



United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Shasta-Trinity National Forest
Shasta McCloud Management Unit

Mt. Shasta Ranger Station

204 West Alma Street
Mt. Shasta, CA 96067
(530) 926-4511
(530) 926-4512 - TDD
www.fs.fed.us/r5/shastatrinity

File Code: 2720

Date: November 28, 2005

Jeff Forbis
McCloud Railway
P.O. Box 1500
McCloud, CA 96057

Dear Jeff:

We have received notification of the completed Environmental Assessment from the Surface Transportation Board. It appears from the EA, that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) has approved the abandonment of approximately 80 miles of the line pending approval from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). While STB notes several environmental conditions, they do not mention the U.S. Forest Service Special Use Authorization.

A review of your permit shows that, if approved, approximately 154.46 acres (all but 1.95 acres) of your permit may be relinquished under this action. While the permit can be amended to reflect that, we will want to review the area to be abandoned and determine what level of rehabilitation is necessary. While it is likely that in most areas pulling the track and ties will suffice, we will need to address the following sites more closely:

Road crossings: We would like to ensure that our Rights of Way across the line in the private portions of the line to be abandoned will be preserved.

Creek crossings: Our preference will be to remove all culverts, bridges, crossings and naturalize the drainages. This will require some grading and re-shaping of the track bed where the crossings are removed.

Railroad access road (along the alignment): In those areas where the road crosses National Forest System lands under permit, we would like to evaluate the need to keep or abandon and rehabilitate the road.

Hazardous Material Environmental Report: For the Forest Service permit sections, it will be necessary for 4Rails Inc. to document what materials, if any, were stored or used on those segments of line that cross National Forest System lands.

We have reviewed the permitted area on the map and for those locations where there are specific concerns we would like to review them in the field with you next spring. Please contact Special Use Officer Stacy Smith if approval to relinquish is granted. We will set a date that you are available to meet and develop a relinquishment plan.



If you have any questions, please contact Stacy at 926-9643.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Hupp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Hupp".

MICHAEL HUPP
District Ranger

A small, handwritten word "for" in black ink, positioned to the left of the typed name "MICHAEL HUPP".

Cc: Surface Transportation Board attn: David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings;

State Historic Preservation Officer; attn: Julia Huddleson, Project Review Unit

Coyote and Fox; attn: Trudy Vaughn