

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/8/2023 7:00:00 AM

First name: Brandon

Last name: Flack

Organization: Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Title: Regional Technical Assistance Manager

Comments: The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation (OSC) have reviewed the scoping information package for the PNF Granite Goose Landscape Restoration Project. We don't have substantive comments related to the proposed activities at this stage so we're not sure if the following questions/recommendations need to go through the comment portal (if you feel otherwise, please let me know and I can submit this email in that way). We may have comments when the draft EA comes out, or as the specific management actions are proposed later on, and we hope to be able to collaborate and coordinate with the Forest Service as those documents are developed.

However, we do have some questions and recommendations related to the list of sensitive and ESA species provided on page 53 of the document. Many of us who reviewed the document were wondering how occupancy of those species was determined within the project area and how recent the observation had to be in order for them to be considered present? We have a number of observations for Bald Eagle in the project area and Fisher observations within and just outside the boundary. There have also been recent observations for American Three-toed Woodpecker, Flammulated Owl, and Mountain Quail. We have historic observations (>20yrs) for Great Gray Owl, Boreal Owl and White-headed Woodpecker. The project area also contains the modeled range for Townsend's Western Big-Eared Bat and Monarch Butterfly.

We recommend the methodology for determining species occupancy (fish, wildlife, and plants) be included in the draft EA and that Table 19 in Appendix 2 be updated accordingly.

That's about it from us, for now. We look forward to working on this more as it progresses through the NEPA process.