

Granite Goose Landscape Restoration Project  
102 West Lake Street  
McCall, Idaho 83654

ATT: Dana Harris,

February 2, 2024

I wish to provide the following comments regarding the above mentioned Restoration Project. These comments are my own and do not represent organizations I belong to. I am a member of the Idaho Trails Association, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Heartland Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of Idaho, I had a 34 year career with the Forest Service where I worked professionally on three National Forests in three western states with responsibilities in Range/Livestock management, Recreation management, Wildlife habitat and access management, Watershed, Special Uses, Minerals, and, the Senior, Youth, Volunteer and Hosted Programs.

Overall, I support the efforts and results of the Payette Forest Coalition in producing a thorough Landscape Restoration outline for the Granite Goose Landscape area worthy for formal environmental review. I concur with vegetation management, road management (open road density, etc.) as described in the document. I understand it is not cost efficient to manage and maintain all new FS roads open to the public when the access need is principally FS land management only and no significant access benefit for public use. After discussion with you today, I understand the year-round Granite Mountain the motorized closure is to simplify the

Closure Order during the weather dynamic sno-cat operating season and, there are currently no motorized trails in the area, albeit, the trail to Granite Twin Lakes is not within the closure area boundary. If motorized trail access is developed in the future, this Closure would need to be vacated. I am hopeful implementing the vegetation management prescriptions will control the Tussock moth and other conifer insects and disease I the area.

Constructing a new bridge across Goose Creek on the upper part of Trail #353 is needed for safety sake with reservoir released waters unsafe for fording. However, there is little public use of this area due to lack of signing and no trailhead parking. It could easily become a favored drop-off (top) pickup Last Chance C.G. (bottom) mountain biking and hiking trail use. The quality of the entire Goose Creek Trail #353 is the result of significant volunteer and force account work over the years and is very conducive for greater public use and enjoyment.

I support the one-mile equestrian closure on the Lower Drain trail in the Bear Basin mountain bike use area. I know the CIMBA collaborated with many organizations and people to develop and construct the varied ability mountain bike trails from this Trailhead they helped spearhead the development of. Equestrian closure of the Lower Drain Trail makes safety sense for mountain bikers, the primary user, due to bike speed, corners, and sight distance. This is not a significant trail closure for area equestrian users.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Landscape Restoration Project. If you have any questions or desire more information, I can be reached at (208) 347-2346.

Sincerely,

Albert Becker

Cc HBCH, IDTA