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Organization: Idaho Trails Association

Title: Executive Director

Comments: Dear Forest Supervisor Petersen,

Thank you for taking quick action to begin planning restoration and salvage efforts following the almost unprecedented 2024 wildfires on the Boise National Forest. As a former Forest Service hydrologist, I realize the "clock starts ticking" on everything from erosion mitigation on Forest roads, to combating invasive species, to maximizing the value of salvageable burned timber.

Idaho Trails Association focuses on mobilizing volunteers to clear and maintain trails across Idaho, mainly non-motorized, though we value and support all trails. I will confine project comments to those related to trails but also want to add that we fully support best management practices and project design features that protect, preserve and restore native vegetation and soil-hydrologic function. I also encourage specialists to look at opportunities for watershed restoration and mitigation of legacy effects of things like undersized culverts or unneeded roads using dollars generated by salvage logging or available through BAER or BAR. All of these actions help maintain the character of the forests and rangelands people enjoy recreating in.

ITA requests that any project that comes from this general scoping include the following:

- An analysis of existing non-motorized and multiple use trails within the project area boundary, looking at opportunities to relocate trails either impacting watershed conditions or the user experience (ie., where they are underwater during runoff season, need a bridge vs. a ford, on soil types prone to tread failure or slides, were built before trail gradient standards so are overly steep, etc.). Please also look at trailhead conditions and the opportunity to: improve road conditions accessing trailheads, improve trailhead parking (graveling, expanding, etc.), or install features like pit toilets or hitch rails, where use warrants.
- Project design features to ensure any trails temporarily impacted by logging or other operations are rehabilitated after the project, including tread reestablishment, signage, slash removal, etc.
- No net loss of trail access in an area unless two trails are redundant.
- Designation of revenue generated by salvage logging to trail improvements listed in the first bullet or to crews (contract or partner if force account is not feasible) for trail maintenance needed as post-fire effects continue (more downed trees, increased erosion) over the next several years.

ITA appreciates the work of the Boise National Forest and the partnership that allows us to work on your various Districts and we are committed to supporting trail work on the Forest in years to come. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Melanie Vining

Executive Director

Idaho Trails Association