



# IDAHO CONSERVATION LEAGUE

710 N 6th St. Boise ID, 83701 | (208) 345-6933

March 28, 2023

Mr. Dave Hogen  
District Ranger  
Krassel Ranger District  
Payette National Forest  
500 North Mission St.  
McCall, ID 83638  
(208) 634-0600

Electronically submitted:

<https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public//CommentInput?Project=63078>

## **RE: The Idaho Conservation League's Scoping Comments for the Proposed Profile Creek Culvert Replacement Project**

Dear Dave:

Please accept the Idaho Conservation League's scoping comments for the proposed Profile Creek Culvert Replacement project. Since 1973, the Idaho Conservation League has had a long history of involvement with public lands issues. As Idaho's largest state-based conservation organization, we represent over 25,000 supporters who have a deep personal interest in restoring aquatic life connectivity and improving habitat conditions for multiple fish species, and particularly those that have a designated Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing. We also work to restore wildlife habitat and improve ecosystem and watershed health.

The Idaho Conservation League (ICL) supports the proposed Profile Creek Culvert Replacement project, and appreciates the Payette National Forest working to improve habitat connectivity for bull trout, an ESA-listed species, and other aquatic life. Removing the pipe culvert with a closed metal bottom and replacing it with an appropriately sized Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) will restore habitat connectivity for bull trout, improve watershed conditions, reduce potential impacts from flood events that could outstrip existing culvert capacity, and improve road conditions by reducing sediment delivery to Profile Creek through reduced maintenance needs.

We understand that the Forest Service will use an existing unauthorized route to maintain public access while the AOP is being installed, and we support decommissioning this route once work is complete. Further we support converting a

portion of this route into parking and dispersed camping. We recommend hardening the site and establishing the dispersed camp site(s) in such a way that Profile Creek is protected from user-created erosion. We further recommend that the Forest Service install an information/education kiosk that details the importance of protecting these resources. Additional information could include travel restrictions as they relate to the adjacent Secesh Inventoried Roadless Area and the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. ICL suggests that the Forest Service incorporate an image of an American flag in the kiosk text. Other land management agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, have found the flag image reduces incidents of vandalism.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit scoping comments for the proposed Profile Creek Culvert Replacement project. Should you have any questions regarding these comments and recommendations, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to working with the Krassel Ranger District on this and future projects.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Fox", is centered below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

Randy Fox  
Conservation Associate  
Idaho Conservation League  
[rfx@idahoconservation.org](mailto:rfx@idahoconservation.org)  
(208) 345-6933 x 510