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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support the management goals of the Granite Meadows CFLRP. The Wildland Urban Interface fire protection and the forest management components are good outcomes of this project. I also appreciate the inclusion of recreation as one of the main focus points for this project.

As an avid recreationist, living in McCall for nearly 22 years, I am in favor of legitimizing several high use, user created trails in the area near Bear Basin. USFS recreation staff is aware of the trails, but they are 'non-system trails' which means no maintenance or recognition of the trails can occur. 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 between 2009 and 2011 but never constructed.

I personally support the improvement of recreational opportunities close to McCall and New Meadows and specifically an expansion of the summer trail system on both sides of the 451 Rd near Bear Basin. 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 a 7 billion dollar per year portion of the state economy as published in a 2017 Outdoor Industry Association report.

The Central Idaho Mountain Bike Association would like to be a partner to improve and expand multi use trails in the project area. We would like the USFS to prioritize the construction of facilities such as pit toilets and improved trailhead facilities on the 451 Rd. CIMBA and its private funding partners could be an integral component to help provide funding assistance for construction and maintenance of trails and facilities especially in the area on the 451 RD near Bear Basin.

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