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Comments: I support the proposed Challis Area Trail Project and appreciate the Forest Service's effort to expand both motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities. The proposal thoughtfully improves connectivity of existing motorized trails while creating a new non-motorized trail network that is accessible by passenger vehicle, which will benefit a broad range of recreational user types along with improving public access to the area. The project will provide high-quality, destination-level recreation in a forested setting while dispersing use and reducing pressure on existing trails.

I also strongly support the use of motorized equipment for trail construction and maintenance, especially on trails designated for motorized use. Allowing appropriate motorized tools increases efficiency, improves safety, and enables construction that meets modern sustainability standards. On motorized trails in particular, building with motorized equipment aligns with the intended use and helps create durable trails that better withstand motorized traffic over time.

Overall, this project represents a balanced and forward-thinking approach to recreation management in the Challis area. I encourage the Forest Service to move forward with the proposal and to explicitly allow the use of motorized equipment where appropriate to ensure long-term trail quality, sustainability, and cost-effective stewardship of public lands.