

OFFICE OF SPECIES CONSERVATION

BRAD LITTLE
Governor

MICHAEL R. EDMONDSON
Administrator



P.O. Box 83720
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304 N. Eighth Street, Suite 149
Boise, Idaho 83702-5833

April 28, 2023

Attn: Jesse Berner, District Ranger
Idaho Panhandle National Forest
3232 West Nursery Road
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

Dear District Ranger Berner,

The State of Idaho, through the Governor's Office of Species Conservation (OSC), appreciates the opportunity to review the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Kaniksu Oversnow Winter Travel Plan.

While the State appreciates the breadth of analysis the Forest has integrated, we maintain the preference for the proposed action developed through the North Idaho Technical Working Group (NITWG) with minor edits by the Forest. The State is pleased to see that the Forest has kept the integrity of the NITWG proposed action through the internal review and environmental analysis processes. As outlined in our previous letter from September of 2022, the proposed action has multiple wildlife/nonmotorized use benefits while adding access to areas that have been administratively closed for 15 years to off-trail motorized use within the Selkirk mountains.

Regardless of the final signed decision, the State is interested in maintaining an open conversation about education on the landscape and within recreational user groups, effective monitoring, and enforcement to ensure the effectiveness of the plan. The State, through IDL and IDFG, is posting maps at their trailheads and utilizing a QR code to enable recreationists to download the map to their phone and geolocate themselves while recreating. The utilization of QR codes recognizes that many people are recreating with their phones on hand and utilizing ownership map technologies.

The State appreciated the opportunity to participate in NITWG and looks forward to future opportunities to provide technical assistance on this travel plan. If you have any questions, please reach out to my Federal Lands Coordinator, Jace Hogg at jace.hogg@osc.idaho.gov, 208 332 1553.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Mike Edmondson.

/s/ Mike Edmondson
MIKE EDMONDSON
Administrator