

1 February 2020

TO: Forest Supervisor  
Payette National Forest

FROM: Stanley & Stephen Ritland  
Willey Ranch (aka Davis Ranch)  
South Fork, Salmon River

RE: Environmental Assessment and Draft Decision Notice  
for the South Fork Restoration and Access Management Plan

We need to reiterate our objection (see attached), to denying our historic access to the Davis Ranch (Willey Ranch) which we have owned for a number of years. This is our only ground access and denying vehicular access substantially degrades the value and utility of our property. We feel that an exception needs to be made for vehicular access to our parcel of private property.

We are not seeking for the government to pay to repair the Davis Ranch Road which has been damaged by forest fires and subsequent flooding, but assert our right to repair and utilize the access as needed.



Stanley Ritland

[Redacted address line 1]  
[Redacted address line 2]

[Redacted address line 3]  
[Redacted address line 4]

19 June 2007

TO: Forest Supervisor  
Payette National Forest

FROM: Stanley & Stephen Ritland  
Willey Ranch (aka Davis Ranch)  
South Fork, Salmon River

RE: Comment on: The Payette National Forest Travel Management  
Plan  
Final Environmental Impact Statement

We own the Willey Ranch (aka Davis Ranch), 240 acres on the South Fork about 2 miles down river from the end of Road 50673/Hamilton Bar Road (aka 3-Mile Road).

Hamilton Bar Road and a short section of trail provide our primary access for ingress, egress and emergencies.

**(Proposal ID#12-17a & 12-17b: Road 50673 Hamilton Bar)**

Davis Ranch Road provides our only ground access for major materials, supplies and equipment.

**(Proposal ID#12-2: Road/Trail 76 Davis Ranch Road & Proposal ID#12-15: Trail 76)**

Any of the proposed changes to these roads and "trails" constitute a degradation and further reduction of accessibility both to our private property and to the surrounding public forest lands.

**We are strongly opposed to any and all of the proposed changes related to 12-2, 12-15, 12-17a or 12-17b.**

They are unnecessary, unhelpful, have no appreciable positive impact on the forest ecology or wilderness experience and would serve only to further restrict public and private access.

Please see the attached copy of an earlier comment we sent to the Forest Supervisor.

[REDACTED]

## **I: ACCESS AND THE PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST TRAVEL PLAN**

I understand that the formal comment period on the Travel Plan is expected to be more or less the month of May and this is approximately what we currently plan to comment.

Our primary concern is to preserve our existing and historical access which has been i) by a 1½ mile trail from the end of Three Mile Road (Road 50673 Hamilton Bar) along the west side of the South Fork and then crossing to the ranch by bridge (washed out some years ago) and by cable car (recently removed to the ranch side for liability concerns while the ranch was unoccupied); ii) by four-wheel drive road from the north (Davis Ranch Road) along the east side of the South Fork (this road is currently "temporarily" closed to motorized vehicles because of washouts and downed trees following extensive burns on the adjacent Forest Service lands); and iii) by helicopter or light fixed wing aircraft when weather and smoke permit.

All three of these means of access are crucial to us. The Three Mile Road and 1½ miles of trail provide our primary routine access for ourselves, visitors and work crews (for general enjoyment and use of our property and for cleanup, restoration and fuel management) as well as our only practical emergency access in or out when weather or smoke prevent flying. The Davis Ranch Road provides the only reasonably practical way to bring in heavy supplies, materials and equipment. Flying access, weather permitting, is important for emergencies and for general access as economics allow.

We will oppose any change in designation of the two ground access routes that might degrade or limit present or future accessibility to our property. We oppose changing the length or designation of the Three-Mile Road (12-17). This, in conjunction with 1½ miles of trail, is our only practical general access to the ranch. Closing the road at Hamilton Bar, as may be proposed in Alternative "E", would more than double the already significant length of the walking portion of that access. Changing the designation of this road from four-wheel to two-wheel/walking access would not result in significant economic savings and would not appreciably affect the water/habitat quality of the adjacent and downstream river habitats. The only appreciable consequence would be substantial degradation of public accessibility to public and private lands.

We will oppose changing the designation of the road in from the north (Davis Ranch Road) to two-wheel motorized trail (12-2). This is our only practical access for heavy supplies, materials and equipment. Even though it is currently designated as a four-wheel drive road closed to motorized vehicles for safety reasons, public or private funds may become available in the future for its repair and restoration. We believe that a change to two-wheel motorized designation would make its eventual return to four-wheel access even more difficult than it currently seems. The washouts and the temporary closure for safety reasons were a direct result of dubious Forest Service fire management policy and budget priorities which precluded its repair and maintenance. To use this as an excuse to further curtail public access to and enjoyment of Forest Service and private lands would be unconscionable. Not all of your constituents are able-bodied hikers or motorcyclists. Some are too old, some are disabled and some just may not be comfortable hiking or riding a motorcycle. This does not mean that they should be denied reasonable access to a presumably public resource or private land within it. Far and away the majority of public lands are accessible only by hiking or motorcycle or

horseback riding. It would be unfair and unreasonable to further curtail accessibility. Designation as a two-wheel motorized trail is not necessary for its use as a two-wheel motorized trail. Just as it is now designated as a four-wheel drive road closed to all motorized vehicles for safety reasons, it could, even though designated as a four-wheel drive road, conceivably be limited, on an interim basis, to two-wheel motorized vehicles but closed to four-wheel motorized vehicles for safety reasons.

In summary, we will oppose adoption of any of the proposed changes in designation to the roads north and south of the Willey Ranch. None of the proposed changes are acceptable to us as all compromise our accessibility. Not only would they degrade our accessibility but also the general public's accessibility to public and private land. Nor would any of these proposed changes have any material effect on the water quality of the adjacent South Fork and downstream water habitats.



File Code: 1950  
Date: DEC 06 2019

Dear Interested Party

The US Forest Service has prepared a revised Environmental Assessment and Draft Decision Notice for the South Fork Restoration and Access Management Plan. The project includes numerous actions relating to watershed restoration, motorized and non-motorized access, and improvements of recreation facilities within the South Fork Salmon River (SFSR) watershed within a 329,000 acre project area. The selected alternative is a hybrid of the alternatives presented in the Environmental Assessment, hereafter referred to as the Selected Alternative. The selected alternative includes one project-level amendment limited to the scope and scale of this project related to the designation of existing routes as system roads for administrative purposes in the Krassel Work Center and Reed Ranch Airstrip area. It also includes the decision to issue a Federal Roads and Trails Act easement to Valley County for 30.3 miles of the South Fork Salmon River Road (Forest Road 474/674).

The project would be implemented on the Krassel and McCall Ranger Districts of the Payette National Forest and the Cascade Ranger District of the Boise National Forest. The Responsible Official is the Forest Supervisor, Payette National Forest. The proposed project is an activity implementing existing land management plans and is subject to pre-decisional objection process at 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

The revised Environmental Assessment, Draft Decision Notice, and other project information are available for review at the project webpage at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=51257> and at the Krassel Ranger District 500 North Mission Street, Bldg 1, McCall, ID 83638. Hardcopy documents may be made available to interested parties upon request by calling 208-634-0600.

This project is subject to the objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218 Subpart B. This project is not related to the Hazardous Fuels Reduction Act. The Intermountain Regional Forester is the reviewing officer. The objection filing period is expected to be December 19, 2019 through February 3, 2020.

Objections will be accepted only from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project either during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment in accordance with § 218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific, written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after designated opportunities. Individual members of organizations must have submitted their own comments to meet the requirements of eligibility as an individual. Objections received on behalf of an organization are considered as those of the organization only. If an objection is submitted on behalf of a number of individuals or organizations, each individual or organization listed must meet the eligibility requirement of having previously submitted comments on the project (§ 218.7). Names and addresses of objectors will become part of the public record.



Incorporation of documents by reference in the objection is permitted only as provided for at § 218.8(b). Minimum content requirements of an objection are identified in § 218.8(d) include: Objector's name and address with a telephone number if available; with signature or other verification of authorship supplied upon request; identification of the lead objector when multiple names are listed, along with verification upon request; name of project, name and title of the responsible official, national forest/ranger district where project is located, and sufficient narrative description of those aspects of the proposed project objected to, specific issues related to the project, how environmental law, regulation, or policy would be violated, and suggested remedies which would resolve the objection. The objection must include a statement demonstrating the connection between prior specific written comments on this project and the content of the objection, unless the objection issue arose after the designated opportunities for comment.

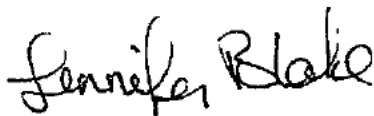
Written objections, including any attachments, must be submitted within 45 days following the publication date of the legal notice in the newspaper of record. It is the responsibility of Objectors to ensure their objection is received in a timely manner (§ 218.9). The publication date in the Idaho Statesman, newspaper of record, is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection to this project. Those wishing to object to this proposed project should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. We anticipate the legal notice will be published on December 18, 2019 and the official comment period would open the following day.

The Reviewing Officer is the Regional Forester. Send objections to the project website using the link in the right corner to "comment/object to project" or send to Objection Reviewing Officer, Intermountain Region USFS, 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401; or fax to 801-625-5277; or by email to: [objections-intermtn-regional-office@fs.fed.us](mailto:objections-intermtn-regional-office@fs.fed.us). Reference the project name "SFRAMP" in the subject line. It is the responsibility of Objectors to ensure their objection is received in a timely manner (§ 218.9).

We appreciate your interest in the Payette National Forest and this project. If you have any questions regarding this project or objection period, please contact Anthony Botello, Krassel District Ranger at 208-634-0601.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,



for TAWNYA BRUMMETT  
Acting Forest Supervisor

Enclosure