addition to the proposed action, the Forest Service also evaluated the following alternatives:

- *Alternative 1: No Action*
- *Alternative 3: Enhanced Development*

The deciding official for this proposal is the Acting District Ranger of the Salmon River Ranger District of the Nez Perce National Forest. The Acting District Ranger will make the following decisions and document them in a Decision Notice after completion of the formal comment period:

Should the Forest Service implement recreation site renovation?

If so:

- ❖ Which alternative best enhances recreation sites to provide for user convenience and safety, maintains or enhances Wild and Scenic Recreation River Corridor values, and reduces impacts to natural resources?
- ❖ What management requirements, design criteria, and mitigation measures should be implemented to meet Payette and Nez Perce Forest Plans standards and guidelines for all resources?



- 
- ❖ What monitoring requirements are appropriate to evaluate project implementation?

The Salmon River Recreation Sites project is subject to legal notice and opportunity to comment pursuant to 36 CFR 215.3. Written comments, including any attachments, must be filed with the Responsible Official within 30 days following the publication date of the legal notice in the newspaper of record (§215.6(a)(2)). It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure that their comments are received in a timely manner.



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