

Dollar Creek Road Obliteration Project

November 2016

Project Location:

The Dollar Creek Road Obliteration Project is located in the Dollar Creek subwatershed and approximately 100 acres of the Goat Creek subwatershed of the South Fork Salmon River subbasin, approximately 16 (air) miles northeast of Cascade, Idaho. The legal location is T16N, R6E, Sections 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 27, and 28.

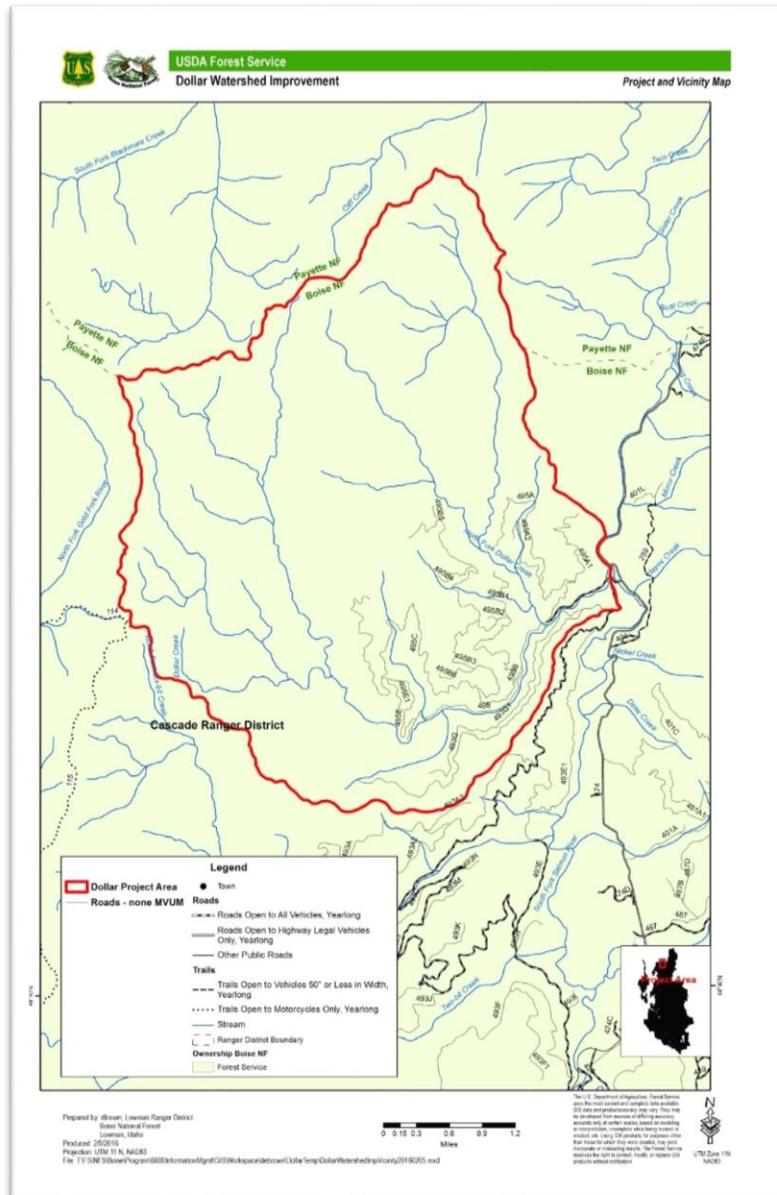


Figure 1- Project Vicinity Map

Purpose and Need:

The purpose of the project is to enhance water quality and fish habitat conditions. There is a need to reduce the risk of fine sediment delivery to streams within the Dollar Creek subwatershed and to the South Fork Salmon River to improve spawning and rearing habitat for summer Chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout, all listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Sediment reduction is also needed to continue to meet the goals of the South Fork Salmon River total maximum daily load (TMDL) under the Clean Water Act.

Currently high road densities (approximately 2.68 mi/mi²) are likely increasing peak flows and reducing base flows. Several fill failures and surface erosion from old roads in the project area are presently contributing fine sediment to streams. The majority of these roads were built in the 1960s-early 1970s and are narrow, partially re-vegetated logging roads no longer passible to full-sized vehicles. Although numerous improvements have been made to enhance water quality and fish habitat conditions over the past ten years in the South Fork Salmon River subbasin, aquatic habitat is still functioning at risk due to limiting factors, primarily elevated fine sediment levels.

Proposed Action:

The Cascade Ranger District propose to decommission by full obliteration up to 52 miles of non-system routes in the Dollar Creek subwatershed and a small portion of the Goat Creek subwatershed. The route decommissioning would include ripping the roadbed to a depth of at least 12 inches and relocating the fill from the outer side of the road bed. The fill material would be placed in the angle formed by the road cut and road bed, leaving a cross-section and profile that approximates the contour of the surrounding slope angle. The project would be done under contract with an excavator.

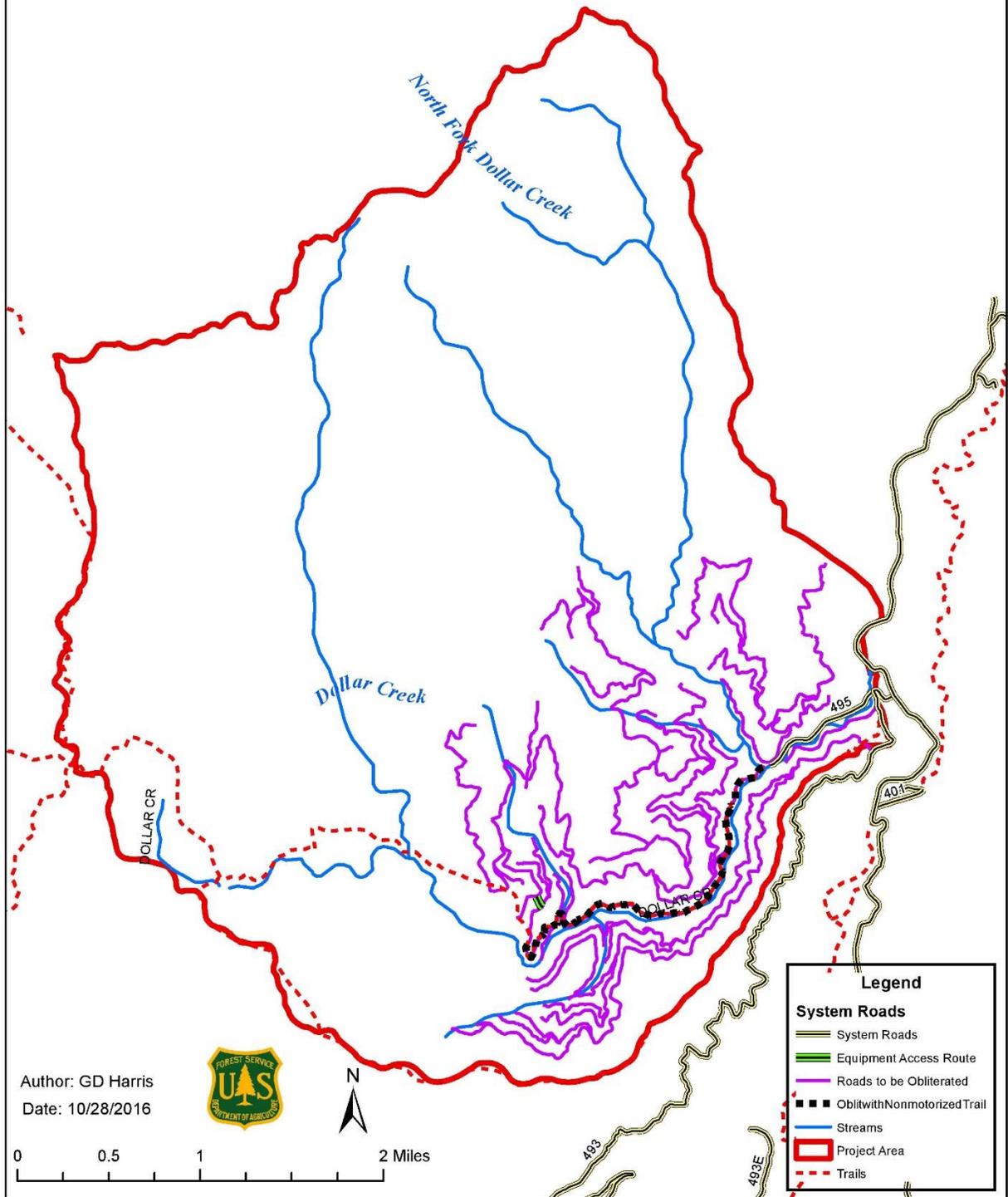
Relationship of this Project to the 2010 Forest Plan:

The Boise Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service 2010b, Chapter 3) describes location-specific management direction in terms of Management Areas and Management Prescription Categories (MPCs). The MPC direction provides the framework for the type of tools (e.g. mechanical vegetation treatments, prescribed fire, etc.) that may be used to accomplish overall management objectives and emphases. The project is located in the Warm Lake Management Area (MA19), in MPC 3.2 , *Restoration and Maintenance of Aquatic, Terrestrial, and Hydrologic Resources*.

Activities associated with the Proposed Action would further the achievement of the following general Forest Plan goals and objectives:

Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
Objective	1929	Improve water quality by reducing road- and trail- related accelerated sediment delivery to the South Fork Salmon River and its tributaries.
Objective	1930	Assist in de-listing the South Fork salmon River drainage from the State of Idaho’s impaired waterbodies by applying appropriate and active watershed restoration to reduce sediment, the identified pollutant source.
Objective	1932	Restore aquatic and riparian habitats in the South Fork Salmon River and its tributaries by reducing streambank instability or accelerated sediment resulting from existing roads and other disturbances.

Dollar Creek Road Obliteration Project Project Area Map



Map does not show skid trails that may also be decommissioned.