

File Code: 1950

Date: September 18, 2017

To: SOPA Respondents and Other Interested
Individuals, Organizations, and Agencies

The Hat Creek Ranger District of the Lassen National Forest is initiating scoping for the Lake Britton Trail Bridges Project. Enclosed is a copy of the Proposed Action, Purpose and Need, and Decision to be made. We are proposing to authorize the temporary use of national forest land for staging equipment and materials to restore two former railroad bridges, located west of Dusty Campground at Lake Britton. This is a partnership project with the Great Shasta Rail Trail Association, a local nonprofit, which owns and manages the 80-mile Great Shasta Rail Trail for non-motorized public use along the former McCloud Railway. The project is intended to provide safe, sustainable crossings for all non-motorized trail users crossing the lake and State Route 89.


As a partner in the project, I have asked the Great Shasta Rail Trail Association to conduct all public engagement activities. I request your input at it relates to the attached proposed action and identification of any issues (point of discussion, debate, or dispute) about the anticipated effects from this proposed action. I also request that you respond in writing before September 22, 2017, so your comments may be considered as we move through the NEPA process with this project. Comments may be submitted to: Elizabeth Norton, Great Shasta Rail Trail Association, during normal business hours. Electronic comments may be submitted to [Ms. Norton at bobliz@live.com](mailto:Ms.Norton@bobliz@live.com) with the Subject: Lake Britton Trail Bridges.

I have made a preliminary assessment that this proposal falls within 36 CFR 220.6(d)4) "Repair and maintenance of roads, trails and landline boundaries" which would exclude it from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact State (EIS) (Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.15, Chapter 30, 32.12(4). At the discretion of the responsible official, a project or case file and a decision memo are not required but may be prepared for the categories of actions set forth in sections 32.11 and 32.12. Categorically excluded projects are no longer subject to legal notice and comment and appeal procedures pursuant to Section 434 of the Consolidated Appropriation s Act of 2014 and Section 80006(a)&(b) of the Agricultural Act (Farm Bill) of 2014.



A decision regarding this proposal is expected by June 2018 or possibly sooner. Thank you for your interest and participation in the environmental analysis process. For more information on the project, please contact Elizabeth Norton, Great Shasta Rail Trail Association, by phone at (530) 251-7368.

Sincerely,



JANINE BOOK
District Ranger

Enclosure: Lake Britton Trail Bridges Project Scoping Document