

**Chris Taggart**

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**From:** USDA Forest Service <forests@public.govdelivery.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 1:59 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rombo Campground Improvements Project Update



**Subscribed to the Rombo Campground Project for the West Fork District of the Bitterroot National Forest. Information has recently been updated, and is now available.**

2022

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The West Fork Ranger District of the Bitterroot National Forest is seeking public comment on a proposal to update infrastructure and to stabilize the shoreline along the West Fork of the Bitterroot River in the Rombo Campground. Rombo Campground is located on the West Fork Ranger District (T 1S, R 22W).

One of the goals of this project is to address the health and safety concerns associated with an outdated potable water system, insufficient septic, and to prevent erosion along the bank of the West Fork of the Bitterroot River at Rombo Campground. In the spring of 2018 high water on the West Fork of the Bitterroot River eroded the bank and a campsite within the campground. High water in the spring of 2020 continued to erode the bank, while undercutting trees, causing them to fall. The river is now along the edge of the main campground road.

The project proposes to replace the potable water system, add a new pump house, and a host site with new septic. The shoreline stabilization, as identified in the design, would prevent further erosion to protect the campground infrastructure investment and to restore vegetation along the bank of the West Fork of the Bitterroot River along Rombo Campground. The stabilization design will identify the best suited stabilization approach for this scenario, with consideration for riparian resource specialists. A segment of the access road may also be relocated away from the river due to the flooding concerns and inability to prevent further eroding shoreline.

Rombo Campground is one of the most popular developed campgrounds on West Fork Ranger District. Sites can be reserved through the National Recreation System as well as first-come, first-served sites and provides the public with camping and fishing opportunities throughout the summer season.

The timeline for the proposed project includes the installation of the new water system and pump house, new septic and host site, road re-routing, and shoreline stabilization. Implementation of the shoreline stabilization work is proposed for the fall of 2022 or spring of 2023.

The intended timeline for project implementation would likely be in the spring and fall seasons. However, if work is completed in the summer the public may experience safety closures within the campground while the project work is completed.

Under the National Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1508.4) provide for categorical exclusions to implement the National environmental policy act. We believe this project meets a category of action that may be excluded from documentation in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an

tal impact statement(EIS). This project is proposed under two categorical exclusions: 36 CFR 220.6(e)(22) "Construction, reconstruction, or disposal of buildings, infrastructure, or improvements at an existing recreation site either managed by the Forest Service or managed by other authorities, including infrastructure or improvements that are adjacent or connected to an existing recreation site and provide access or utility to recreation sites include but are not limited to campgrounds and camping areas, picnic areas, day use areas, fishing sites, interpretive sites, visitor center areas, and observation sites".

220.6(e)(19) "Removing and/or relocating debris and sediment following disturbance events (such as hurricanes, tornados, mechanical/ engineering failures, etc.) to restore uplands, wetlands, or riparian systems to pre-disturbance conditions, to the extent possible, such that site conditions will not impede or negatively alter natural processes".

The comment period provides those interested in or affected by this proposal an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official. I am interested in any specific information you believe I should consider about this proposal; particularly any environmental effects you may have and reasonable mitigations you think might help limit the effects. I will use your specific comments to; 1) improve the proposed project and 2) decide whether there are extraordinary circumstances that would preclude me from categorically excluding the project from documentation in an EA. I will then decide whether to authorize the project.

Comments and information regarding the Rombo Campground Repairs and Shoreline Stabilization would be most helpful by February 23, 2022.

Send comments to: Responsible Official: Dan Pliley, District Ranger, West Fork Ranger District, 6735 West Fork Road, Darby, MT 59829. Comments must be submitted to [comments-northern-bitterroot-west-fork@usda.gov](mailto:comments-northern-bitterroot-west-fork@usda.gov) (Please put "Comments on Rombo Campground Repairs and Shoreline Stabilization" in the subject line). For electronically mailed comments, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency and a copy of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgement of the receipt of comments, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure receipt by other means. Names and contact information (including addresses and e-mail addresses) submitted with comments will become part of the project file and will be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

For more information about the project and to view the map visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=61473>

For more information on this project please contact Tanya Neidhardt, West Fork Recreation Manager at (406) 821-1215.

DAN PLILEY

District Ranger, West Fork District

Northern Bitterroot National Forest

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