



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Idaho Roadless Rule Implementation Commission

Chair: James Caswell

OSC Staff Support: Jace Hogg - Federal Lands Coordinator

Vice Chair: Michael Gibson

Mike Edmondson - Interim Administrator

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Idaho Roadless Rule Implementation Commission Members

Name	Affiliation	Appointment Length*
Alex Irby	Motorized Recreation	2 years
Dan Dinning	Boundary County Commissioner	2 years
Bob Cope	RACNAC*	2 years
Brad Gilbert	Dispersed Recreation	3 years
Bill Higgins	Timber Industry	3 years
Jonathan Oppenheimer	Idaho Conservation League	3 years
Jim Caswell	Public at Large	4 years
Michael Gibson	Trout Unlimited	4 years
Billy Barquin	Kootenai Tribe of Idaho	4 years
Alan Prouty	Mining Interests	5 years
Pete Stegner	Timber Interests	5 years
Elt Hasbrouck	Valley County Commissioner	5 years

* All appointments were renewed in 2020 after amendments to Idaho Code 67-826 became effective

*RACNAC stands for Roadless Area Conservation National Advisory Committee

Overview

The Idaho Roadless Rule Implementation Commission (Roadless Commission or IRC) was created by Executive Order # 2006-43 and codified in Idaho Code Section 67- 826 as amended in 2020. The members of the commission are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Commissioners are appointed in staggered terms of two to five-years. Per the amended Idaho Code, the commission is composed of nine to twelve members. There are currently twelve members serving on the commission.

The Roadless Commission reviews, analyzes, and provides recommendations on proposed projects slated to occur within Idaho's National Forest Roadless Areas. The Commission also provides general policy guidance on proper implementation of the Idaho Roadless Rule across Idaho's 9.3 million acres of roadless areas. Major duties and responsibilities of the commission are to coordinate with the US Forest Service (USFS) and advise on projects, plans, and policies occurring within or affecting Idaho Roadless Areas, as defined in 36 CFR 294.21. As a part of its role, the commission advises on activities related to shared stewardship, Good Neighbor Authority, forest health, and the protection of communities at risk from wildfire within and adjacent to Idaho Roadless Areas. Pursuant to Idaho Code 67-826(6), the Roadless Commission is supported by The Governor's Office of Species Conservation.

Actions Update

The Idaho Roadless Rule Implementation Commission generally holds two meetings a year to review projects and policies that affect roadless areas. In 2020, the Roadless Commission's spring meeting was canceled due to concerns from Coronavirus. The Roadless Commission's fall meeting was held virtually on October 27th and 28th. Below is a summary of actions taken by the Roadless Commission over the past year.

“ To ensure that the spirit and intent of the Idaho Roadless Rule is implemented in the state of Idaho.” – IRC Mission

- The IRC's statute was updated in May of 2020. The updated statute revised duties, made it clear that the Governor's Office of Species Conservation (OSC) is to provide staff support for IRC, provided for membership changes, revised provisions



Salmon Challis
National Forest, 2020

The Roadless Commission website is now hosted through OSC's webpage [under the planning tab.](#)

- regarding meetings, and provided for an annual report.
- The State's MOU with the USFS for the implementation of the rule was renegotiated and signed on May 5th, 2020.
- The Commission elected officers; Jim Caswell was reelected Chair, and Michael Gibson was elected Vice Chair.
- The Commission welcomed Amy Barker, based out of the USFS Region 4 headquarters in Ogden, UT, as the new Idaho Roadless Rule Coordinator. She will be taking over duties from Brian Riggers of USFS Region 1.
- As per the updated statute, OSC introduced Interim Administrator Mike Edmondson and Federal Lands Coordinator Jace Hogg as staff support. OSC created a webpage for the commission under the OSC's website planning tab that houses past agendas, notes, and additional resources about the Idaho Roadless Rule. The webpage also serves as a place to post notices and agendas for upcoming meetings.
- The Commission reviewed 33 projects across 7 National Forests with presentations and Q & A sessions with USFS project leads.
- In the past the Commission has sponsored training sessions for FS employees about the rule. A couple years ago the Commission supported the development of an electronic training support tool. That is now complete and available to all FS employees on the Roadless Training SharePoint site for Idaho and has been getting use.
- The Commission uses a spreadsheet database to track the projects reviewed, their status, activities proposed, and other metrics.

- Lawsuit Update 1: Rowley Canyon is a 3,955-acre restoration project and treats 1,666 acres in an IRA. A favorable judgment on behalf of the FS was received August 28th, 2020. The plaintiffs raised the issue in their complaint of project affects to wilderness attributes and future wilderness recommendations. The Forest Service was in part successful in securing a favorable judgement in this case because of the analysis of affects to the wilderness resource completed and documented during the NEPA phase of project planning.
- Lawsuit Update 2: Lower Valley Energy—Crow Creek Natural Gas Pipeline, is a 48 mile, 50-foot-wide pipeline project that crosses parts of 6 IRA. Approximately 18.5 miles are on national Forest lands. DOJ has filed a motion to dismiss due to compliant being filed in an improper venue. Plaintiff has filed their reply to the motion. The final decision is pending.

Despite having to meet virtually for the first time, the Commission looked at 33 projects in 2020 spanning across Idaho's 9.3 million acres of Roadless. Over the past 4 years, or 6 meetings, the Commission reviewed 33 projects per meeting on average. Section 67 – 826 (3) states that the commission shall "... coordinate and advise on activities related to shared stewardship, GNA, forest health..." The Commission reviewed 3 projects within the two Idaho Shared Stewardship Priority Areas.

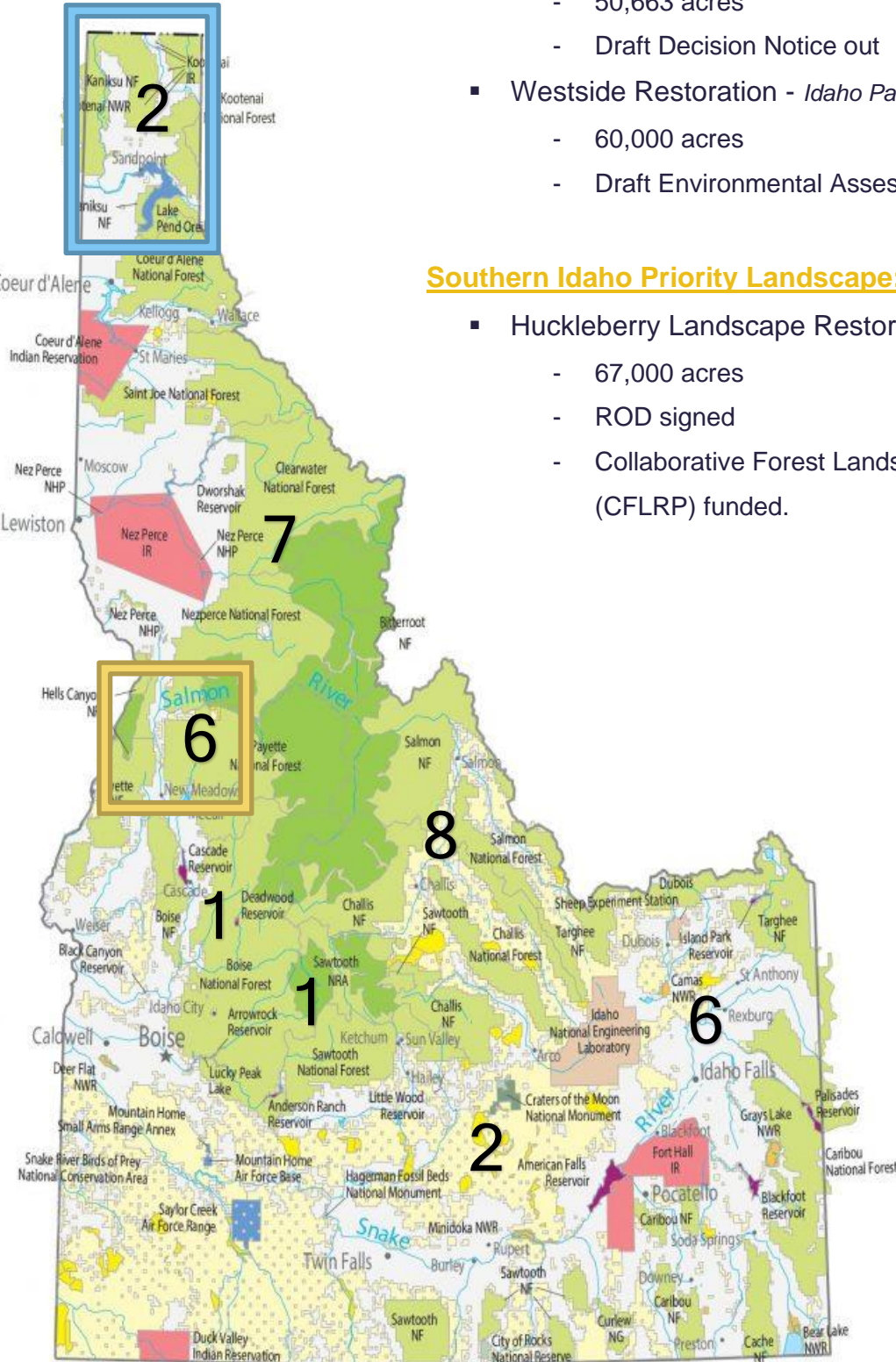


Northern Idaho Priority Landscape: 621,400 USFS acres

- Buckskin Saddle Integrated Restoration - *Idaho Panhandle NF*
 - 50,663 acres
 - Draft Decision Notice out
- Westside Restoration - *Idaho Panhandle NF*
 - 60,000 acres
 - Draft Environmental Assessment under review

Southern Idaho Priority Landscape: 1,123,500 USFS acres

- Huckleberry Landscape Restoration - *Payette NF*
 - 67,000 acres
 - ROD signed
 - Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Partnership (CFLRP) funded.



National Forest	# of Projects
Idaho Panhandle	2
Nez Perce Clearwater	7
Payette	6
Salmon Challis	8
Boise	1
Sawtooth	1
Caribou Targhee	6
Other (Non-Timber, Roads or Minerals Small Projects)	2

Projects Reviewed in 2020

Non-Timber, Roads, or Minerals Small Projects

Bloomington Corral – Caribou Targhee
Trail Creek Trail Reroute – Salmon Challis

Payette National Forest

Stibnite Update/Status
Big Creek Fuels Reduction Update/Status
South Fork RAMP Update/Status
East Fork South Fork RAMP Update/Status
Rapid River Travel Management Initial Briefing

Caribou-Targhee National Forest

Dairy Syncline Update/Status
East Palisades Hazardous Fuels Reduction Update/Status
Strawberry Forest Management Update/Status
Graham Hollow Juniper Treatment Initial Briefing
North Fork Tincup Stream Restoration Initial Briefing
South Valley Hazardous Fuels Reduction Initial Briefing

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest

Clear Creek Integrated Restoration Update/Status
Forest Plan Revision Update/Status
Dixie Comstock Update/Status
Dead Laundry Update/Status
South Fork Clearwater Mineral POOs Initial Briefing
Green Horse Initial Briefing
Lost Holly Prescribed Burn Initial Briefing
West Meadow Fuels Initial Briefing
Race Cow Initial Briefing

Idaho Panhandle National Forest

Buckskin Update/Status
Westside Initial Briefing

Sawtooth National Forest

Adam's Gulch Trail Initial Briefing

Salmon-Challis National Forest

Forest Plan Revision Update/Status
Annie Rooney Salvage Update/Status
Williams Farm Bill Project Update/Status
Sheep Creek Vegetation Improvement Update/Status
Bayhorse Update/Status
Eightmile Creek Stream Restoration Update/Status
Morgan Summit TSI Initial Briefing
Big Creek Restoration (Fuels) Initial Briefing
North Zone Vegetation Improvement Initial Briefing
Bellas Lake to Clear Lake Trail Construction Initial Briefing
South Lost River Restoration (Fuels) Initial Briefing

Boise National Forest

Lost Horse Update/Status
Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Initial Briefing

Next Steps

Due to the ongoing COVID situation, the Spring 2021 meeting will likely take place in May over Zoom. During the spring meeting the Commission will complete the normal project reviews and may address one or more of the following policy questions with the Forest Service.

- Subject to the specific requirements of the Idaho Roadless Rule, and recognizing the Rule anticipates and allows for an adaptive management approach based on changes in landscape condition, develop a process to update the inventory of roadless areas and possibly themes.
- A broad discussion to better understand the background (where the concept comes from) and meaning of "Substantially Altered". There does exist a contradiction of what the term means and how it applies to projects in roadless areas.
- A better understanding of Region's 1 and 4 decision making approach, use, and management of prescribed fire in Idaho roadless areas.
- An update on the current status of NEPA regulatory reform and its effect on decision making.

