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First name: Jeff

Last name: Cook

Organization: Idaho Department of Recreation

Title: Outdoor Recreation Analyst

Comments: From: Jeff Cook

To: FS-comments-intermtn-payette

Subject: Huckleberry Landscape Restoration Project

Date: Monday, November 07, 2016 9:57:01 AM

November 7, 2016

Kim Pierson, District Ranger New Meadows Ranger District

P.O. Box J

New Meadows, Idaho 83654

RE: Huckleberry Landscape Restoration Project Dear Ms. Pierson:

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) staff reviewed the Huckleberry Landscape Restoration Project proposed action report. The Payette National Forest is proposing a variety of management activities in the Huckleberry Project Area on the Council Ranger District.

The focus of our review concentrated on the proposed recreation improvements. We support all of these improvements identified in the proposed action report. We have two suggestions on these items to improve recreation opportunities in the Huckleberry Project Area.

The proposed action report states on Page 11 that [ldquo]Coordinate dispersed camping along roads open to

motorized travel 300 feet off of the road, with wildlife in areas where there is a conflict with the NIGS. We assume that NIGS refers to the North Idaho Ground Squirrel. Typical mitigation measures for this squirrel involve eliminating dispersed camping along these roads. The DEIS should clearly document on how many dispersed camp sites would be impacted by this project.

The proposed action would also sign Road 143 to indicate that the Lick Creek Road #143 is open to dispersed camping at designated sites only. While it is great to inform the public on the ground with a sign, the Motor Vehicle Use Map should be updated to indicate where these designated dispersed sites area.

We have no other issues with the other proposed recreation improvements and encourage the planning team to bring those proposed improvements through the range of action alternatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If your staff has any issues or concerns about our comments, please contact me at (208-514-2483).

Sincerely,

Jeff Cook

Outdoor Recreation Analyst

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

P.O. Box 83720 | Boise, ID 83720-0065 tel (208) 514-2483

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