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First name: Don

Last name: Garringer

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Find Attached Panhandle Nordic Club Response to the Rosie-Cedar Environmental Assessment.

November 20, 2021

From: Panhandle Nordic Cross-country Ski and Snowshoe Club

To: Rosie Cedar Project

c/o Dan Scaife, District Ranger

Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District

2502 E. Sherman Ave.

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Attn: Chandra Neils

Subject: Panhandle Nordic Club's comments regarding Rosie Cedar Environmental Assessment

Thank you for consulting with Panhandle Nordic Ski & Snowshoe Club (PNC) and the opportunity to comment on the Rosie Cedar project. As you are aware the Club operates the Fourth of July Park N Ski Area under a cost share agreement with the Forest Service and Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation. The footprint of the area is wholly within the Rosie Cedar project area. The Club welcomes vegetation management activities and watershed improvements that will enhance the resilience of the National Forest and deal with water quality and other issues.

Although the PNC was consulted during the scoping phase, few of the comments designed to protect the ski and snowshoe area facilities were incorporated into the draft EA's Recreation section. The project maps provided indicate many of the ski and snowshoe area's trails will be used to access cutting and treatment units. If protective measures are not clearly stipulated, there exists the potential for unauthorized motorized use of routes managed for non-motorized public use (See district motorized use plan), and for damage/vandalism of

PNC maintained recreation facilities. The trails and facilities include:

1. FSR 3016 (Jannettes Jaunt Trail); FSR 3016A (Havin[rsquo] Fun), FSR 614C (Skate away - High Road - Elderberry Trails); FSR 1575 (Eagle Run Trail) and potentially FSR 905 (Twisted Klister Trail).
2. Panhandle Warming Hut, Groomer Equipment storage sheds, Picnic shelter (Peaceful View) and rest room, and Ian[rsquo]s Eagle [warming] Hut are located adjacent to project haul routes.
3. PNC also maintains sign posts and signs to guide area users. Several of these signs are located on FSR 3016, 3016A and FSR 614C. As an example, the EA[rsquo]s roads section speaks to maintaining the Forest Service signage, but omitted any reference to trail signage placed by the Nordic Club to guide area users.
4. The EA clearly identified that the existing gates and road use restrictions on routes within the winter recreation area will remain closed to the public during and after the project is completed. In the October 2020 scoping response, PNC requested that several recommendations be considered for incorporation into the project to improve or resolve public safety and motorized use issues at intersections with FSR 614.
5. Several recommendations were also made regarding actions that could be implement during reconditioning and reconstruction of roads. As examples, this may include widening roads near existing facilities, or removing trees that create safety hazards or could contribute to improving trail conditions during the winter months. These actions are specified in more detail in the Clubs October 2020 response.

With regard to 4 and 5 above, please consider incorporating the recommended actions and improvements in the Decision Notice and, where applicable, the project contract/s and/or KV plans.

The PNC assumes the implementation of the Rosie Cedar activities will be scheduled to avoid conflicts with the winter operations of the Park N Ski/Snowshoe Area. The club recommends that road construction/reconstruction, harvest, and post-harvest operations within the ski and snowshoe area's footprint be limited to spring, summer and fall. The club also recommends that a start date of May 1st and end date by October 15th be considered for activities that will occur during and after harvest activities.

PNC foresees the implementation of Rosie Cedar projects may create opportunities of additional ski and/or snowshoe loops. The club recognizes that environmental and wildlife protection concerns may require the decommissioning of certain roads or trails. However, prior to decommissioning of roads and skid trails in and adjacent to the ski & snowshoe area the club requests that we be afforded the opportunity to consider these for potential new trails. In a similar vein, there are unauthorized trails that have been developed that allow illegal motorized vehicular traffic onto the non-motorized Fourth of July trail system. Such illegal use interferes with the use of hikers, mountain bikers, and horsemen. Specifically, the illegal access road at mile post 2 on FSR 614 and the inadequate Kelly Hump at the terminus of FSR 905 near its junction with FSR 918 should be addressed to control illegal motorized access.

The existing roads that will be used to access vegetation management units are in some need of additional water bars and/or rolling dips. Localized area of poor drainage and/or road surface erosion exist and should be

addressed during reconstruction/reconditioning of the roads. An example is the drainage off FSR 614 onto the initial hundred feet of FSR 614 C (Skate away). Erosion is well advanced on this road section due to inadequate drainage.

Sincerely,

/s/ Don Garringer

Don Garringer, President

Panhandle Nordic Cross-country Ski and Snowshoe Club