



State of Idaho

# Department of Parks and Recreation

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## Idaho Park and Recreation Board

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March 10, 2023

Payette National Forest  
Attention: Linda L. Jackson  
Granite Goose Project  
500 North Mission Street  
McCall, Idaho 83638

RE: Granite Goose Landscape Restoration Project Scoping, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63507>

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) is the duly-established executive department under State of Idaho Code, with the stated mission of improving the quality of life in Idaho through outdoor recreation and resource stewardship. Acting under the supervision of the Idaho Park and Recreation Board, IDPR carries out recreational policies and programs of the State. Consistent with its statutory authorities, the Department participates in federal land management planning and project planning to further the public interest in recreational, scenic, and historical/archeological values.

IDPR staff is responsible for managing off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation throughout Idaho through the Motorized Trail Program. IDPR's Trail Ranger and Trail Cat Programs provide maintenance and construction, and its OHV Education Program provides OHV training and environmental education. Through IDPR's Off Road Motor Vehicle and Motorbike Recreation Funds, grants are awarded to fund trail building and maintenance, and law enforcement activities.

Recreation, including wheeled- and over-snow OHV use on public lands, contributes significantly to Idaho's economy, and that contribution continues to grow annually. The Outdoor Industry Association's most recent annual report on the nation's \$887B recreation economy cites Idaho's contributions including \$7.8B in consumer spending, rivalling the \$7.8B impact of the state's agricultural industry (USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service). 78,000 direct jobs resulted in \$2.3B in wages and salaries. \$447M in state and local tax annual revenues were collected. End-of-2022 wheeled-OHV registrations stood at 172,439, a 7% increase from 2021. Snowmobile registrations for the 2021-22 season stood at 44,814 with that number exceeded and continuing to grow by the conclusion of the 2022-23 snow season.

IDPR recognizes the Granite Goose project draft Scoping was arrived at with great effort and collaboration with stakeholders over several years. IDPR encourages FS to expeditiously move on from the Project's Scoping phase to the remaining public process, with one caveat to address an omission from the current Scoping draft:

It was discovered, and subsequently discussed at the February 22 Open House in McCall with FS staff at the Forest Supervisor's office, that Maps and Proposed Action Narrative failed to include a proposed OSV work-around and work-through for proposed Bear Basin XC Area OSV closure. IDPR would recommend that prior to releasing the Draft EA for public review, that stakeholders be availed an Advance Draft of the mark-up for the work-around and work-through proposed routes. Through this process the hope is that any fine details will be fully-fleshed-out from the standpoint of stakeholders such as Bear Basin XC Club and local homeowners, prior to release of upcoming Draft EA. Edits for the routes should be applied in draft Map 16 and Scoping Draft pages 25 (i. Trails & Trailheads) & 27 (vi. Winter Closures) relating to Bear Basin.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment during Scoping. IDPR looks forward to continuing participation of the process toward implementation of the future Granite Goose Landscape Restoration EA.

Regards,  
Alex Ernst  
Land Access Coordinator  
IDPR – Recreation Bureau