



State of Idaho

Department of Parks and Recreation

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March 17, 2025

Boise National Forest
Attn: Brian Lawatch
1249 S. Vinnell Way, Suite 200
Boise, ID 83709

Via CARA Portal linked at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=67425>

RE: Lava Restoration Project Proposed Action

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 wishes to memorialize its support in developing a draft EA and for an eventual Decision based on the proposed action authorized by the Deciding Officer to implement the Project under an Emergency Situation Determination (ESD).

IDPR offers input toward informing a draft EA, as detailed on the following page.

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

Regards,

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

IDPR is encouraged by the commitment to include trail stabilization and prism re-establishment in the scope of the Project and looks forward to the Forest addressing what the Trail Program believes to be an extensive need.

Readers may benefit from the Proposed Action *Table 2 Trails in the Project Area* being edited to include the NFST number for each named trail. Several trails inside the Lava Fire perimeter believed to need attention are missing from the table, as noted further below.

Re-establishing access to existing TMP-designated roads and trails in this Project area will be paramount toward minimizing unauthorized vehicular use. To the best of its capacity, the IDPR Trail Program will collaborate with the Forest on potential contributions to this effort, for the few motorized system trails in the Project area. To further assist in keeping the public from inadvertently entering unauthorized routes by motorized means, including fire lines and user-created trails, it will be imperative to replace and improve old and missing signage as early as trailheads can be accessed. A concerted effort should be made at popular roadheads and trailheads to provide paper MVUMs, plus electronic versions for offline navigation (GeoPDF) by posting QR codes pointing to Avenza Store map editions. This effort will be an important complement to the signage efforts. IDPR will continue its customary and ongoing outreach to educate stakeholders about recreational ethics and about authorized access through its mapping applications at trails.idaho.gov.

As noted in IDPR's December 10, 2024 letter *RE: 2024 Wildfire Impacts Response*, IDPR is generally concerned about assessment and recovery of trails on Emmett and Cascade RDs inside the Lava Fire perimeter.

Trails inside the Lava Fire perimeter mostly in Cascade RD were **not cited in the Proposed Action** and should be added for consideration:

- Trail 118 Van Wyck, multiple-use 50"
- About half of non-motorized trail 119004 Blue Lake from its trailhead
- 121004 Campbell Creek, non-motorized
- 125004 Willow Creek, non-motorized; mostly in Cascade and partially in Emmett (closed under Forest Order 0402-06-74; expires 12/31/25 unless rescinded)
- 132004 Skein Lake, non-motorized

Non-motorized trails in Emmett RD noted in the Proposed Action:

- 133006 Wilson Creek
- 134006 Poison Creek
- 135006 Wilson Corrals
- 136006 Gabe's Peak
- Northern half of 131006 West Mountain
- Half or more of 223006 Greenfield Flat

Lastly, IDPR requests careful consideration be given to retaining for future addition to the National Forest Trails system, any temporary Project roads, or system roads to be decommissioned, as part of this or any project affecting the Ranger Districts. There is a need to accommodate the interests of full-width OHV (UTV) users in the Forest by creating TOVs. UTVs are now the fastest growing demographic of OHV permittees subscribed to the IDPR Motorized Trail Program amounting to 33.6% of the 204,247 wheeled-OHVs permitted with certificates of number (OHV stickers) in 2024.