

August 6, 2020

District Ranger, Erin Phelps
New Meadows Ranger District
P.O. Box J
Mew Meadows, ID 82654

RE: Rapid River Travel Management Project

Dear Ranger Phelps;

Reviewing your project proposal for the Rapid River Travel Management Plan has caused some of us very familiar with the area some confusion. Some of the trails identified on the ground with Forest Service installed signs do not coincide with the trail numbers and locations on your map. When submitting comments or proposals how should I address this particular problem?

To help you understand. I have Forest Maps and associated map documents issued as MVUM maps that have placed trail# 187 and #328 in different locations and that junction with different trails at different locations. While the trails tend to confirm to trail locations found but not numbered on a 1912 Weiser National Forest map that I obtained from the Payette Forest archives.

Many of the people that may be commenting or making proposals on your project may find that if they were using a 1995 Forest Map or even the 2013 Forest Map may not find the trails being discussed as the same as they have known on the ground and traveled often. Some of my acquaintances have asked me how to deal with the apparent disparity, I assume the map with the scoping documents will prevail and I will advise them to comment accordingly. Just be aware that my own review of this problem has shown many changes over time. This was a problem familiar to me as far back as the late 1960's when discussing it with the agency trail crew. The crew maintained trails not planned because of the confusion.

Just be aware that trails numbers and locations need to be verified against a standard so that all are on the same page. Thanks for your consideration.

I also assume that the scoping announcement for the Rapid River project meets the public announcement that is found in the lawsuit settlement agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron C. Hamilton". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.