

Boundary Backcountry Access
PO Box 80
Naples, ID 83847

January 2, 2020

IPNF, comments-northern-idpanhandle-bonnerrsferry@usda.gov : Jennifer.anderson3@usda.gov
Bonnerrsferry Ranger District, Attn: Jennifer Anderson, 6826 Main St, Bonnerrsferry, ID 83805
Re: Westside Restoration Project #56888

To Whom it May Concern,

Please consider the following comments from Boundary Backcountry Access regarding the proposed Westside Restoration Project.

Boundary Backcountry Access (BBCA) is a non-profit organization formed to promote the enjoyment of outdoor recreation and the responsible access to public lands. We recognize that outdoor recreation can provide tremendous health and economic benefits for both individuals and communities. As the population of Boundary County continues to increase, it is imperative to plan for and provide access to local recreational opportunities.

Objectives:

BBCA supports the efforts of the Forest Service to actively manage our National Forests. We appreciate the primary objectives of fuels reduction and improving landscape resiliency, and fully support the methods listed to include commercial harvest along with precommercial thinning and prescribed burning.

Other objectives listed include improving both motorized and non-motorized recreation experiences. BBCA fully supports improving access to accommodate increasing demand and provide for safety. We also support the improvements and construction of non-motorized trails.

Another objective listed is to benefit the local economy. While the sale of commercial products is a major economic driver which we fully support, we would like the USFS to recognize the growing economic importance of outdoor recreation, which generates \$7.8 billion in consumer spending in Idaho, according to the 2017 Outdoor Recreation Economy report from the Outdoor Industry Association, as reported in the Idaho Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2018. Idaho Parks and Recreation studies determined that OHV participants spent over \$434 million in 2012, and snowmobilers spent \$197 million in 2015.

Proposed Actions:

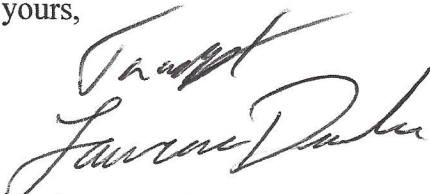
BBCA supports the maintenance and reconstruction of roads for transportation. We recommend that select roads slated for storage be opened for ATV use when storage is not required for core habitat. Off highway use is a growing industry and there are currently no designated ATV trails in this area.

We support all of the recreation improvements being proposed, and look forward to hearing more details about the proposed warming hut, along with changes to and additional parking areas.

The proposed Roman Nose Warming Hut is an important safety measure with potential economic benefits. We recommend the warming hut include provisions for trash disposal and a toilet. It may be short-sighted to store the access road at this time, in case the public could be better served with year-round use.

The proposed parking areas along Snow Creek Rd at the 3 and 5.5 mile should specifically provide designated turn-around areas for vehicles with trailers and include provisions for winter use.

Sincerely yours,

The block contains two handwritten signatures in cursive. The first signature is for Jacob Hinrichs, and the second is for Lawrence Drake. They are written in dark ink and are positioned above the printed names of the signatories.

Boundary Backcountry Access

boundarybca@yahoo.com

Jacob Hinrichs, President

Lawrence Drake, Vice President