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July 21, 2017

Caleb Zurstadt
Krassel Ranger District
500 North Mission St, Building 1
McCall, ID 83638

RE: South Fork Salmon River Restoration and Access Management Plan

Dear Mr. Zurstadt:

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) staff reviewed the South Fork Salmon River Restoration and Access Management Plan scoping document. The Krassel Ranger District is proposing a variety of recreation access management activities in the South Fork Salmon River drainage. Almost all of these management proposals were brought forth by the Big Creek-Yellow Pine Collaborative last summer.

Our staff concurs with most of the proposals, but we do have comment on one project item. This project item is to reconstruct the Davis Ranch Road (Trail #76) to pack and saddle stock trail standards and to allow private permitted ATV use on the Trail.

In order to allow permitted ATV use on the trail, the trail surface will have to be widened in some spots (the trail is currently about 60 to 72 inches wide in places). This wide of a trail is too wide for standard pack and saddle stock trails in Idaho. This will lead to less visitor satisfaction with the route than a single track trail.

We would like to see a couple of alternatives to this trail construction project. The first alternative would construct a single-track non-motorized trail with no private ATV access. A second alternative would construct the trail to ATV standards and allow some public ATV use either on a year round or seasonal basis.

Another project item that we would like to comment on is the Martin Ridge Trail #100. The scoping document stated that bridging or armoring of stream crossings would be completed prior to designating it as a single-track motorized trail. This trail is located on the ridgetop and has four sections with stacked switchbacks. The trail should be relocated in these sections and new switchbacks should be constructed with a full flat level bench that has a least a six foot radius.

We have no issue with the other project proposal presented in the scoping document. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions about our comments, please contact me at (208) 514-2483.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Cook".

Jeff Cook, Outdoor Recreation Analyst
Recreation Bureau