



File Code: 1950/2310

Date: December 13, 2007

Dear Interested Participant:

The Pinedale Ranger District, Bridger-Teton National Forest, is proposing a series of recreation development projects within the Fremont Lake Recreation Analysis Area. The project area consists of National Forest System lands within the Fremont Lake area, beginning three miles northeast of Pinedale, Wyoming in Sublette County, as described in the attached Analysis Area Map and Vicinity Map. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a description of the Proposed Action so that you may submit comments for this project.

Proposed Action:

This proposal will include upgrading of existing developed recreation facilities, road improvements, implementation or modification of regulations, and motorized travel management modifications within the Fremont Lake Analysis Area. Details of the Proposed Action are provided in the attached Fremont Lake Recreation Analysis Area Proposed Action Summary.

Purpose & Need:

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to improve existing facilities, increase the efficiency of recreation management operations within the Fremont Lake area to better serve the recreating public, and protect natural resources in this area. Increased visitor capacity and use within this analysis area is not an objective.

The primary purpose of the Proposed Action is to:

1. Address Health & Safety issues;
 2. Enhance water quality protection measures for the Fremont Lake Municipal Watershed;
 3. Ensure that Forest Service developments fit the landscape niche; and,
 4. Provide quality facilities for the appropriate scale of visitor use.
- Inadequate facility design and unmanaged, or inadequately managed, recreation use are adversely affecting resource conditions, including health and safety, in developed and dispersed sites within the Fremont Lake area.
 - Fremont Lake serves as the unfiltered municipal drinking water source for the Town of Pinedale. Design improvements in some of the existing developed sites located adjacent to Fremont Lake are needed to reduce the potential for water quality impairment to Fremont Lake.
 - Current developed sites lack a common theme and do not fit with the landscape, which detracts from the quality of the visitor experience and adds complexity to facility upkeep.



- The current paved access roads within the project area have deteriorated and unimproved roads are leading to resource concerns.
- Many of the existing facilities within various developed sites at Fremont Lake are no longer serviceable and in need of replacement, reconstruction, or removal. In addition, the design for the majority of developed sites within this area is obsolete, including trailer parking pad size and configuration, boat ramp and vault toilet design.

Preliminary Issue Topics:

The following preliminary issue topics have been identified by a Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) for this Proposed Action:

1. **Water Quality:** Fremont Lake serves as the unfiltered drinking water source for the Town of Pinedale. In addition, Fremont Lake is a popular site for boating, fishing, and swimming. Projects located within the Fremont Lake watershed should be designed to protect the water quality of Fremont Lake.
2. **Cultural Resources:** Native American sites and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) facilities are documented within the Fremont Lake area. Projects located within this analysis area should be designed to enhance protection of historic features within the project area.
3. **Visual Quality:** The aesthetic value of Fremont Lake, from the shoreline as well as on the lake, is important to protect. Facilities within the analysis area should be designed to blend with the natural landscape to minimize visual impacts from the shoreline and while on the lake.
4. **Mule Deer Migration Corridor:** The area directly south of Fremont Lake serves as part of a critical mule deer migration corridor. Projects, activities, and events within this analysis area should be designed to minimize impacts to mule deer during critical summer and fall migration periods.

Request for Comments

We invite you to provide written comments, concerns, support or opposition to the Proposed Action. Written comments will become part of our permanent project record and will be addressed in the environmental analysis. If you wish to comment on this project, please provide your comments by **January 14, 2008** to help us complete our analysis in a timely manner. If you wish to continue to receive information on this project but do not wish to comment on the Proposed Action at this time, please respond to this letter so that you remain on the mailing list for this project.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, and electronic comments will be accepted for this project. Comments must be submitted to: **Pinedale District Ranger, Pinedale Ranger District, 29 East Fremont Lake Road, P.O. Box 220, Pinedale, WY, 82941-0220, fax: 307-367-5750.** Office hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in rich text format (.rtf) or Word (.doc) to **comments-intermt-n-bridger-teton-pinedale@fs.fed.us**.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this Proposed Action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and

considered. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), confidentiality might be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality and when the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 15 days.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Cindy Stein, of my staff, at (307-367-5717).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas Peters". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

THOMAS PETERS
Pinedale District Ranger

**Fremont Lake Recreation Analysis Area
Pinedale Ranger District
Bridger
Proposed Action Summary**

Fremont Lake Campground: This 54-unit campground, constructed in the 1950's, was originally designed for tent camping and small camp trailers. The paved trailer pads are not long enough, wide enough, or properly positioned to allow for easy backing or pull-through parking for today's much larger Recreation Vehicles (RV's). The paved road within the campground is narrow and deteriorating. The picnic tables and constructed fire rings have deteriorated to the point of needing replacement. One vault toilet in this campground was constructed in 1974 and needs refurbishing. The remaining vault toilets were constructed in the 1950's and do not meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. This campground is supplied by a spring-fed potable water supply system in fair condition.

Proposed Actions within the Fremont Lake Campground include the following:

1. Replace and relocate vault toilets to better serve campground visitors, meet ADA standards, and improve maintenance efficiency.
2. Redesign, enlarge, and provide adequate surfacing for 50 to 55 RV and trailer campsites; provide pull-through parking pads and redesign some existing campsites to better accommodate small group/multiple family use where practical.
3. Add one 70-person group site within the existing campground.
4. Realign, widen, and resurface access roads throughout the campground; add walking/bicycling lane along main road within campground.
5. Replace several campsites near shoreline with day-use parking sites to improve registered camper access to shoreline; relocate former campsites displaced by day-use parking to new locations within campground.
6. Replace picnic tables and fire grills to meet ADA standards.
7. Widen access road within campground to Upper Fremont Lake Boat Site to accommodate two-way traffic.
8. Reconstruct fee sites to provide adequate pullout space.
9. Provide hiking trails throughout campground to access toilets and lakeshore.

Sandy Beach Swim & Picnic Area: The Sandy Beach Picnic Area was originally constructed as a campground in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and converted to a day-use picnic site in the 1950s. The existing picnic tables and fire grills are in need of replacement, and the existing toilet at this site is no longer serviceable. The existing toilets, tables, and grills do not meet ADA standards for accessibility. The Sandy Beach Swim Area toilet and parking area were constructed in the 1980's. The parking area and toilet serving this site are poorly located and dominate the landscape, disrupting visual quality at this site.

Proposed Actions within the Sandy Beach Swim & Picnic Area include the following

(Note: All structures within this site will be designed to achieve a CCC-era theme):

1. Decommission, fill and seed existing Swim Area parking lot; resurface lower (southern) picnic area parking lot; enlarge upper (northern) picnic area parking lot to accommodate a day-use group site.
2. Replace and move vault toilet serving Swim Area near lower Picnic Area parking lot.
3. Remove excess picnic sites at north end of Picnic Area; replace excess sites at north end with a day-use, reservation group site with covered pavilion (70-person site).
4. Replace Picnic Area vault toilet.
5. Replace picnic tables and pedestal grills; all to meet ADA standards.
6. Provide surfaced (gravel or paved) trails within Picnic and Swim areas to meet ADA standards.
7. Retain and reconstruct CCC-era stoves within Picnic Area pending SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) clearance.

Upper & Lower Boat Sites: These two sites were reconstructed in 1992 with dock replacement in 2007. The boat ramps and parking facilities at these two sites need minor design modification to help address functionality, (including traffic flow and parking configuration), enhance public health and safety, and protect water quality at these sites. The Upper Boat Site vault toilet was constructed in 1970's and the Lower Boat Site vault toilet was built in the 1980's. Both vault toilets are fully functional but need minor modifications to fully meet ADA standards and address visual concerns.

Proposed Actions within the Upper and Lower Fremont Lake Boat Sites include the following:

1. Construct rock breakwater at Lower Fremont Boat Site to protect boat dock and improve functionality at this site; breakwater to also serve as fishing pier and to assist in directing boaters away from Town of Pinedale water intake site at southwest end of Fremont Lake.
2. Redesign parking areas, ramp, and fishing pier at Upper Fremont Boat Site to accommodate appropriate scale of use while considering landscape and resource limitations; prohibit overnight parking for trailers, boats, and vehicles and consider charging a day-use fee for non-registered campers at this site to help address limited parking issues and offset maintenance fees.
3. Resurface parking areas at both sites (gravel or pavement).
4. Construct ADA compliant approaches to Upper and Lower Boat Site docks and toilets.
5. Provide adequate drainage structures at both sites.
6. Provide adequate visual screening for vault toilet, Town of Pinedale water treatment structures, and Recreation Residence at Lower Fremont Lake Boat Site.

Stewart Flat Dispersed Area: This area is located between the Lower Fremont Lake Boat Site and the Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management (BLM) boundary and includes the Pine Creek dispersed recreation area and CCC Ponds Interpretive Site.

- The CCC Ponds Interpretive Site was built in the 1990's and contains a series of interpretive trails and fishing ponds. Portions of these trails are ADA compliant, including fishing access at the largest pond. This site is managed by a committee made

up of representatives of the FS, BLM, Sublette County School District, and WGFD. The CCC Ponds Site is a day-use only site.

- The Stewart Flat/Pine Creek area was primarily utilized as a day-use site for local residents until recent years. This area is now primarily used as a temporary living site by individuals and families who have no permanent or temporary residence in Sublette County. Living on National Forest System Lands is an illegal activity that is causing sanitation issues, water quality, visual, and enforcement concerns in this site. This area also contains artifacts from a historic CCC Camp utilized in the 1930's, and is known as an area historically utilized by Native Americans. This area is also part of a critical mule deer migration corridor, which has high potential to be affected by overnight camping in this area during the spring and fall migration periods. Several designated open dirt roads within this area are increasing in width because of motor vehicle use during wet periods, causing resource issues. Additionally, located in this area are a series of groomed cross-country ski trails signed and groomed by the Sublette County Recreation Board.

Proposed Actions within the Stuart Flat Dispersed Area include the following:

1. Convert the entire Stuart Flat Dispersed Area to a day-use site to address sanitation and other resource issues; prohibit overnight camping in this area yearlong.
2. Remove and rehabilitate all motorized roads within this area except the access roads to the CCC Ponds, Fremont Lake Dam, Lower Fremont Lake Boat Site, Lakeside Lodge, and Fremont Lake South Recreation Residence Tract. Prohibit snowmobile use within this area yearlong.
3. Establish a series of non-motorized interpretive trails, including a paved accessible/bike path from CCC ponds to Fremont Lake Dam and Lower Fremont Lake Boat Site parking area. Continue to provide groomed cross-country ski trails in winter with grooming timed to prevent impacts to wildlife.
4. Create a canoe/kayak access site above Fremont Lake Dam parking area along Pine Creek.

Sylvan Bay Day-Use Site: This site, located north of the Fremont Lake Campground, currently serves as a day-use beach site for boaters on Fremont Lake and campers from the Fremont Lake Campground. This site is also occasionally accessed by motorized vehicle through the Sylvan Bay Recreation Residence Tract located directly east of this site. Campfire prohibition and day-use designation are considered important to enforce at this site to prevent disturbance to the adjacent Sylvan Bay Recreation Residence Tract and to minimize management attention at this remote site. There is a vault toilet in serviceable condition at this site that does not meet ADA standards.

Proposed Actions within the Sylvan Bay Day-Use Site include the following:

1. Continue to manage this site as a day-use site with campfire restriction; convert only to hiking access from campground and boating access; gate road to eliminate roaded access except for maintenance purposes.
2. Replace vault toilet to meet ADA standards.

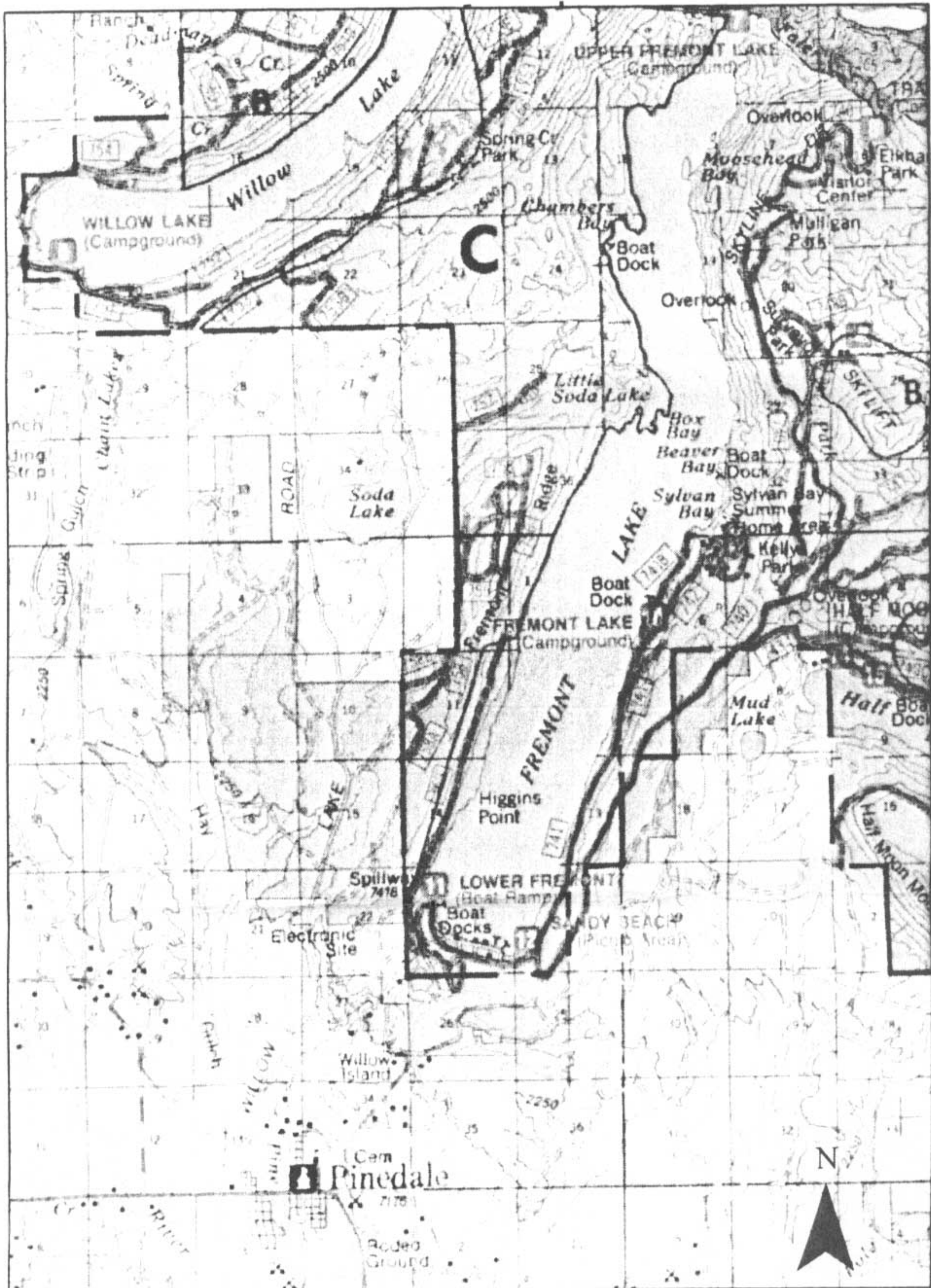
General Fremont Lake Area: This area consists of the remaining analysis area, including access roads, the remaining Fremont Lake shoreline, the Sylvan Bay Recreation Residence Tract and Fremont Lake South Recreation Residence Tract. Forest Road #740, from Skyline Drive (#640) to the Lower Fremont Lake Boat Site, is in poor condition and needs resurfacing. Forest Road #747, which provides access to the Fremont Lake Campground and Sylvan Bay Recreation Residence Tract, is in fair condition but likely to deteriorate to poor condition as additional pot holes develop. Water quality protection from human waste is a concern except where adequate sanitation facilities are provided.

Proposed Actions within the General Fremont Lake Area include the following:

1. Implement a Special Order prohibiting dispersed camping within 200 feet of Fremont Lake and prohibit dogs within 200 feet of south shore of Fremont Lake (from Sandy Beach west to Pine Creek) to protect water quality.
2. Mill up and resurface Forest Roads 740 and 747 with gravel or pavement.
3. Locate and utilize fill sites for various road improvements.
4. Develop and implement a sign plan throughout the Fremont Lake Recreation Analysis Area:
 1. Calling attention to unique historic and geologic themes and providing adequate information, in coordination with the Town of Pinedale,
 2. Emphasizing the need to protect this municipal watershed,
 3. Base the sign plan on Standards for Forest Service Signs and Posters (EM-7100-15).
5. Remove and/or consolidate existing boat docks and launch sites within Fremont Lake South Recreation Residence Tract to address water quality and visual concerns for Fremont Lake.
6. Accomplish mechanical or Wildland Fire Use treatment on west side of Fremont Ridge to reduce visual impacts from previous prescribed burns that end abruptly along existing fence lines.
7. Construct bicycle/hiking trail from Fremont Lake Road #741 to Skyline Drive Road #740 along existing power line/phone line.
8. Prohibit snowmobile use on all groomed cross-country ski trails, as presently mapped, within the Skyline Drive and Fremont Lake areas.

FREMONT LAKE RECREATION

VICINITY MAP



**Bridger-Teton National Forest
Pinedale Ranger District
Fremont Lake Recreation Analysis Area**

