

PUBLIC LANDS

Buildings at South Fork Guard Station to be removed

The South Fork Guard Station site on the McCall Ranger District is slated for removal as part of a plan to decommission nine buildings across the Payette National Forest in response to declining maintenance budgets.

The South Fork site was once used as a remote guard station to house employees working in the area. The Forest Service has not used the site since 1988, and it was most recently used by the Federal Highways Administration in 2001-02 to house workers on the Elk Creek Road project.

The site has substandard water and wastewater facilities that will be removed as part of the project, and the site will be restored to near-natural conditions, a Payette National Forest news release said.

These buildings will be removed:

- A 1,205-square-foot, single-story building built in 1925 and used to house workers. Along with presenting health

hazards, the building has fallen into disrepair.

- A 1,450-square-foot, two-story barn building built in 1925, which has been slated for removal since 1986.

The Forest Service is planning a salvage demolition of the barn building, with the wood available for recycling by the public once it has been dismantled by the contractor.

Those interested in material from the barn, primarily old boards, should contact contractor David Holman of Northwest Technologies in Boise at (208) 323-0757.

- A 17-square-foot, single-story outhouse built in 1991. The cellar building will remain on site with access boarded up, and the gas house building will be moved to the historic Carey Dome Lookout site and converted to a storage building.

Also slated for removal by the Forest Service are the Bear Work Center barn and Bear Guard Station garage on the Council Ranger District near the town of Bear, and the Summer's Grave Cabin building on the Weiser Ranger District on Cuddy Mountain.



Photo courtesy Payette National Forest

This barn at the South Fork Guard Station is among the buildings to be removed by the Forest Service due to cuts in maintenance budgets.



Photo courtesy NW Youth Corps

Thomas Hinman from Boise works on the Howard Point trail as a member of the Northwest Youth Corps

Northwest Youth Corps crew works on Payette National Forest trail

Hikers to the Payette National Forest may catch a glimpse of a group of 10 youth bearing orange hard hats, swinging hand tools, and sweating away in blue long sleeve work shirts. The group of 16 to 19 year-olds are part of a crew from Northwest Youth Corps, the region's largest youth conservation program.

The Howard Point trail in the Payette National Forest is getting special attention from the youths. The project, sponsored by the Forest Service, will create new trail, help make a bridge, and remove unwanted vegetation along three miles.

The group, primarily Idaho youth, come from all parts of the state. This year, the corps will provide more than 100 jobs in Idaho.

Each year the corps offers more than 1,000 youth the chance to earn money through conservation work, plus the chance to live in some of the most beautiful parts of the Pacific Northwest, travel, make new friends, get into shape, and earn high school credit, Marketing Manager Charlie Mouy said.

This year the program has had more Idaho youth involved in Northwest Youth Corps than ever seen in its 26 year history, Mouy said.

"They are excited about what they do and proud of their high quality of work," he said. "If you see them on the trail this season - make sure to say hello!"

The nonprofit group is now hiring for its Fall Conservation Corps. To apply or to learn more, go to www.NorthwestYouthCorps.org.

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Over the past 10 years, the Payette National Forest has removed buildings at several sites for a variety of reasons. For more information about the program, call project engineer Will Perry at the Supervisor's Office at (208) 634-0767.

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