

# *Heartland Back Country Horsemen of Idaho Chapter*

## *Comments for Granite/Goosecreek Project*

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Dear Sirs,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Granite/ Goose Project.

As horsemen we encounter many obstacles riding on trails in the backcountry. Some of the most difficult we encounter are human. Some are polite, friendly and give us the right of way but occasionally we encounter reckless unsupervised bike, motorcycle, 4 wheeler, vehicles speeding and even runners that do not slow, stop and do not give a shout out to warn of passing. This is very dangerous as horses spook and can throw their riders. Education is important to keep trail users from conflicts on the trail.

**Bear Basin is a wonderful recreation area that we have ridden in for years, it has good parking, restroom facilities, is big area, and is close to town for day rides.**

**In the last few years a Bike Park has been constructed for mountain biking with bumps, curves, bridges etc. specifically designed for bikers but not user friendly for horses.**

This effectively ends horse usage there. In particular are the bridges which are not built to Forest Service standards, they are narrow and not necessarily able to carry a 1500 pound horse with rider and gear. **It is our opinion this bike park did not go through any FS approval process and is not addressed thoroughly in this Project.** It might not matter much if the bridge construction of non standard, narrow bridges, humps and bumps, were not escaping out into the larger landscape. These construction projects need to be addressed and removed. **More fencing needs to be constructed around this bike park... if it is to continue, to limit the bike antics to this area with maybe only two entrances and exits with supervision.** Generally bike riders out on a pleasure ride on the larger landscape are polite and easy to encounter, but members have had a few incidents. Education is key here for shared spaces. We have encountered bridges, possibly built by motorcycle bike riders as well off of Warm Lake rd. Generally the motorcycle riders are very polite as they are older, but these bridges (under two feet wide) have got to go and replaced with standard bridges.

As Back County Horsemen we are required to maintain FS standards. They are the safest for all, but these have not been enforced. Here are a few other suggestions for this Project:

1. Trails created with maps designed for horses and other compatible users in a looping design. In this project roads to be de-commissioned are shown, but no trails are shown where the replacement trails **systems** would be created or tie into the larger landscape.
2. Trails created off of proposed dispersed camping sites to tie into the created trail system.
3. Trails to tie into adjacent State Lands.
4. **Signage** to let users relate to mapping of trail system and reduce conflicts.
5. We appreciate continuing use of Logging, Cattlemen and Shepherders grazing, and Mineral use in the landscape.

Thank you,

Jean Luze Revaul  
HBCH President