

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/7/2020 11:00:00 AM

First name: Jeff

Last name: Cook

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Buckskin Saddle Integrated Restoration Project Draft EA Comments

February 7, 2020

Michelle Norton

Sandpoint Ranger District

1602 Ontario St.

Sandpoint, ID 83864

RE: Buckskin Saddle Integrated Restoration Project Draft EA Comments

Dear Ms. Norton:

The Idaho Department of Park and Recreation staff reviewed the Buckskin Saddle Integrated Restoration Project Draft Environmental Assessment (EA). The Sandpoint Ranger District is proposing to harvest timber and conduct prescribed burning in the Buckskin Saddle area.

We previously comments on this project during the scoping period. We were concerned about the impacts that timber harvest would have on system trails within the project area. The EA does a good job of explaining how these trails would be protected, if not improved.

On Page 9, the EA discusses the current trail conditions. It attributes the cause of erosion to one user group - motorcyclists. These trails are designated for motorcycle use on the MVUM. Improper trail construction is the most likely cause for erosion, not trail use. Research has shown this over and over again. Proper trail layout and construction can eliminate many of these conditions. Historical trail construction did not lay out trails to proper grades or roll the grade to shed water. If a trail is constructed parallel to the grade, it will erode, despite the type or amount of use. The key to eliminating erosion on trail is proper trail layout and design.

The recreation analysis was written well and is complete. We see no other issue with the draft EA. If you have any questions about our comments, please contact me my signature line information below.

Sincerely,

Jeff Cook, Outdoor Recreation Analyst

Recreation Bureau

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

P.O. Box 83720

Boise, ID 83720-0065

(208) 514-2483