

**CASCADE**



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October 15, 2024

Dear Ranger Molly Juillerat and staff,

Thank you for distributing the Revised Project Proposal for the Middle Fork/Bedrock Fire Affected Roads. Our firm, Cascade Timber Consulting, Inc manages approximately 145,000 adjacent to the USFS Sweet Home District. This land has been held as a working family forest for over 100 years! A decade ago, I would not have seen the importance that fire, road access, and forest management would play on lands well beyond our land's footprint.

I appreciate the objectives that your proposal clearly lays out:

Reduce the risks posed by fire-killed and injured trees that have fallen across or remain standing along important access routes of the fire-affected road system so that access to and through the burned area can be restored. The risks of primary concern in this project include:

- Public and forest worker safety and ability to use roads,
- Firefighter access to new ignitions,
- Usability of potential evacuation routes,
- Hazardous fuel loads,
- Functionality of roads as potential fire control lines, and
- Road infrastructure damages and failures.

As a trained single resource fire boss, I can attest that one of the most important strategies for fighting fire effectively and safely is access. Roads that are open and maintained do well to provide quick response for fire suppression. Small fires are safer, cheaper, and limit the severity of resource damage. Maintained access will help facilitate future fuels projects as well as the salvage of dead and dying forests. Neighboring lands such as ours are protected when our public lands are managed, and access is open.

I suggest that the following roads remain open or in some cases reopened and maintained at level 2 or greater (where feasible).

1934222	2418294	1816178
1934233	2422306	1816178J
1934234	5883378	1816179
1934391	5883379	1816180
1934735	1800365	1817000
1934739	1825214	1817353
1934741	1832395	1817406
1934746	1832405	1818431
1935240	1833250	1821190
1935247	1833251	1824215
1936243	1834390	1824248
1938000	1835220	1825217
2100260	1835243	1828402
2400291	1835244	1830386
2408273	1835249	1831381
2408275	1835365	1831384
2408278	1839370	
2408286	1845000	

I greatly appreciate you and your team's hard work and consideration with our public forest and associated roads. Periodically, I am faced with decisions affecting my personal family or business. It is paramount that the identified mission is revisited and evaluate whether decisions have been made that have aligned with the mission or have drifted from the core principles. I encourage your team to do the same. I have stated the USFS mission as well as the motto. Thank you so much for your service.

The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

The Forest Service motto, "Caring for the Land and Serving People," captures the spirit of our mission, which we accomplish through five main activities:

- Protection and management of natural resources on lands we manage.
- Research on all aspects of forestry, rangeland management, and forest resource utilization.
- Community assistance and cooperation with State and local governments, forest industries, and private landowners to help protect and manage non-Federal forest and associated range and watershed lands to improve conditions in rural areas.

- Achievement and support of an effective workforce that reflects the diversity of the American people.
- International assistance to formulate policy and coordinate U.S. support for the protection and sound management of the world's forest resources.

Thanks,

Brian Murray  
Forester CF  
Cascade Timber Consulting, Inc.