

John B. O'Brien III

April 20, 2020

Honey-Badger Project
% Dan Scaife, District Ranger
Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District
2502 E. Sherman Ave.
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Dear Ranger Scaife:

Here are my comments on the proposed Honey-Badger Project.

Trail 14

1. About ¾ mile of the southern end of Trail 14 is not shown on the proposed project's maps. I hope that was just a "whoops" during map preparation and that the missing map trail segment is still there on the ground. If it is still there, can the map be corrected during further development of the proposal?
2. I'd encourage you to keep the trail's non-motorized designation to help ensure its long-term sustainability.
3. Could trailhead parking be improved at the southern trailhead.
4. A number of volunteer groups could be asked to help maintain the trail to take some of the maintenance burden off of your staff. I'll bet you can count on both the Idaho Trails Association and the Spokane Mountaineers for help.
5. Will you have your staff do what they can to prevent damage to the trail from timber harvest activities adjacent to the trail near its north and south ends and from proposed road construction, use, and maintenance near its south end.

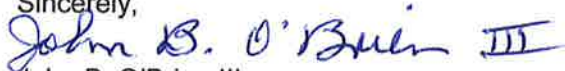
Proposed Timber Harvests and Regeneration

Before committing to so many clearcut areas, some of which are very large, please ensure that a shelterwood or seed-tree prescription would not be a more effective way to start a species conversion. Even in proposed clearcut areas, would you have your tree markers leave any ponderosa pine, western white pine, or western larch which are already present to serve as potential seed sources as well as a bit of shelter for new seedlings. Even in areas of predominantly Douglas-fir, grand fir, and hemlock, there are bound to be some of your desired species present. Take advantage of them and try to keep as many forested areas at least somewhat forested as possible rather than removing all the tree cover.

I'm wondering how you have factored or will factor in climate change effects on historic ecosystems as you are developing your proposed vegetative changes. Implementing and completing your proposed vegetative changes will take years, if not decades. The changes in ecosystems that future changes in the climate will cause are hard to predict. Factoring them into future resource management decisions is a real challenge. I'm wondering how you and your staff are addressing that challenge.

Thanks for considering my suggestions.

Sincerely,


John B. O'Brien III

John B. O'Brien III
2205 W Medoc Ct.
Hayden, ID 83835

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