



NEWS RELEASE

USDA FOREST SERVICE • Intermountain Region 324 25th STREET
OGDEN, UTAH 84401 • Web: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4>

Release No. R4- 10-05

Contact:Joan Dickerson 406-329-3314

The Chief of the Forest Service, is proposing to make administrative corrections affecting Big Creek Fringe, French Creek, Placer Creek, Secesh, and Smith Creek Idaho Roadless Rule maps on the Payette National Forest. These corrections will remedy errors regarding regulatory classification and mapping that concern Forest Plan Special Areas in Big Creek and French Creek drainages. These corrections would facilitate the development of the Big Creek Fuels Reduction Project on the Krassel Ranger District, Payette National Forest. The project is being developed to reduce fuels in the wildland urban interface around the community of Big Creek. The corrections are needed so the appropriate treatment may be designed. The Big Creek Fuels Reduction project will go through a separate notice and comment process once these corrections are made.

Comments must be received, in writing, on or before October 8, 2010, (30 days after publication in the *Federal Register*). Written comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Idaho Roadless Area Payette Correction, Northern Region USFS, Federal Building, 200 East Broadway, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807-7669. Comments may also be sent via email to comments-northern-regional-office@fs.fed.us, or via facsimile to 406-329-3411. Additional information concerning this administrative correction, including the proposed corrected maps, may be obtained on the Internet at <http://roadless.fs.fed.us>.

The Idaho Roadless Rule and associated maps mistakenly identified a Forest Plan Special Area (Wild and Scenic River) along a corridor of Big Creek. Forest Plan Special Areas were identified where the management is governed by specific Agency directives and forest plan direction. The 2003 Southwest Idaho Ecogroup Land and Resource Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) included an eligibility study for Big Creek. However, the Agency's Record of Decision did not find Big Creek eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. As the Payette Forest Plan does not actually establish a special management area, the Idaho roadless rulemaking and associated maps should be conformed to remove this erroneous classification. The rule and associated maps will be corrected as follows:

- Big Creek Fringe Idaho Roadless Area #009: change 365 acres of Forest Plan Special Area to Backcountry Restoration and deletes 3 acres of private ownership. Removes the FPSA classification from the rule.
- Placer Creek Idaho Roadless Area #008: change 98 acres of Forest Plan Special Area to Backcountry Restoration; and 14 acres of Forest Plan Special Area to Primitive. Removes the FPSA classification from the rule.
- Secesh Idaho Roadless Area #010: change 1,086 acres of Forest Plan Special Area to Backcountry Restoration.
- Smith Creek Roadless Area#007: change 14 acres of Forest Plan Special Area to Primitive.

The Idaho Roadless Rule did not identify an existing Forest Plan Special Area for the Wild and Scenic River corridor along Lake Creek in the French Creek Idaho Roadless Area. The 2003 Southwest Idaho Ecogroup Land and Resource Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement included a suitability study for the Secesh River, including Lake Creek. The Record of Decision found the Secesh River, including Lake Creek, eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation and the Payette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans established a special management area. Therefore a correction is necessary to the rule's associated maps for French Creek Roadless Area #026. The correction involves changing 1,000 acres from Backcountry/Restoration to Forest Plan Special Area.

- END -