



BlueRibbon Coalition
P.O. Box 5449
Pocatello, ID 83202
208.237.1008
brc@sharetrails.org

Ben Burr, Executive Director
BlueRibbon Coalition
P.O. Box 5449
Pocatello, ID 83202

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North Umpqua Ranger District
18782 North Umpqua Highway
Glide, OR 97443

BlueRibbon Coalition/ShareTrails (BRC) is writing to provide feedback for the Archie Creek Roadside Danger Tree Mitigation Project. BRC is a national non-profit organization that champions responsible recreation and encourages a strong conservation ethic and individual stewardship. We champion responsible use of public lands and waters for the benefit of all recreationists by educating and empowering our members to secure, protect, and expand shared outdoor recreation access and use by working collaboratively with natural resource managers and other recreationists. Our members use motorized and non-motorized means of recreation, including OHVs, horses, mountain bikes, snowmobiles, and hiking to enjoy federally managed lands throughout Oregon, including those of the National Forest Service. Many of our members and supporters live in Oregon or travel across the country to visit Oregon and use motorized vehicles to access USFS managed lands throughout the state. BRC members visit these areas for motorized recreation, snowmobiling, sightseeing, photography, rockhounding, hunting, wildlife and nature study, camping, observing cultural resources, and other similar pursuits. BRC members and supporters have concrete, definite, and immediate plans to continue such activities in the future.

Sharetrails.org – it's what we do!

Wildfire

BRC supports the broad project objectives to keep forests healthy and reduce the risk of wildland fires. We recommend using commercial treatment in the maximum amount of land possible. Best available science should be used in making these decisions. Past forest fires that have burned rampant because of the lack of forest projects should be looked at when making decisions. The removal of hazardous trees will benefit the overall future of the forest. The removal of hazardous trees is necessary for public safety and should be addressed as soon as possible.

Roads and Trails

BRC commends the USFS in their efforts to have a sustainable and healthy forest for all to use while improving access and roads in the system. We strongly support the road maintenance proposals as roads are an integral part of the forest. These roads will offer long term benefits to the forest. Roads also act as a natural fire barrier and provide needed access to implement projects such as these and future projects. Lastly roads provide access for emergency response teams.

Economic Benefits

Local communities rely on motorized recreation for economic opportunities. There has been a surge of use throughout the nation on public lands as well as in this area. Local groups have worked hard to put the area on the map so that they could reap the economic benefits. Closing roads would greatly hinder economic opportunity. Many local organizations and businesses recognize the influx of traffic and believe that any user conflict can be mitigated through better signage and education. The timber sales through this project also provide an economic benefit and we support timber sales of the maximum amount of area possible.

Conclusion

We would like to close by saying we support “shared use”. As long as overall visitation numbers are appropriate for the affected resources, motorized and non-motorized users can be compatible with one another so long as individual users understand designations and plan their activities accordingly. Indeed, motorized and nonmotorized recreation use often overlap as OHV’s often increase accessibility to non-motorized recreational activities such as hiking, camping, equestrian use, etc. We also hold that responsible recreational use of public lands can exist in harmony with ecosystem needs.

BRC would like to be considered an interested public for this project. Information can be sent to the following address and email address:

Sharetrails.org – it’s what we do!

Ben Burr
BlueRibbon Coalition
P.O. Box 5449
Pocatello, ID 83202
brmedia@sharetrails.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Ben Burr, consisting of stylized initials 'BB' followed by a long horizontal line.

Ben Burr
Executive Director
BlueRibbon Coalition

A handwritten signature of Simone Griffin, written in a cursive style.

Simone Griffin
Policy Director
BlueRibbon Coalition