

Reds Meadow – Restrictions on Work and Resource Protection Measures

Pre-Operations Requirements:

Reds Road Construction Project

1. The Reds Road Construction Project is anticipated to be in construction in Summers 2024 and 2025. See table below for restrictions.

Table 1: Reds Meadow Road Contractor and Hauling Access

Period Start	Period End	Full Closure	Access Caravan ¹	Hauling	Open to Public
Season Start	June 7 th	7 Days a week	7:00am & 3:30pm	No hauling ²	No access
June 7 th	September 15 th	Sunday 11:00pm – Friday 9:00am	7:00am & 3:30pm	Friday 9:00am – Sunday 11:00pm ²	Friday 9:00am – Sunday 7:00pm
September 15 th	Winter Shutdown	Sunday 7:00pm – Saturday 9:00am	7:00am & 3:30pm	Saturday & Sunday 9:00am – 7:00pm ²	Saturday & Sunday 9:00am – 7:00pm

¹Access caravans are for full closure period for admin/contractor access only. Access during this time is for passenger vehicles only. Access by equipment/equipment trailers will be coordinated with the road contractor through the COR.

²Expanded hauling may be available based on road contractors actual work schedule. This will be determined on a week by week bases through the COR. Hauling may require traffic control along upper section of Red’s road with up to 30 min delays in traffic.

2. While hauling during the “Open to Public” periods, traffic coordination with the INF Entrance Station may be required by the contractor. The contractor should be prepared to provide the traffic control/coordination.
3. Staging area used for Reds Road Construction (Reds Road Construction staging areas on the map) cannot be used for landings for this project. Project landings can potentially be created adjacent to the road construction staging areas with permitted vehicle pass through in coordination with the road contractors.

Operations Plan

1. Contractor will be required to submit an Operations Plan three weeks prior to implementation for approval. The plan will include schedule of work, equipment list, proposed staging, and landing areas, temporary bridge locations and stream crossings, and main skid trails, hauling plan and biomass disposal plan by unit.

Pre-Operations Meeting

1. Contractor will be required to attend a virtual kick-off meeting two weeks prior to project commencement.

Flagging – Main Skid Trails and Decking/Landing Areas

1. Contractor will be required to flag proposed main skid trails, temporary roads, stream crossings, and landing areas for approval by the COR prior to project commencement.

NEPA Boundary (as shown in the contract maps)

1. No work (tree removal, piling, equipment, or staging) will occur outside of the NEPA boundary as shown on the contract maps. Any work that needs to occur outside of the unit boundaries but within the NEPA boundary shall be approved by the COR in writing.

Resource Protection Measures:

Limited Operating Period

1. Within MR units, a qualified biologist will conduct a habitat survey for Yosemite toad and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog. If individuals are detected, a limiting operating period will be implemented.
2. Prior to project implementation, a qualified biologist will conduct a California spotted owl and nesting raptor survey. Additionally, any incidental observations of neotropical migratory nesting birds observed during these surveys will be flagged for avoidance and mitigation.
3. Treatments within FR-7 shall not occur from March 1st to September 15th. If treatment during this timeframe is unavoidable treatments will be coordinated and approved by a qualified wildlife biologist.
4. Treatments within FR-11 and FR-12 shall not occur before June 17th.

Control Areas

1. Control Areas will be designated on contract maps and flagged on the ground.
2. Control area types:
 - a. **Directional felling:** Directionally fell trees away from structures. No piling within control area unless approved by COR in writing. **NOT flagged, on contract map.**
 - b. **No Ground Disturbance or Piling:** No new ground disturbance. Directionally fell trees away from the control area. Felled trees may be removed by hand carrying material or by using rubber-tired equipment which can fully suspend tree. Use of other non-ground disturbing methods must be approved by the COR in writing. No tracked equipment, endlining or skidding allowed within control area. No piling within control area unless approved by COR in writing. Slash and chipped material may be dispersed in control area to treatment specifications. **Flagged with orange and white striped flagging.**
 - c. **Full avoidance:** Full avoidance of control area. No felling of trees, no piling, no mechanical equipment permitted within control area. **Flagged with solid orange flagging.**
3. If unanticipated discoveries of a protected resource are made of during project implementation, the discovery area shall be protected and all work in the vicinity shall cease until a specialist can assess the find.

Campground Infrastructure

1. The Contractor will be responsible for any damages to infrastructure within the campground.
2. Activity generated slash will be cleared from campsites and parking areas upon completion of unit and returned to near original condition as practical.

Borax Application

1. All stumps greater than 14 inches in diameter (3 inches in diameter when 300 feet from infrastructure) will be treated with a Cell-u-Treat or Borax fungicide to prevent the spread of

root disease. It should be applied in a uniform coating and at a rate of one pound per 50 square feet of stump surface.

2. Application shall follow all State and Federal rules and regulations as they apply to this fungicide application.
3. A borax fungicide should be applied within 4 hours of stump creation. It will not be applied on rainy days, or within 200 feet of running or standing water.

Equipment

1. Equipment and clothing shall be cleaned before entering project units. Equipment will be considered clean when visual inspection of tires, tracks, and underbody does not reveal soil, seeds, plant material or other such debris. Disassembly of equipment components or specialized inspection equipment is not required.

Five Needle Pines

1. All live whitebark pine seedling and trees will be retained and protected from damage during all thinning, cutting, limbing and standing dead tree removal operations, in all locations where whitebark pine occurs. Limited exceptions may be made to remove hazard trees or bark-beetle infested trees that are actively infested and dying.
2. In treatment areas where five-needle pines are present forest service specialist will be consulted on equipment operations, where five-needle pine densities are high placement of skid trails and landings shall be flagged prior to operations to ensure no live, mature five-needle pine trees and minimal seedlings and saplings are impacted.
3. Burn piles should be placed 1.5 times the pile diameter away from five needle pine individuals and clumps to avoid scorch from pile burning activities (e.g. a pile that is 15 feet in diameter shall be located at least 23 feet from the canopy of a five-needle pine of any size). When chips are spread within units where five-needle pines are present, chip depth will not exceed 2 inches and they will be spread in a discontinuous manner to minimize impacts to seedlings and open seed-caching habitat.
4. The contractor will be responsible for accurately identifying five needle pines in order to effectively avoid accidental cutting or damage to the trees. Forest Service staff will provide identification information and guidance at the beginning of the operating season and operations will be closely monitored for any incidental damage.

Stream Courses and Protection Zones

1. Trees will be directionally felled away from all waterbodies (ephemeral, intermittent, and perennial streams; lakes; springs).
2. There will be a 25-foot equipment exclusion zone from all waterbodies. Trees within this zone can be felled away from the waterbody and yarded out of this zone as long as there is no excessive damage to the stream course, bank, and/or associated riparian vegetation.
3. For intermittent and perennial streams, the following additional restriction will additionally apply in the protection zone from 25 to 75 feet from the edge of the stream bank. For the Middle Fork of San Joaquin River, the following restrictions will apply from 25 to 150 feet from the edge of the stream bank, see Rehabilitation section below.
4. Any stream course crossings will be agreed upon in writing prior to designation in writing by the contractor and a qualified Forest Service hydrologist. Stream crossings will be selected by the

contractor and constructed in compliance with the [National Best Management Practices for Water Quality Management on National Forest Lands, Volume 1: National Core BMP Technical Guide](#) (*Road-7 Stream Crossing*, page 117).

Roads and Trails

1. Contractor is responsible for traffic control when falling trees within 1.5 times the strike distance of any open trail or road (including Reds Meadow Road). Traffic control will adhere to INF standards and not last longer than 30 minutes and adhere to INF standards outlined in Guidelines for Operations.
2. Hauling, skidding, landings, and temporary roads will not be allowed on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT).
3. See Appendix F for specific road requirements and restrictions.

Operations

1. Any proposed temporary roads shall be constructed on existing benches at the lowest gradient possible. When they cross streams, they should cross at the highest angle possible, and should not be constructed in swales or parallel to streams.
2. Main skid trails, trails used 10 or more times, shall preferably be spaced 132 feet apart and join prior to landing so that there is one main entrance to landing.
3. Main skid trails, 25 to 75 feet from the edge of a stream bank or for the Middle Fork of San Joaquin River 25 to 150 feet from the edge of the stream bank, shall not run parallel to the stream bank.
4. Landings will be constructed or reconstructed in previously disturbed areas, adjacent to existing roads, and on slopes less than 5% when available. The cleared or excavated size of landings shall not exceed that needed for efficient skidding and loading operations. When feasible, landings should not be constructed outside previously disturbed areas 25 to 75 feet from the edge of a stream bank or for the Middle Fork of San Joaquin River 25 to 150 feet from the edge of the stream bank.
5. Equipment used for mechanical cutting, limbing, bucking, or chipping will be restricted to slopes averaging less than 30 percent. Endlining is permitted on slopes greater than 30%.
6. In meadows only low ground pressure equipment may be used, less than 13 PSI, may operate in units. Higher ground pressure equipment may be used if a slash mat is created to drive equipment on. Slash mats must be a minimum of 6 inches deep of compacted slash. Skidding operations shall minimize the need to turn equipment when retrieving bole material to reduce soil disturbance. Operations shall minimize repeated use of the same skid trail into a meadow to 4 passes or less to reduce compaction, unless otherwise agree to by the COR in writing.
7. Ground-based mechanical equipment operations will only be allowed when soil moisture conditions are such that compaction, gullyng, and/or rutting will be minimal and when the soil is dry to 6 inches or soil is frozen so that it supports the weight of equipment with limited exceptions as follows: if operations are needed where soil is not dry to 6 inches, methods such as slash mats or log causeways will be used to minimize soil disturbance. Slash mats must be a minimum of 6 inches deep.
8. If ruts > 2 inches in thickness that extend > 25 feet are created, work will halt and the COR will be notified.

Rehabilitation

1. Within meadows, all material from slash mats will be removed at project completion.
2. Any designated improvement (i.e. System Road or Hiking Trail) which have been disturbed by the Contractor's operations will be returned to as near original condition as practicable.
3. Skid trails on campground roads or disturbed areas will be rehabbed and returned to near original condition as practical, see Appendix B1 for specifications on road maintenance.
4. All main skid trails shall be backbladed and all other minor skid trails shall be backbladed if there is rutting exceeding 2 inches in depth for more than 25 feet.
 - All main skid trails that exceed 15% slope shall backbladed and have slash and woody debris placed on skid trail to 85% coverage.
 - All main skid trails, 25 to 75 feet from the edge of a stream bank or for the Middle Fork of San Joaquin River 25 to 150 feet from the edge of the stream bank, shall be backbladed and have slash and woody debris placed on skid trail to 85% coverage.
5. Disguise skid trails and landings subject to ingress from landings, roads or campgrounds by raking and spreading small and/or large woody debris, spreading chips, or placing large rocks.
6. Landing locations will be decommissioned after operations are completed in each area. The following methods will be applied to decommissioning operations:
 - Apply wood chip material to landing locations to a maximum depth of 4 inches.
 - Lop and scatter slash over landings locations surfaces to provide at least 50% coverage.
 - Landings with one of the following shall be subsoiled/ripped to reduce compaction:
 - 1) landings with excessive compaction
 - 2) landings within 25 to 75 feet from the edge of a stream bank or for the Middle Fork of San Joaquin River 25 to 150 feet from the edge of the stream bank. Exception will be those created in these stream protection zones in previously disturbed areas.
7. Prior to major weather events forecasted by the National Weather Service with a 50% or greater chance of precipitation within 24 hours which could lead to runoff, all skid trails, landings, stream crossings and temporary roads which are no longer being used shall be decommissioned and rehabbed. Additionally, all active skid trails, landings, stream crossings and temporary roads within RCA will have temporary erosion control measures deployed prior to event (i.e. 50% slash cover).