



***NEWS
RELEASE***

United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Salmon - Challis National Forest
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Rockslide Cleared from Middle Fork Trail at Simplot Ranch

The large rockslide that closed a section of the Middle Fork Trail near Simplot Ranch in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness has been cleared and the trail is again open to horse and foot travel. The rockslide, which occurred July 7, contained about 100 tons of material and completely obliterated a 30 to 40 foot long section of the trail. A 12 person Forest Service team, including trail crews, a blasting specialist and a fisheries biologist spent 2 ½ days blasting and clearing the rocks and debris, and rebuilt the trail section.

The trail parallels the Middle Fork of the Salmon River and provides hiking and horseback access to the Wild and Scenic River corridor. The slide occurred near the southwest end of the Lower Loon Creek Bridge between the bridge and the river.