



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Idaho Roadless Rule Implementation Commission

Chair: James Caswell

OSC Staff Support: Jace Hogg - Federal Lands Coordinator

Vice Chair: Michael Gibson

Michael Edmondson - Administrator

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Idaho Roadless Rule Implementation Commission Members

Name	Affiliation	Appointment Length*
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

Photo: Mt. Willard – Lake Estelle Roadless Area, Idaho Panhandle National Forest

Photo Credit: OSC

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 9 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 (IRA), 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.

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

Actions Update

The Idaho Roadless Rule Implementation Commission generally holds two meetings a year to review projects and policies that affect roadless areas. In 2022, the Roadless Commission's spring and fall meetings were held in person for the first time in two years. The Roadless Commission's spring meeting was held in Coeur d'Alene on May 24th and the fall meeting was held in Boise on October 27th. Below is a summary of actions taken by the Roadless Commission over the past year.

The Commission reviewed 37 projects across 7 National Forests with presentations and Q & A sessions with USFS project leads, Regional, and Washington Office staff. The Commission continues to use a spreadsheet, maintained by Forest Service staff, to track the projects reviewed, their status, activities proposed, and other metrics.

After the Fall 2021 meeting, a Commission subcommittee, Chair and Co-Chair continued to work with the Forest Service on questions regarding updating the roadless inventory and adjusting themes. Based on these conversations, it became clear that a pilot project was needed to understand if roadless reinventory was necessary across the entire state, and to examine in detail roadless themes that could potentially need adjustment. A Pilot Project proposal to hire a contractor and work with Region 4 of the Forest Service to undertake a GIS exercise looking at the McCall Ranger District on the Payette National Forest and the roadless areas surrounding the Hemmingway Boulders, Cecil D. Andrus White Clouds, and the Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness Areas approved by the Commission during the Spring 2022 meeting. The Commission, through the budget administered by Governor's Office of Species Conservation, then hired Northwest Natural Resource Group to carry out the Pilot Project. The Final product is expected to be presented at the Spring 2023 meeting.

Per Idaho Code 67-826, Roadless Commissioners serve on staggered terms. Three commissioners, Alex Irby, Dan Dinning, and Bob Cope are at the end of their two-year terms as of February 2022. The Commission sent three nominations to the Governor's office as replacements and are waiting for a final decision.



Photo: Rapid River Roadless Area,
Payette National Forest
Credit: OSC

Lawsuit Update 1: Rowley Canyon is a 3,955-acre restoration project and treats 1,666 acres in an IRA. The Wildland Defense raised the issue, in their complaint, of project effects to wilderness attributes and potential future wilderness recommendations. The Judge granted the FS Motion for Summary Judgement which included a request for dismissal in 2020, with no updates since that time.

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 IRAs. Approximately 18.5 miles are on national Forest lands. The Judge issued a Stipulation to Dismiss on 08/5/2022, with the Caribou Targhee National Forest agreeing to not issue a ROD on the project without completing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the project. No update on status of SEIS.

2022 Project Map

The Commission looked at 37 projects total in 2022 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) of Idaho Code states that the commission shall "... coordinate and advise on activities related to shared stewardship, GNA, forest health..." The Commission reviewed 2 projects within the two Idaho Shared Stewardship Priority Areas.

Northern Idaho Priority Landscape: 621,400 USFS acres

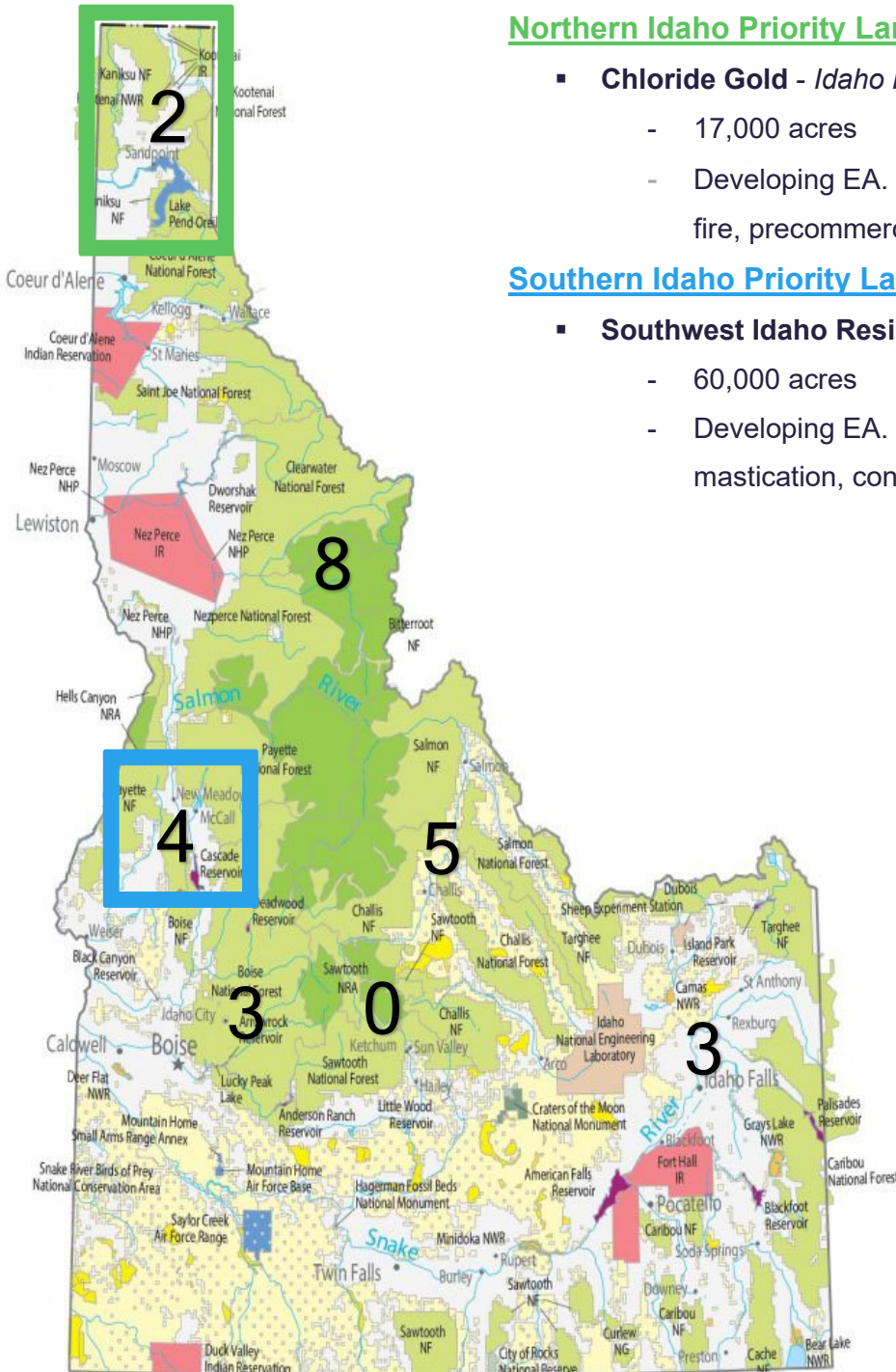
▪ Chloride Gold - Idaho Panhandle NF

- 17,000 acres
- Developing EA. Proposed commercial harvest, prescribed fire, precommercial thinning.

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

▪ Southwest Idaho Resilient Landscape – Boise NF

- 60,000 acres
- Developing EA. Prescribed burning, hand thinning, slashing, mastication, constructing mechanical and hand firelines.



National Forest	# of Projects
Idaho Panhandle	2
Nez Perce Clearwater	8
Payette	4 (3)
Salmon Challis	5 (4)
Boise	3
Sawtooth	(1)
Caribou Targhee	3 (4)
Other (Non-Timber, Roads or Minerals Small Projects)	(12)

*numbers in () mean Small Projects, 12 total
Map only includes projects with NEPA.

2022 Project List

Thirty-Seven projects were presented by Forest Service District Rangers, with supporting resource staff brought on the call as needed to answer questions from the Commission members.

Non-Timber, Roads, or Minerals Small Projects

A. Eagle Creek Trail Maintenance	Caribou Targhee NF
B. Midland Trail and Trailhead	Caribou Targhee NF
C. Tin Cup Mountain Trailhead	Caribou Targhee NF
D. Paris Spring Restoration	Caribou Targhee NF
E. Blackpine Cobalt-Copper	Salmon Challis NF
F. Castle Creek Pipeline	Salmon Challis NF
G. Swan Basin Water Development and Fence	Salmon Challis NF
H. Trail Creek Fence Extension	Salmon Challis NF
I. Pioneer Cabin Trailhead	Sawtooth NF
J. Upper Payette Lake Campground Spring Decommissioning	Payette NF
K. Hartley Meadows Repair Project.....	Payette NF
L. Pollock Mountain Trail Reroute.....	Payette NF

Payette National Forest

Stibnite	Update/Status
East Fork South Fork RAMP	Update/Status
Rapid River Travel Management	Update/Status
Brundage Mountain MDP Screening	Initial Briefing

Caribou-Targhee National Forest

East Palisades Hazardous Fuels Reduction	Implementation Status
Caribou Prescribed Fire Restoration	Implementation Status
Diamond Creek Forest Management.....	Initial Briefing

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest

Forest Plan Revision	Update/Status
Race Cow	Update/Status
Dixie Comstock	Update/Status
Dead Laundry	Update/Status
Lost Toboggan Landscape Prescribed Burn	Initial Briefing
Knock-on-Wood Habitat Improvement Project.....	Initial Briefing
McBee SUP.....	Initial Briefing
O'Hara Wildlife and Fuels Rx	Initial Briefing

Idaho Panhandle National Forest

Chloride Gold	Update/Status
Westside	Implementation Status

Salmon-Challis National Forest

Forest Plan Revision	Update/Status
Sheep Creek Vegetation Improvement	Update/Status
Bayhorse V2	Update/Status
S-C Fuels Reduction and Restoration	Update/Status
Big A Vegetation	Initial Briefing

Boise National Forest

Payette-Ola C Allotment Bull Trout Protection	Update/Status
Southwest Idaho Resilient Landscape (SWIRL)	Update/Status
Tamarack Resort Special Use Permit.....	Update/Status

Kootenai National Forest, Sawtooth National Forest..... No Projects

Next Steps

The Commission plans to meet in person for the Spring 2023 meeting. The Commission will complete the normal project reviews and may address one or more of the following policy questions with the Forest Service.

- The Commission will receive a final product from Northwest Natural Resources Group to complete the Pilot Project, which will be presented to the full commission during the Spring 2023 meeting.
- The Commission will continue to work with the Governor's Office to receive confirmation of the appointment of two new Commission members and reinstating four current Commissioner's for another term during calendar year 2023.
- The Commission is planning a field trip this summer to Northern Idaho to visit the Westside Project and see the implementation of forest health treatments within the adjacent roadless area.



Home

About OSC

The Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation (OSC) is dedicated to planning, coordinating and implementing the State's actions to preserve, protect and restore species listed as candidate, threatened and endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). This work is done in coordination with the State's natural resource agencies and input from the citizens of Idaho, while taking into consideration the economic vitality of the State. The OSC provides constituent services for state, federal and private stakeholders seeking assistance with ESA issues.

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