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Organization: Central Idaho Mountain Bike Association

Title: Trail Coordinator

Comments: I support the intentions of the Granite Meadows CFLRP. I think that WUI protection and forest management are good outcomes of this project. I also appreciate the inclusion of recreation as one of the main focus points for this project. I am an avid mountain biker and hiker and motorcycle rider in the summer and a cross country skier, snowmobiler and backcountry skier with over 25 years recreating in the project area.

From a summer standpoint I have been a proponent of legitimizing several high use, user created trails in the area near Bear Basin since 2012. There are several non-system trails that connect to the newly constructed Payette Lake Trail/Payette Rim Trail as well as to several neighborhoods and camps between Warren Wagon Rd and USFS RD 451. Some of these trails have been in use for more than 20 years. In addition, there is a proposed trail that connects this area to the Brundage Mountain trail system that was scoped by the USFS in 2010 or 2011 but never constructed. There is also another popular trail that is known as the Backside Moto Trail that is currently in need of repair but could become a sustainable trail with minimal improvements.

I personally support the improvement of recreational opportunities close to town and specifically an expansion of the summer trail system on both sides of the 451 Rd. Winter recreation in this area is also very popular and has been expanding rapidly over the last 25 years. Recreation is a key component of the Idaho and Valley County economies and will continue to expand in the future. Recreation in Idaho is nearly a 7 billion dollar per year portion of the state economy as published in a recent Idaho Commerce Department study.

As the Trail Coordinator for Central Idaho Mountain Bike Association, our group would like to be a partner to improve not only multi use trails but also facilities such as pit toilets and improved trailhead facilities through funding assistance and volunteer labor for construction and maintenance especially in the area on the 451 RD near Bear Basin.

I urge the Payette National Forest to work with and collaborate with groups like CIMBA to improve the opportunities for close to town recreation in the execution of the Granite Meadows Project.