

# Valley County Board of Commissioners

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January 18, 2024

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USFS  
Linda Jackson  
Payette Forest Supervisor  
500 North Mission Street  
McCall, Idaho 83638

## **RE: Granite Goose Proposed Environmental Assessment**

Ms. Jackson:

The proposed full-year closer of Granite Mountain ignores the recommendation of the historical Winter Recreation Collaborative. The year-round closure will increase the privatization of public lands and decrease the opportunity for others. The proposed new closure at Bear Basin would increase the number of acres closed to over-snow vehicles in the project area by 1,269 acres; increasing the total number of acres closed to over-snow vehicles to 9,460 acres.

Granite Mountain should remain open to ALL users, and should be analyzed at the same time as the Brundage expansion. With the increase in population, the Forest needs to establish a policy of no net loss for all recreationists! The closure of the Granite Goose Project would penalize all users during a low snow year when Brundage is not capable of building their Cat ski trails.

We support the inclusion of the new Flow Line Trail, located near the top of Drain to Westy. This is a rider friendly adaptive trail that supports challenged users. The Forest Service should include the features and modernization recommended by CIMBA.

Sincerely,

*Elting G. Hasbrouck*

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of Commissioners

*Sherry Maupin*  
*Neal Thompson*