

CC | Jeff B

Glenda Wiles

From: McKay, Tod G -FS <tgmkay@fs.fed.us>
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Subject: News Release: Canyon Lake Dam Repairs Comment Period Extended
Attachments: Canyon Lake Dam Repairs - Comments Extended.docx

Canyon Lake Dam Repairs Comment Period Extended

Hamilton, Montana (February 11, 2019) – Due to the last government shutdown, the Bitterroot National Forest is extending the period for providing comments for the Canyon Lake Dam Access Repair Project. Canyon Lake Dam and reservoir are located in the upper Canyon Creek drainage, west of Hamilton within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The dam is owned and operated by the Canyon Creek Irrigation District (CCID).

The purpose of the proposed project is to authorize CCID adequate access to their high hazard dam to repair deficiencies required by federal dam safety laws. The repairs are necessary to protect downstream public health and safety, and store and release water for agricultural and domestic use.

The Forest Service is proposing to authorize adequate access (round trip helicopter flights) to allow for the work to be done on the dam, safely and effectively, starting as early as September 2019. Helicopter use is being requested to transport equipment and heavy construction materials necessary to accomplish the repairs. It is not safe or feasible to physically pack this heavy equipment and materials in with stock.

The forest is re-initiating a 30-day comment period. If you have already submitted comments during the period that started on December 8th, you do not need to resubmit your comment letter.

All comments are due by March 11, 2019. Comments are open to public inspection and will be posted to the Forest Service website.

Additional information on submitting comments and the project's environmental assessment (EA) are available at www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55165 online. Paper copies are also available at the Supervisor's Office in Hamilton. For more information, please contact Terri Anderson, ID Team Leader at (406) 363-7100.

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