

## **SCOPING INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

West Fork Pine Creek Route Structures

Coeur d'Alene Field Office

DOI-BLM-C010-2025-0001-EA

This document summarizes a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposal to address man-made structures constructed on public lands within and abutting the West Fork of Pine Creek motorized route. This route is located approximately 8.4 miles South of Pinehurst, ID in Shoshone County. (see attached map). The BLM will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the environmental effects of the proposal, and we invite public comments regarding issues and potential alternatives that address the purpose and need for action.

### **Background**

The West Fork Pine Creek route is within the Rochat Divide-Pine Creek Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). This SRMA is located just South of Pinehurst, Idaho and contains BLM managed lands within Benewah, Kootenai, and Shoshone counties. The BLM's 2007 Travel Management Plan (TMP), prepared in conjunction with the Coeur d'Alene (CDA) Resource Management Plan (RMP), designates the West Fork Pine Creek route as seasonally open to full-size motorized vehicles. The route is open to motorized vehicles from January 1st to August 24th each year and open to non-motorized use year-round.

This route was part of the original road system up the West Fork of Pine Creek drainage. In 1999, due to re-occurring storm damage to the primitive road in the bottom of Pine Creek, the West Fork of Pine Creek Road Construction Environmental Assessment (EA) Decision Notice (DN) was signed to relocate access from the route adjacent to West Fork Pine Creek to the current location known as the Langlois Road. Once the Langlois Road was constructed to be the main access road (primarily for timber hauling) into the West Fork of Pine Creek, a series of excavated earthen barriers (approximately 50) were placed on the West Fork of Pine Creek route, circa 2000, to discourage use. As previously noted, the route was designated as open seasonally in the 2007 CDA TMP/RMP.

In 2010-11, the BLM partnered with Idaho Parks and Recreation (IDPR) and volunteers from North Idaho Trailblazers (NITB) organization to complete trail work to include: minor modifications to the earthen barriers, creating structures that later became known as the rollercoaster. The work included a bypass route to allow for users to make navigation of the structures optional. This work widened the route to more than twice an average road width of 14 feet in places.

In the fall of 2019, the BLM discovered substantial modifications to the structures, attributed to trail maintenance by NITB members; resulting in the conditions as they are on the ground today. Currently, approximately 60 identified structures have been placed within the 0.8-mile-long segment of the route. These structures consist of excavated pits, large boulders, cut and cabled logs as well as extensive earth work to armor the structures. BLM has no documented NEPA analysis or decision record for work performed on the West Fork Pine Creek structures during the 2010-2019 timeframe.

### **Preliminary Purpose and Need for Action**

The purpose of the project is to develop a strategy to address the man-made structures on the West Fork Pine Creek motorized route consistent with the 2007 CDA TMP/RMP, located adjacent to and abutting a route segment designated as seasonally open to full-size vehicles. The analysis area is located within lands specially designated as the Rochat Divide-Pine Creek Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA).

### **Preliminary Proposed Action and Alternatives**

The BLM proposes to reclaim excavated areas and restore the West Fork Pine Creek route to a condition consistent with its designated use. Under this action, the route will remain seasonally open to full-size vehicles and reconstructed to BLM road maintenance standards. The route would be realigned to its original path and sized back down to standard width.

The BLM's proposed action is aligned with the 2007 CDA TMP/RMP and is shown in the following Land Use Plan decisions:

- **Action RC-1.5.5** – Provide controls (including motorized vehicle restrictions when necessary) and limit management actions to protect developed recreation facilities and primitive roads and trails or to protect the scenic values that contribute to the area's aesthetic setting by:
  - Applying VRM Class II and III management constraints.
  - Limiting motorized vehicles to designated travel routes.
  - Limiting motorized vehicle use of single-track trails to two-wheeled vehicles.
  - Specifying no surface occupancy stipulation (see NSO-7 in Appendix B) on new mineral leases to protect developed recreation sites.
  - Specifying controlled surface use stipulation (see CSU-3 in Appendix B) on new mineral leases to prevent adverse impacts on use of this SRMA.

Alternative 1 would be the "No Action" alternative. No action would be taken on the structures. The structures would remain on the landscape and BLM would not maintain them. Full-sized vehicles could continue to navigate the route at the user's discretion. This alternative would allow users to continue to utilize the structures without potentially causing environmental impacts associated with their removal. Alternative 1 would also conform to the above decisions as defined in the 2007 CDA TMP/RMP. Other management alternatives may be developed and analyzed in response to public and internal scoping.

### **Preliminary Issues**

The BLM has identified the following potential issues for analysis related to the proposal:

- How would removal of structures affect natural and cultural resources present within or adjacent to the West Fork Pine Creek route?
- How would leaving structures in place affect natural and cultural resources present within or adjacent to the West Fork Pine Creek route?
- Would project implementation adversely affect public use of the West Fork Pine Creek route?
- What impacts to public safety might arise under each alternative?

## **Public Input Requested**

Federal actions must be analyzed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations to determine potential environmental consequences.

The purpose of this document is to inform interested and affected parties of the proposal and to solicit comments to assist with the NEPA review of the proposal. As previously mentioned, the BLM will document our analysis of the proposal in an EA. Comments received in response to this solicitation may be used to identify potential environmental issues related to the proposed action or alternatives to the proposed action as the BLM prepares the EA.

The BLM will also use this public participation opportunity under NEPA to assist the agency in satisfying the public involvement requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. 470(f)) pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). The information about historic and cultural resources within the area potentially affected by the proposed action will assist the BLM in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources in the context of both NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA.

The BLM will consult with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis in accordance with Executive Order 13175 and other policies. Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets and potential impacts to cultural resources, will be given due consideration. We invite Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as tribes and other stakeholders interested in, or affected by the proposed action to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, to request participation in the development of the environmental analysis as a cooperating agency. The BLM invites comments from the public on the proposed action, preliminary issues, and alternatives. Comments made on this proposal would be **most helpful if they are received by December 23, 2024** and are directly relevant to the proposal and project area.

Comments may be submitted through the project ePlanning website at: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2035309/510>. Please identify whether you are submitting comments as an individual or as the designated spokesperson on behalf of an organization. Issues that are outside the scope of the proposal will not be addressed at this planning level.

*Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.*

## **Contact**

The primary contact for this project is **Jonathan Stein, Outdoor Recreation Planner**.

For questions on the project or for assistance submitting comments, please contact the Coeur d'Alene Field office at (208) 769-5000.

**Attachments -- Attachment 1: Pine Creek vicinity map**



## Map 1

### West Fork of Pine Creek Route Structures - General Vicinity Map


Bureau of Land Management  
Coeur d'Alene Field Office  
3232 W. Nursery Rd  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815  
208-769-5000





**Legend**


Project Area



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of this map or the data displayed for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Scale: 1:60,000

0 0.180.35 0.71 1.06 1.42 Miles



1/12/2024

# Attachment 2: West Fork Pine Creek Route Structure map



 **Map 3**  
Structure Locations Along the West Fork Pine Creek Route


Bureau of Land Management  
Coeur d'Alene Field Office  
3232 W. Nursery Rd  
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208-769-5000



11/12/2024


**Legend**

-  Project Area
-  Route Structures



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Scale: 1:3,000

 0 0.01 0.02 0.04 0.06 Miles