



Treasure Lake Bridge and Trail Project



Project Information

Project Name: Treasure Lake Bridge and Trail Project

Proposal Date: 12/12/2023

Proponent Name: Teton Basin Ranger District

Responsible Official: Jay Pence, Teton Basin District Ranger

Unit: Teton Basin Ranger District, Caribou-Targhee National Forest

County(ies): Teton County, Wyoming

Anticipated Implementation: Summer and Fall of 2024 and 2025

Signing Authority: District Ranger

PALS Tracking #: 65343

Project Webpage: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65343>

General Location: Teton Canyon

Applicable Management Areas: 4.2 Special Use Permit Recreation Site (Treasure Mtn Boy Scout Camp), 2.8.3 Aquatic Influence Zone, 4.3 – Dispersed Camping Management (Teton Canyon Disp Site #5), and 2.1.2- Visual Quality Maintenance

Watersheds: 170402040201 – Teton Creek and Targhee Principal Watershed 019 Teton Creek

Applicable Categories

This project is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement because it fits the following categories, pending extraordinary circumstance determinations:

Applicable Category or Categories:

36 CFR 220.6(e)(1) (DM Required)

36 CFR 220.6(e)(22) (DM Required)

These categories are applicable for this project because the project will authorize construction of infrastructure (bridges and trails) at an existing developed recreation site, including infrastructure or improvements that are adjacent or connected to an existing recreation site and provide access or utilities for that site. The project will authorize the construction of approximately 0.6 miles of non-motorized trail and will designate approximately 0.4 miles of non-motorized trail on existing trail and road prisms.

Purpose and Need: Why do we need to act?

Treasure Lake is becoming a popular public recreation area since the Treasure Mountain Scout Camp recently decided to stop operating the Organizational Camp that surrounded the lake. Recreation use is expected to increase as more people discover this recreation opportunity. The previous occupancy of Treasure Mountain Scout Camp through the summer stopped most people from trying to find their way into Treasure Lake. Since the camp has stopped operating, social trails and user-built stick bridges



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connecting the sheep bridge trail into the camp have increased along with congestion along the Teton Canyon 009 road. Once inside the old scout camp the public continues to use the camps social trails that the forest is attempting to rehabilitate. Interviews with the public currently using the area indicate that they are primarily trying to find and use Treasure Lake or connect to the Sheep Bridge Trail system.

The Forest Service has an opportunity to designate trails in the area to minimize conflicts and help better manage public use of this area. The designation or construction of these routes is needed to define a trail system to reduce the user created braided trails and stream crossings, successfully rehabilitate user created trails originally created by the boy scouts and to increase public safety. The project will also construct appropriately sized bridges to connect the Sheep Bridge Trail with the parking area on the North Side of Teton Creek that will serve Treasure Lake on the south side of the creek.

Proposed Action: What are we proposing to do?

To reduce impacts of user created routes and stream crossings the proposed action includes the following activities. See map on the following page.

To manage access to Treasure Lake from Teton Canyon Road

- Install an appropriately sized and engineered bridge across Teton Creek
- Construct approximately 0.2 miles of trail from the parking area east of Reunion Flat Campground to Treasure Lake across the new bridge. Trail will be designated for non-motorized use.

To manage access to Treasure Lake from Sheep Bridge Trail

- Install two appropriately sized and engineered bridges: one across Eddington Creek and one across a nearby unnamed creek.
- Extend the Sheep Bridge Trail (non-motorized trail) an additional 0.4 miles from the Eddington Creek Bridge to Treasure Lake. This section of trail will be designated for non-motorized use.
 - Construct approximately 180 feet of trail east from the Eddington Creek Bridge to connect with the existing trail prism.
 - Designate approximately 0.4 miles of existing trail and road prism that connects Eddington Creek to Treasure Lake as non-motorized trail.

Bridges would be installed using heavy equipment and areas rehabilitated after installation is complete.

