

To:

February 1, 2024

Payette National Forest
McCall Ranger District
102 W. Lake Street
McCall, Idaho 83638

From:

Brundage Mountain Resort
Ken Rider
3780 Goose Lake Road
McCall, ID 83638

RE: Public Comment Granite Goose Landscape Restoration Project Environmental Assessment

Brundage Mountain supports the Granite Goose Landscape Restoration project and looks forward to coordinating with the Payette National Forest (PNF) on the project. Brundage Mountain Resort (BMR) holds a USFS special use permit on 3,330-acres of permitted lands within the 39,818-acre project area, roughly 10-percent of the total project area. Brundage Mountain Resort also has a special use permit for outfitting and guiding on additional terrain in the Granite Goose Landscape Project area. The Brundage SUP for outfitting and guiding includes snowcat skiing adventures as well as Snowmobiling adventures which includes guided services and rentals.

BMR understands the need to manage the landscape in a fire suppressed area with numerous pest problems to prevent catastrophic wildfires and looks forward to coordinating and collaborating our combined efforts. With the above in mind, there are however several things about this project that BMR is concerned with.

The EA does not state a project timeline, nor does it state specifics for project implementation. The timeline of the proposed project(s) is crucial for coordinating efforts with BMR for several reasons listed below.

- Under the 2022 Revised Master Development Plan (RMDP), there are numerous BMR projects that may conflict with the proposed project and/or may need coordination between PNF and BMR.
- Management activities should not disrupt winter or summer operations at the resort.
 - How will winter logging impact BMR operations?
 - Summer operations are of equal importance with climate change. Will the proposed salvage/sanitation projects impact mountain biking and hiking trails?
- Prescribed burning is proposed on 36,000 out of the 39,818 acres.
 - What is the timeline for these fires?
 - How will it potentially impact BMR operations? The air quality and viewshed for bikers and hikers can potentially be impacted during early summer and late summer operations.
 - Will PNF provide structure and infrastructure protection at BMR during prescribed burns?

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BMR is in the process of developing a Vegetation Management Plan for the permitted area per requirements of the 2022 MDP and plans to have that draft complete by late 2024. Further coordination with PNF is needed to determine how these proposed projects will alter the scope of the required Vegetation Management Plan.

Brundage supports the proposed recreation management enhancements including the year-round closure Granite Mountain area to reduce user conflicts and enhance user safety between motorized and non-motorized users while maintaining recreation opportunities. This has the opportunity to create consistency and alignment with other USFS closures.

We also support improving parking areas and parking information signs in certain high use areas (Forest Plan: Management Area 6 Objective 0649), Adding or improving road and trail signs, where needed, upgrading recreation facilities (Forest Plan: FRGO02), Managing motorized recreation and rehabilitate user-created, non-system trails to address erosion, flow channeling, soil compaction, and loss of vegetation (Forest Plan: Management Area 6 Objectives 0641 and 0649); and managing vegetation in recreation areas to achieve recreation resource objectives outlined in the Forest Plan: (REOB15, VEST02, TRGO03). Vegetation treatments designed to enhance user safety and infrastructure protection within and next to Brundage Mountain Resort.

We appreciate the thought and input by all stakeholders and user groups during this process and look forward to the final outcomes.

Sincerely,

Ken Rider

General Manager

Brundage Mountain Resort