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November 26, 2018

Keith Lammon, Forest Supervisor

Payette National Forest

500 N Mission St., Building 2

McCall, ID 83638

RE: Granite Meadows Project

Dear Mr. Lammon:

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) staff reviewed the Granite Meadows Proposed Action Report. The New Meadows Ranger District is proposing a variety of management activities on the east and west side of Highway 95.

The project proposes to do some commercial timber harvest. If the harvest is completed during the winter, it could disrupt snowmobile access on one of the most popular groomed snowmobile trails on the Payette National Forest (Goose Lake Road #50257). The Payette Forest should consider prohibiting winter logging along this road. The road also provides access to Brundage Ski Area.

The project would also convert some roads into trails. We do support this activity which creates more UTV routes on the Payette National Forest. We do have a suggestion for the forest is to stop using the special designation field on the Motor Vehicle Use Map. Wider UTVs can use most trails that are greater than 50 inches while most narrow (trail) UTVs are 50 inches and are allowed on ATV trails.

Some UTVs are wider than 70 inches. Here is a link to an example: <https://rzr.polaris.com/en-us/rzr-xp-4-turbo-s/>. We suggest designating these trails as open to all vehicles and then recommend width at the start of the trail with a sign. The width of the trail mostly influences what types of vehicles use it.

The Granite Meadows Project was developed by the Payette Forest Coalition. The coalition has done a good job of outlining the scope of project activities in the area to meet Forest Goals for the project area. We encourage the ID Team for this project to develop project design features that would protect recreation opportunities in the project area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions about these comments, please contact me at (208) 514-2483.

Sincerely,



Jeff Cook, Outdoor Recreation Analyst

Recreation Bureau