



State of Idaho

Department of Parks and Recreation

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February 13, 2025

Deciding Officer
IPNFs, St. Joe Ranger District
c/o Objection Reviewing Officer via CARA portal

RE: **Granite Fuels Project**, Draft Decision Notice, Objection Period
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=66722>

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) is the duly established executive department under State of Idaho Code, with the stated mission of improving the quality of life in Idaho through outdoor recreation and resource stewardship. Acting under the supervision of the Idaho Park and Recreation Board, IDPR carries out recreational policies and programs of the State. Consistent with its statutory authorities, the Department participates in federal land management planning and project planning to further the public interest in recreational, scenic, and historical/archeological values.

Responsible IDPR staff manage wheeled and over-snow off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation throughout Idaho through the Motorized Trail Program. IDPR's Trail Ranger and Trail Cat Programs provide maintenance and construction, and its OHV Education Program provides OHV training and environmental education. Through IDPR's Off Road Motor Vehicle and Motorbike Recreation Funds, grants are awarded to fund trail building and maintenance, and law enforcement activities. IDPR Trail Program partnerships with US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Idaho Department of Lands result in the maintenance and improvement of hundreds of miles of Idaho's extensive and remarkable trails each year.

IDPR's Non-Motorized Trails Program advocates for non-motorized trail users across Idaho.

Regarding the subject Project, IDPR does not object to this Project but offers the following commentary to inform its implementation phase.

The Recreation Effects Analysis specialist report enumerating the many valuable recreation assets and resources within the Project area including recreational trails. This gives IDPR confidence that recreational access, and mitigation to trail impacts, across the long arc of the Project's implementation will be carefully considered. However, the report did not specifically mention the Idaho Centennial Trail (ICT) of which IDPR is responsible for fostering.

The ICT was established by IDPR's board of directors in 1990, and was formalized in an agreement between IDPR, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management in 1992. The ICT follows the Stateline Trail #738 along the eastern edge of the Granite Fuels Project boundary. To protect the Stateline Trail and the ICT long-term, IDPR supports fuels management projects on the St. Joe Ranger District, if trail restoration is conducted on the affected trails as needed subsequent to Project implementation.

See <https://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/activities/hiking/centennial-trail/> for more information on the ICT.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment during this phase of the public process.

Regards,

Alex Ernst

Land Access Coordinator
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation – Recreation Bureau

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