



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

National Forests in North Carolina
Pisgah National Forest
Appalachian Ranger District

PO Box 128
Burnsville, NC 28714-0128
828-682-6146

File Code: 1900/7700

Date: February 5, 2008

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed please find information on a proposal to close Forest Service Road (FSR) 452 at its junction with US Highway 19W with a gate prior to the decommissioning of the Bald Mountain Recreation Area. This will improve Forest user's safety due to the backlog of deferred maintenance at the recreation site. The 0.2 mile road accesses the Bald Mountain Recreation Area near Spivey Gap on US Highway 19W in Yancey County, North Carolina. The project area is about ten miles northwest of Burnsville, North Carolina and about eight miles south of Erwin, Tennessee.

I am requesting your comments be received by **March 3, 2008**. Please send them to: Appalachian Ranger District, ATTN: Tina Tilley, PO Box 128, Burnsville, North Carolina, 28714; faxed to (828) 682-9179; or may be mailed electronically, in a common digital format to: comments-southern-north-carolina-pisgah-appalachian@fs.fed.us. Further information may be found on the Forest's website at: www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/nepa/nepa.htm or by contacting Michael Hutchins at (828) 682-6146.

Sincerely,

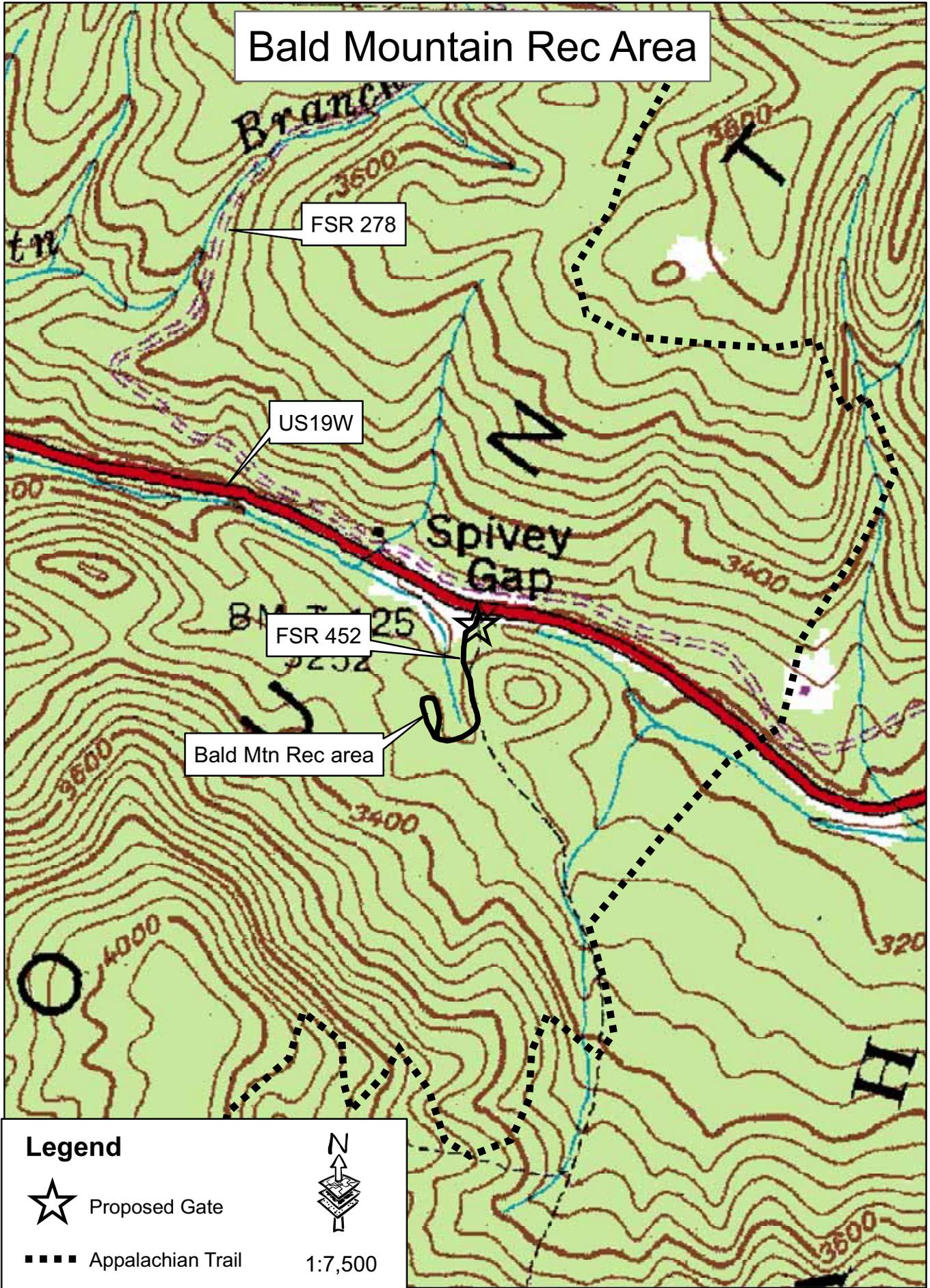
/s/ Tina Tilley

TINA R. TILLEY
District Ranger

Enclosure



Bald Mountain Rec Area



Legend

★ Proposed Gate

■■■■ Appalachian Trail



1:7,500

Bald Mountain Recreation Area Road Analysis

EXISTING CONDITION & PROPOSAL

This proposal is within Management Area 3B (Timber Management) near Spivey Gap off of US Highway 19W in Yancey County. Within this portion of MA 3B the only open road is the 0.2 mile Bald Mountain Recreation Area Road [Forest Service Road (FSR) 452] which accesses the Bald Mountain Recreation Area (sometimes identified as the Spivey Gap Recreation Area on some maps) as well as a wildlife field. In July 2004, a Forest-wide recreation realignment analysis identified the Bald Mountain Recreation Area as a developed recreation area to be decommissioned due to reduced maintenance budgets and reduced visitor use. The proposal is to close FSR 452 at its junction with US 19W with a gate prior to the decommissioning of the Bald Mountain Recreation Area. This will improve Forest user's safety due to the backlog of deferred maintenance at the site.

FOREST PLAN DIRECTION

Management Area 3B

Emphasize sustainable supply of timber, but with few open roads and limited disturbance associated with motorized vehicles. Manage access through an approximate density of 0.5 per square mile. Where existing open road densities exceed 0.5 square mile, and if closure of existing roads is prohibitive for administrative or legal reasons, then document these exceptions to the standard and investigate strategies to reduce open road densities (Forest Plan, pages III-71 and III-76).

The following table displays management area acreages and road density information within the project area:

Table 1: Project Area Road Information by Management Area

Management Area	Acres	Current Miles Open Road	Management Area Standard Mi/Sq Mi (Open Road)	Current Open Road Mi/Sq Mi ²	Proposed Open Road Mi/Sq Mi ²
3B	~780	0.25	0.5	0.16	0.0

CONCLUSION

The proposal as described above is necessary to meet Forest recreation objectives. Following project implementation FSR 452 would remain on the Forest's Transportation System as a closed road with a road management objective of D0 (road in storage). There are no other known special sensitivities or unique resource values associated with the road.