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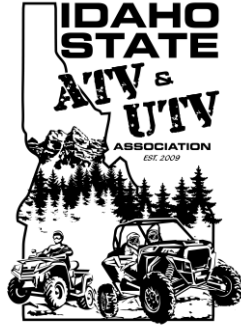
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Date: September 28, 2025

To: Salmon-Challis National Forest, Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger District Office

Attn: Chris Waverek, District Ranger

Regarding: Challis Backyard Trails Project 68598

Via project portal: <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=68598>

Dear Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger District Office:

Please accept this letter as the official comments upon matters regarding the Challis Backyard Trails Project #68598.

I. Idaho State ATV & UTV Association.

The Idaho State ATV & UTV Association (ISATV/UTVA) represents motorized non-profit recognized Clubs in the State of Idaho. Our member chapter Clubs are located throughout the State of Idaho (in Twin Falls, Rupert, Mountain Home, Boise, Nampa, Emmett, Cougar Mountain, Whitebird, Elk City, Orofino, Lewiston, Coeur d'Alene) and collectively we have over 2,000 members, but represent the tens of thousands of motorized vehicle users in the State of Idaho. ISATV/UTVA members are motorized comprised of off-highway vehicles (OHV) (motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, utility type vehicles). ISATV/UTVA members in various locations have used and enjoyed, and hope for themselves and future generations to use and enjoy, a variety of recreational, aesthetic and commercial activities with the Salmon-Challis National Forest, which require continued use and access to your forest, in particular by means of motorized travel. These activities (including sightseeing, hunting, fishing, camping, wildlife and plant viewing, mushroom picking, recreational rock hounding, photography and travel) require motorized access. ISATV/UTVA and Clubs regularly attend public meetings, collaboratives, submit input and otherwise participate in planning activities in all the national forests within Idaho.

ISATV/UTVA supports a truly collaborative framework for recreational enthusiasts and environmental interests to work together in cooperation with land managers, legislators, local government and the public to ensure a positive future for responsible recreational access for everyone, now and into the future. ISATV/UTVA members have enjoyed the motorized uses of the Salmon-Challis National Forest. For some, OHVs and over-snow vehicles (OSV) are primarily used to provide access to points of interest, while for others (particularly snowmobile, UTV, ATV, and motorcycle users) riding the designated areas,

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roads and trails is the primary reason they visit the Challis-Yankee Fork District. Motorized travel within your District is a tremendous recreational asset, as well as an increasingly significant economic asset for the local communities and counties. Accordingly, preserving responsible motorized access to the Challis-Yankee Fork District is an extremely high priority for the ISATV/UTVA.

II. Comments related to the Challis-Yankee Fork Backyard Trails Project #68598.

The project as presented only offers to construct non-motorized trails and not what was presented by the Challis Community Trails Alliance (CCTA).

We have seen the increase in population since 2020 and outdoor recreation users wanting to access public lands. Visitors to Custer County come in from the following counties such as Idaho, Lemhi, Jefferson, Minidoka, Cassia, Twin Falls, Elmore, Ada, Canyon, Valley. I have personally ridden in the Challis-Yankee Fork District and other motorized users include your district in their OHV trips. We see a trend with forests putting a minimum value on roads and trails due to maintenance and resource shortage. For the Forest to not recognize and present in a project what a collaborative in their area worked on from all recreationalists, is disappointing. Between 1978 and 2017, Salmon-Challis had 1,600 Motorized Trails and lost about 700 miles of trails. The forest must recognize the economic value. In the attached OHV Economic Impact Study performed in 2012-2013 shows OHV and Snowmobiling trips and expenditures. Users travel from eastern and southwest Idaho to visit Custer County in the Salmon-Challis National Forest. They will either spend money in their home town or wait to spend money in the rural community and county that they are visiting. This data was done prior to 2020 and reflects in Idaho's Billion Dollar Motorized Recreation Industry. The biggest issue was Access Denied! Motorized recreation has exploded during Covid and continues to be aggressive where folks want to be outdoors and do not want to be confined in a "park-like" setting. Preservation of our recreational opportunities protects the economy, businesses and communities.

ATV registrations average 56,000. Motorbike 36,000. UTV over 50" 29,000. Specialty OHV 873. UTV under 50" 16,000. Total of 139,000. UTVs are a growing population and like "trail" opportunities like we are seeing in other forests occur around the state.

Access to the Salmon-Challis National Forest lands is the fabric to everyone here in Idaho where folks enjoy the views and bring their friends and visitors to enjoy the beauty. This forest provides year-around recreation for users. The club members are responsible recreationalist who do not go out and abuse the land or ride during the muddy season. We recognize our natural resource and take great pride in protecting it. We don't take anything for granted and appreciate the Challis-Yankee Fork employees who work diligently with us on projects.

III. Conclusion.

ISATV/UTVA appreciates how the District Rangers worked with the CCTA. The Salmon-Challis National Forest is a tremendous recreation asset enjoyed by thousands of people each year. The ability to escape



society and travel through secluded parts of the forest for hours on end in motorized vehicles is a thrill and escape for many people that deal with everyday life in urban settings. It is important that the Forest recognizes and support the CCTA proposal with motorized trails. ISATV/UTVA opposes the project as presented. The Forest needs to do the responsible thing by scrapping this project as presented and redo with the CCTA proposal. ISATV/UTVA believes the comments and suggestions set forth herein will be for the better of the Challis-Yankee Fork District. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We trust that the above will be well-received and fully considered.

Very truly yours,

Karen Crosby
ISATV/UTVA President