

New Categorical Exclusions for Soil and Water Restoration Road and Trail Restoration

Project: Spruce/Nome Road Rehabilitation Unit: Lolo National Forest

What Were The Restoration Needs?

Roads and stream crossing roads were causing unacceptable levels of sedimentation and channel failure, limiting access to natural floodplains, and preventing upstream movement of fish and aquatic organisms.

What Activities Were Implemented?

A total of 12.8 miles of road were treated and closed. Activities included removal of culverts, pipes, and road fill found within the floodplain, hydrologic restoration of compacted roadbeds, and recontouring.

What Are The Benefits of Restoration?

The removal of the structures benefits the westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout, as well as other species, by removing blockages to upstream movement. The road treatments will reduce the risk of increased sedimentation and restore natural hydrologic function to the watershed. The grizzly bear and lynx will also benefit from reduced road density.

Who Were The Partners?

This project supplemented partnerships occurring in nearby watersheds between the Blackfoot Challenge; Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited; Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and private landowners.

Before:



After:

