Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/24/2025 4:03:57 PM
First name: Marc
Last name: Hildesheim
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear Project Team,

I write in support of the Sandpoint South vegetative treatment and fuels reduction project, with the caveat that the District should use this opportunity to protect and enhance the motorized recreation trails in the project area.

The project area includes trails #117, #321, #231, #630E, and #64 as well as numerous high clearance roads which are utilized by OHV enthusiasts. All of these trails are used as part of the destination ride that many riders use to get from Talache to Bayview.

At the end of the project all trails should be returned to appropriate trail standards. As part of this project the District should utilize this project as an opportunity to examine sections of the trails that fall within the project area and consider whether the trails have appropriate drainage and if they provide a recreation experience consistent with the management objectives for that trail. This could require reroutes of sections of the trails. Funding or assistance in constructing these reroutes could be acquired through the IDPR OHV and grants programs.

While not directly connected to this project it would be of benefit to the Forest Service, private land holders, and the local community to sign the trails and routes appropriately. There are many trails in the area created over many years, as well as logging roads, throughout the area. Many of these roads, routes, and trails, do not currently have signage. Riders trying to stay on designated forest routes may have a difficult time navigating the appropriate routes and finding their way to Bayview. I understand that there are large swaths of private land in the area, but there are also roads and trails open to public use.

If route markers were in place, it would reduce encroachment on to private lands and reduce potential resource impacts. The OHV recreation in the area provides positive economic impact in communities like Bayview and Sagle, however I admit there have been concerns with impacts to local communities and private landowners including encroachment and sound concerns. Promoting a recognized and signed route would help alleviate these concerns. This will likely require coordination with the county, private landowners, and the IDPR OHV program.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,
Marc Hildesheim