Governor's Roadless



Idaho Roadless

James L. Caswell, Chair

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Michael Gibson, Vice-Chair

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Agenda Virtual and In-person Meeting November 14, 2023

Meeting Starts at: 9:30 AM
Mountain Time (MT)/ 8:30 Am Pacific Time (PT)

Idaho Department of Fish and Game Headquarters
Owyhee Meeting Room
600 S. Walnut Street, Boise, Idaho 83712

Public Comment

The public is invited for to provide comment to the Roadless Commission. Comment on a specific project may be provided during that project update. If you wish to comment on a specific project during that projects' update, simply use the "raise your hand" feature and you will be called upon to comment. More general public comment may be provided at the allotted time on the agenda. If you wish to provide comment at the allotted public comment time, you must express your intent to comment in the chat feature and you will be placed on a list and called upon when it is your turn to provide comment. If no members of the public registers for public comment and the Commission has concluded the rest of the agenda items, the Commission may adjourn. Written comment may also be provided by email at Species. Conservation@osc.idaho.gov.

Idaho Roadless Commission Meeting

NOTES

November 14, 2023
Virtual and In Person Meeting

In Person Address:

Location: Idaho Department of Fish and Game Headquarters

Owyhee Meeting Room

600 S. Walnut St. Boise ID 83712

Video Teleconferencing Information:

Microsoft TEAMS: Join on your computer, mobile app or room device <u>Click here to join the meeting</u> Meeting ID: 228 591 816 92 Passcode: iUBkRu <u>Download Teams</u> | Join on the web

Introductions:

Commission Members present: Jim Caswell, Michael Gibson, Mike Hanna, Dale Harris, Brad Gilbert, Jonathan Oppenheimer, Bill Higgins, Pete Stegner,

Forest Service: Dan McKeague, Alison Ginn, Catherine Blackwell, Kelly Orr

Idaho State: Darren Parker (Risch), Jace Hogg, Dominique Cota

SECTION I: Welcome and Business Meeting – November 14

Call to Order – 9:30 – 10:00 am MT (8:30-9:00 am PT)

Welcome and Introductions:

- - Three members terms expire in February 2024: Billy Barquin, Jim Caswell, and Michael Gibson.
 - 2025: MOU will expire in February. Need to start working on it during the 2024 calendar vear.
 - Added update on field visit that occurred in Orogrande with CBC effort. Added to the agenda.
 - No briefing paper, just a report out.

Preliminary Action Items - 10:00 - 10:30 am MT (9:00 - 9:30 am PT)

Review/Approve 06/07/2023 notes...... Michael Gibson

- Any edits: None.
- Motion to approve by Jonathan Oppenheimer, Second by Mike Hanna, All in Favor. Moved.

Update Status Report on Pilot Project...... Michael Gibson/Jim Caswell

- Trying to document what has changed in terms of the roadless rules...pieces that are not included in wilderness and smaller than 500 acres.
 - o How to deal with leftover parcels?
 - O What acres by theme changed from roadless to wilderness?
 - o How are acres managed?
 - o Are boundary lines and themes compatible?
- Two roadless areas within this area.
- Three options for documentation: Something administrative may need legal advice from OSC. Language within the sunset in the 2015 bill, department can make adjustments to the boundaries. IRC Sub-committee needs USFS presence.
 - Kurt: Do you guys have something put in place for modification and corrections? A:
 Clause in the rule. Modification has 45-day public review.
 - Kurt: Scale is a rule change? A: Yes.
 - Questions that need answers: Are we going to manage it? Private in holdings status? Do we leave those as primitive or change them?
 - o 25,146 of roadless that became wilderness drops inventory.
 - Mike Hanna: Southern boundary towards Galena...Is that a different theme? A: That
 is outside of Roadless. General Forest. Not a theme just management. Why not just
 adjust that boundary?
 - Q: Why are the mining claims erased? A: Patented private ground so it is not roadless.
 - O Brad Gilbert: Any documents on why primitive areas aren't included in the bill? A:

 Not sure, negotiation and collaboration over many years. Wild land rec and forest
 plan recommended that wilderness was compatible. Simpson worked with USFS and
 recommended wilderness for planning designations. Core of the deliberations.
 - Committee report discusses history and reduction of acreage to keep trails open and snowmobiling open.
 - Micheal Gibson: TU built roadless layer and took out the wilderness designations from the older layer that shows original roadless units. May work on putting that back in.
 - o **Kurt:** Wilderness has precedence over roadless units.
 - Jim Caswell: Jerry Peak...we have a map that shows need to verify the BLM acres. Appendices by forest that has resources and status for each roadless area. 3 WSA's adjacent to the Boulder White Clouds. Acres for Jerry Peak has 46,000 acres. Not sure what happened there?
 - A: Math does add up but will double check.

- Get the report done so the Governor, Senator Risch, and Regions have it, so when the opportunity arises it's clean and ready to go. Recommendations on medium sized units, heavy discussion on the little sections included.
- o **Jim Caswell:** No reason to change primitive designations.
- Q: What would that do for hazard tree removal? A: Nothing. Manage as consistent with the forest plan.
- o EIS for rule, everything was rounded to 200 acres?
- Q: When was the last time we completed a modification? A: Adjustments for the in holdings during the forest planning effort before it was completed..like 4000 acres. In holdings became national forest and were adjacent to roadless. Modified those and decided to set up criteria and USFS went through modification process with that. Done around 2014, and Caribou-Targhee was 2015.
- **Bill:** How many object codes are there? **A:** Up to at least 230, not completely sure how the GIS guy did the numbers.
- 17 parcels that are .01 to 6 acres that spread. Four parcels between 14 to ? acres. Three parcels that are 123 to 708 acres. Two parcels that are from 1850 to 4571 acres. Two from 3600-4500 acres (large).
- The trail that was mentioned previously is motorized.
- Call the subcommittee together and put it into a document. Who will collaborate?
 - o Effective engagement? Forest level staff?
 - Yes. Must have the "ok" to say "we agree".
 - Will hold a brief to have everyone on the same page.
- **Dale:** Do we need a formal request to the agency to get their attention? **A:** We are right now. All within Region 4, but setting precedent for all regions. Forest level engagement and then regional office engagement for the process.
 - Also need somebody from Sawtooth and Salmon Challis.
 - o Transparent with the opportunistic timeline about when these mods would happen.
- Changes in Staffing note from Dan:
 - Intention to do forest plan revision in a consistent way. Mountain planning group for regions 1-4.
 - 10 year rotations for staff.
- Micheal: Sawtooth may see revision in 10 years? A: TBD but that is the intent.
- **Jim:** Within the next two weeks...pull subcommittee together to look at the entire map and get an outline. Jim and Michael work on the document. Finalize in Jan/Feb and review at the Spring 2025 meeting.
 - Contacting Catherine Blackwell and someone from GIS shop would be the best approach.

Update on Project Spreadsheet......Catherine Blackwell

- Catherine updated the projects that now have decisions.
 - Noticed things that need cleaning up: numbers have been tallied rather than formulated as usual. Will work with each forest this winter.
 - How is information presented? How do we show projects on hold or taken off entirely?
 - Jim Caswell: In the Spring or before, share the outcome of your clean up work.
 Catherine: Will do, was well maintained but could be more effective in showing the detail that matters.
 - Mike Hanna: Old NEPA has a lifespan and needs to be removed. Anything that has been litigated?
 - Focus on the columns that show what HAS been done and completed.
 - Check in meeting sometime in March before the Spring meeting to go over updates/outcomes.
- Let Catherine know if there is anything you would like to see.

Orogrande, ID Visit......Mike Hanna/Jace Hogg/Bill Higgins

- Meeting was organized by CBC.
- Gathering at Red River Ranger District and discussed their USFS challenges with maintaining crews and housing.
- Stewardship contracts and maintenance work. Not sure if the ranger pursued that funding source.
- Orogrande & Williams Fire:
 - Mitigation work around Williams. Strategic fuel breaks above and around township.
 Was really successful, fire crews were proud of those anchor points to fight the fire.
 - o Several locals joined and structure protection discussion.
 - Possible need for USFS education on what is done now for fires with that severity. To decrease push back for the future.
- Jace Hogg:
 - Dramatic landscape and structures that were still standing were showing incredible signs of regrowth.
 - Reporter from NPR on wildfire strategy was present.
- Bill Higgins: Challenges
 - o Focus on the time it took.
 - Jim Caswell: Wasn't there a building that burned on the South end of Orogrande beyond where the treatments stopped? A: The old hotel at Williams Creek burnt and there may have been another structure. Were in the face of where it came over the hill.
 - Prioritizes where to put the money...screening CPZ's and sharing areas to focus on.
 Most are prioritized but could be even higher priorities. Want to help with that decision making.
 - Kurt: Video from USFS was produced.
 - USFS struggles to tell our story. That was effective treatment and that should be highlighted. Many comments that they aren't...but to show this and how it increases chances to work.

Break - 10:45 am - 11:00 am MT (9:45- 10:00 am PT)

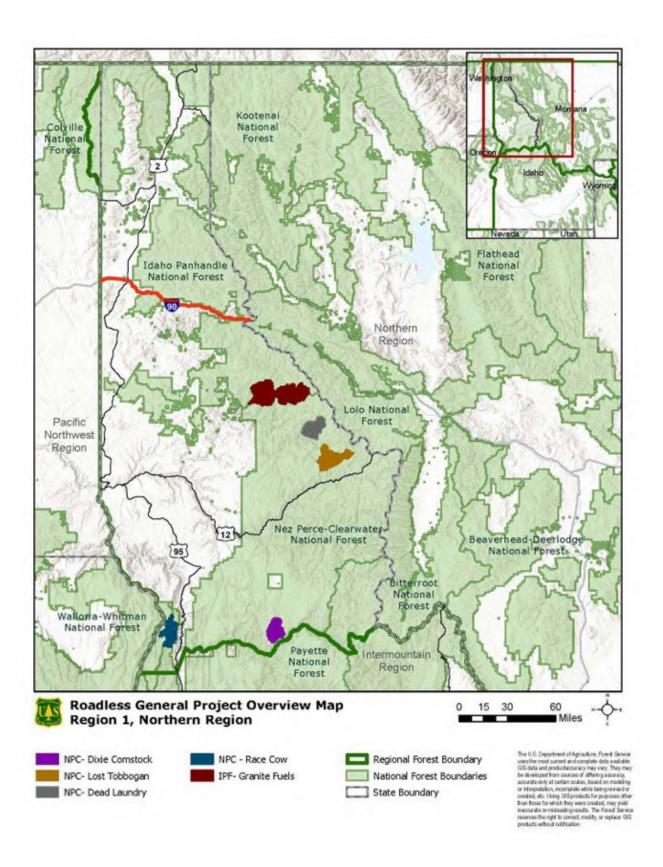
Regular Agenda – Action Items – 11:00 am – 5:00 pm MT (10:00 am – 11:30 pm PT)

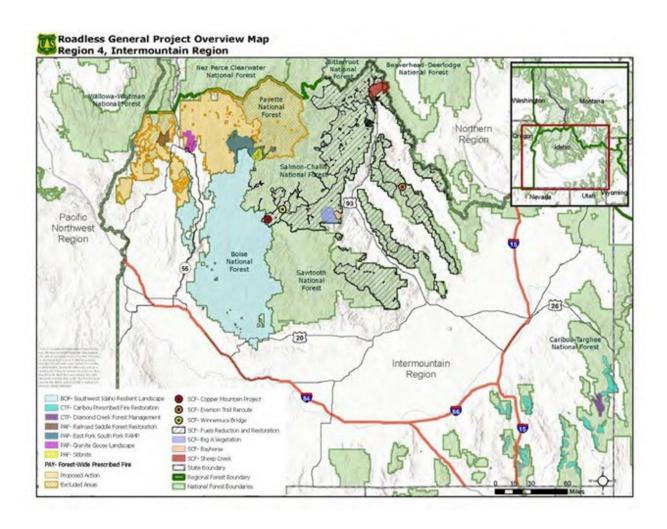
PROJECT UPDATES and NEW PROJECTS

1.	Non-Timber, Roads, or Minerals Small Projects – Catherine Blackwell – Includes all Forests: Winnemucca Bridge Project (Salmon-Challis) Initial Briefing
	Break – 12:30 – 1:30 pm MT (11:30- 12:30 pm PT) Comment – 1:30 – 2:30 pm MT (12:30 – 1:30 pm PT)
2.	<u>Idaho Panhandle National Forests</u> – <i>Joe Ford, Environmental Coordinator</i> Granite Fuels (Idaho Panhandle)
3.	Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest — Anjel Tomayko, Environmental Coordinator Forest Plan Revision
4.	<u>Caribou- Targhee Nation Forest</u> – Ashly Kula, NEPA Planner Caribou Prescribed Fire Restoration
Break	– 3:00 – 3:15 PM MT (2:30- 2:15 PM PT)
5.	<u>Boise National Forest</u> – <i>Terre Pearson-Ramirez, Environmental Coordinator</i> Southwest Idaho Resilient Landscape (SWIRL) No update at this time; will bring project back for Spring 2024 meeting.
6.	Payette National Forest – Kara Kirkpatrick-Kreit, Environmental CoordinatorStibnite Gold EIS (very brief update)Update/StatusEast Fork South Fork RAMPUpdate/StatusRailroad Saddle Forest RestorationUpdate/StatusPayette Forest-Wide Prescribed FireUpdate/Status
7.	Salmon-Challis National Forest – Jeff Hunteman, NEPA Planner Update Forest Plan Revision

Everson Creek Trail Reroute	Initial Briefing
No Projects: Kootenai National Forest Sawtooth National Forest	
Feedback on today's meeting and discussion of future meetings	
Adjourn – 5:00 pm MT, 4:00 pm PT	

Overview Maps	
Region 1	
Region 4	





Section II: Project Updates and New Projects

R1/R4 National Forests

Non-Timber, Roads or Minerals Small Projects

The following Table provides a summary of new small projects that have *no tree cutting, road construction/reconstruction, or mineral activities*. Projects that include any of these activities are addressed individually below the table.

Winnemucca Bridge Project...... Initial Briefing

Decision was signed last week. November 2023.

Additional Notes:

No further questions/comments.

Region 1 and 4 (Idaho portion) Inventoried Roadless Area Briefing Template for Projects that DO NOT INCLUDE Timber, Road, or Mineral Activities:

National Forest: Salmon – Challis National Forest

Project Name: Winnemucca Bridge Project

IRA Name and Theme: Loon Creek IRA; Backcountry Restoration

Type of Activity e.g., planting, prescribed burn, waterline, etc.): The project involves constructing a 50" trail bridge across Winnemucca Creek to replace an existing ford crossing on the Motorized Vehicle Trail #4034 in the Loon Creek IRA. Trail is already established – trail maintenance will occur. Access to site will utilize existing roads, FS Rd #008, Fs Rd #172, and Fs Rd #354. Staging for project will occur at the intersection of FS Rd #172 and FS Rd #008,~3.5 miles from project site, outside of roadless. The project will be completed during the summer of 2024 – 2028. Design and implementation will be coordinated with Trout Unlimited, Tread Lightly, and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation.

Approximate Acres of Activity within IRA: Activities will occur in approximately 2 acres of the Loon Creek IRA.

NEPA type (CE, EA, EIS) and expected Decision Date: CE, Decision expected Spring of 2024.

National Forest: Idaho Panhandle National Forest/St. Joe Ranger District

Project Name: Granite Fuels

IRA Name and Theme: The project area consists of the following Forest Plan Management Areas:

65% Recommended Wilderness (MA 1b) 17% Backcountry (MA 5) 6% Wild and Scenic River (MA 2a Wild)

1% Wild and Scenic River (MA 2a Recreation)1% General Forest (MA 6)10% State of Idaho Snow Peak WMA

Type of Activity e.g., planting, prescribed burn, waterline, etc.): Use fire (both planned and unplanned ignitions) over 112,266 acres to modify vegetation and trend towards forest plan desired conditions for composition and structure for the biophysical settings within the project area. Use fire (both planned and unplanned ignitions) to insure sufficient quantities of high-quality, palatable shrubs and forbs for big game. Return fire to the project area to establish a pattern of forest conditions across the landscape that consists of a range of patch sizes that have a diversity of successional stages,

densities, and compositions. Increase in the size of forest patches that are dominated by trees in the seedling/sapling size class, as well as in the large size class. Decrease in the size of the patches that are dominated by trees in the small and medium size classes. Protect overall backcountry experience for the recreating public.

No timber cutting, sales, or removal are proposed in this project. No road construction or reconstruction are proposed in this project.

Approximate Acres of Activity within IRA: All 112,266 acres are within Roadless. There are some existing roads within this area but anything outside of those existing corridors is roadless.

NEPA type (CE, EA, EIS) and expected Decision Date: CE, Decision expected (TBD) – Yet to be scoped.

Important: Send completed Briefing Template to the Idaho Roadless Coordinator (Catherine Blackwell, mary.blackwell@usda.gov) prior to signing Decision document.

- Pre scoping assessment and surveys.
- Commission Discussion:

Jim: Briefing paper isn't present...but was moved from small to normal projects.

Jim: Going to want to track this through NEPA.

Catherine: Challenge with pulling the packages together..leaving enough time to compile. Thinking about having folks update the package itself so that info is updated closer to the meeting. Striving to have increased communication.

Chuck Mark: Project is sorely needed.

Jonathan: Fire up there is Sawtooth creek within the project area? Effectively count or would it just be baseline? **A:** Baseline. Long history of managing fire in this area, mostly logical values. Sawtooth was a light burn. Doesn't change the character of roadless area.

No further questions/comments.

Motion to bring this back Mike Hanna, Second by Michael Gibson, All in favor. Moved.

Public Comment:
No public comment.

Individual Projects by Forest:

The following are the generally larger, individual projects. These projects may or may not require the use of an exception under the Idaho Roadless Rule.

Nez Perce—Clearwater National Forests

Project: Forest Plan Revision			
District: Nez Perce- Clearwater National Forests, Forest-wide	Roadless Area: All Nez Perce- Clearwater National Forests		
Status: Working through ESA and Tribal Consultation on preferred alternative/proposed decision and incorporation comments on the DEIS into analysis. Preparing document for release and preparing for briefing to the Washinton Office in the fall	Table Location:	Project Lead: Sara Daugherty sara.daugherty@usda.gov Link to Project Briefing Paper:	
Project Summary: Road Construction/Reconstruction: No. Timber Cutting, Sale, or Removal: No site specific actions authorized under revision, would not preclude harvest from being proposed in IRA's in the future. Discretionary Minerals: No Modification or Correction: Not proposed at this time. Timeline: FEIS Release: Fall 2023 Objection Period: Fall/Winter 2023 and into early 2024 Record of Decision/Revised Forest Plan: 2024			
Does Proposed Activity require use of an Exception?	Yes: – Exception:	No	
Commission Discussion:			
No questions/comments. Action Requested: None			

Project: Forest Plan Revision			
District: Nez Perce- Clearwater National Forests, Forest-wide	Roadless Area: All Nez Perce- Clearwater National Forests		
Status: Working through ESA and Tribal Consultation on preferred alternative/proposed decision and incorporation comments on the DEIS into analysis. Preparing document for release and preparing for briefing to the Washinton Office in the fall	Table Location:	Project Lead: Sara Daugherty sara.daugherty@usda.gov Link to Project Briefing Paper:	
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Does Proposed Activity require use of an Exception?	Yes: – Exception:	No	
Commission Discussion: No questions/comments. Action Requested: None			

Project: Race Cow			
District: Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forest - Salmon River Ranger District Wallow-Whitman NF - Hells Canyon National Recreation Area	Roadless Area: Salmon Face IRA #855 – 9,200 acres, no-CPZ Klopton Creek-Corral Creek IRA #854 – 21,300 acres; 7,100 acres CPZ; 14,200 acres non-CPZ.		
Status: Preparing	Table Location:	Project Lead:	
Environmental EA and Draft		Jeff Shinn	
DN/FONSI		208-839-2103	
		Brian Anderson	
		541-426-5501 Link to Project Briefing Paper:	
 Road Construction/Reconstruction: No. Timber Cutting, Sale, or Removal: Yes, approximately 121 acres of grassland improvement. Improve grass production by reducing conifer encroachment in and adjacent to grasslands. Felling of trees by hand or mastication equipment, followed by prescribed burning. Discretionary Minerals: No. Modification or Correction: No. 			
Does Proposed Activity require	Yes: ✓	No	
use of an Exception?	Exception: 294.23 (b)(1)(iv),		
	294.23 (e), 294.24,		
	94.24(c)(1)(vii), 294.24(c)(ii),		
Commission Discussion:	294.24(c)(iii).		
Commission			
No questions/comments.			
Action Requested: None.			

Project: Dead Laundry			
District: Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests North Fork Ranger District	Roadless Area: Proposed treatment units are within Moose Mountain and Hoodoo RAs.		
Status: The project was scoped to the public in March 2020. The draft EA will initiate another public scoping period (estimated for April 2021).	Table Location: Table 2	Project Lead: Andrew Skowlund 208 476-8223 Link to Project Briefing Paper:	

NFMA field work has been			
conducted, issue identification			
and alternative development			
has been completed following			
scoping. The decision is			
currently scheduled for Fall of			
2021.Project put out for			
objections 12/31/2021 and			
withdrawn March 25, 2022 –			
Need to finish the over 40-			
acre approval process per			
updated RO direction			
(10/21/2020) before going out			
for objections.			
Project Summary:			
Road Construction	/Reconstruction: No new permar	nent road construction is	
proposed in any F	RA.		
Timber Cutting, Sale, or Removal: No			
■ Discretionary Minerals: No			
Modification or Co	orrection: No		
	ections have been resolved. North I		
adding additional documentation to the project record to comply with instructions from the			
objection resolution.			
Dan Dan de		A.	
Does Proposed Activity require	Yes - ✓	No	
use of an Exception?	Exception: 294.24(c)(1)(vii)		
Commission Discussion:			
No questions/comments.			
Action Requested: None.			

Project: Lost Toboggan Landscape Prescribed Burn Project			
District: Nez Perce –	Roadless Area: Hoodoo and Bigh	orn-Weitas	
Clearwater; North Fork and			
Lochsa/Powell Districts			
Status: Small NEPA CE scoped,	Table Location: Table 2	Project Lead:	
still waiting for heritage work to		Theodore Peterson	
be completed, and wildlife		208 476-8257	
(wolverine). Anticipated		Link to Project Briefing Paper:	

implementation is field season of 2023.		
Project Summary: Road Construction/Reconstruction: No road construction or reconstruction will occur on this project. Timber Cutting, Sale, or Removal: No Discretionary Minerals: No minerals will be removed as a component of this project. No active mining claims exist within the project area. Modification or Correction: The activity does not require a modification or correction.		
Does Proposed Activity require	Yes –	No

Does Proposed Activity require	Yes –	No
use of an Exception?	Exception:	

Commission Discussion:

No update at this time; will bring project back for Spring 2024 meeting.

Jim Caswell: Still accurate status? A: Yes, will follow up at the next meeting.

Action Requested: None.

Project: Dixie Comstock Community Protection			
District: Nez Perce – Clearwater	Roadless Area: Gospel Hump IRA – 46,300 acres (16,600 in CPZ,		
National Forests, Red River	29,700 non-CPZ)		
Ranger District	Gospel Hump Adjacent to Wilderness IRA – 2,400 acres (no-CPZ)		
	Dixie Summit – Nut Hill IRA.		
Status: Pre-Scoping.	Table Location: Table 2		
		Cheryl Probert – 208 935-2513	
		Jennie Fischer – 208 983-4048	
		Tom McLeod – 208 842-2117	
		Jeremy Harris – 208 983-4047	
		Link to Project Briefing Paper:	

Project Summary:

- **Road Construction/Reconstruction:** Yes Road Construction. Approximately 1 mile of temporary road construction proposed in Gospel Hump IRA. Temporary roads would be decommissioned following use. See Table 1, Map 7 and Map 8.
- **Timber Cutting, Sale, or Removal:** Yes. Activities proposed in the Gospel Hump Idaho Roadless Area include: commercial timber harvest (374 acres), noncommercial timber cutting (201 acres), and hand thinning (101 acres). Commercial timber will be removed using helicopter or tractor logging systems. Non- commercial material would be removed mechanically or by hand.
- **Discretionary Minerals:** No.
- Modification or Correction: No.

Does Proposed Activity require use of an Exception?	Yes - ✓ Exception: 294.24(c)(1)(i)(iv)(v), 294.28(d)(iv)(v), 294.23 (b)(2), 294.23(c)(1)(i)	No
Commission Discussion:		
Brad Gilbert: What is the forest p	riority here? A: Strike team is the r	number one priority. There is a lot
of urgency on Sheryl's part and th	is will go across the finish line in th	e next calendar year.
Jace: Scoping period and commer and no objections period.	nt period will be combined? A: Yes,	combing EA and Scoping period
Kurt: Has this been approved? A:	Was approved.	
Mike Hanna: What else does that	t bring to the table other than elim	, ,

Funding to be around, because of wildfire crisis strategy...emergency authorization...does not have a determination of funding source.

Jon Oppenheimer: Regeneration efforts proposed..within or outside CPZ? Any distinctions contemplated relative to retention of larger trees inside v outside roadless? **A:** All within CPZ, 24 acres outside of burning. Will follow up on second part of the question.

No further questions/comments.

Action 1	Req	uestea	<i>!:</i> N	lone.
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Motion to bring back all of projects back by Brad Gilbert, Seconded by Jonathan Oppenheimer, All in favor. Moved.

Caribou—Targhee National Forest

Project: Caribou Prescribed Fire Restoration			
District: Caribou Portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. Montpelier, Soda Springs, & Westside Ranger Districts	Roadless Area: 20 Roadless Areas. See Table 2.		
Status: Preparing Decision Document.	Table Location:	Project Lead: Dylan Johnson 208-281-7075	

		Link to Project Briefing Paper:	
Desired Conservation			
 Road Construction/Reconstruction: No road construction or reconstruction would occur within the IRA's. Timber Cutting, Sale, or Removal: No commercial harvesting would occur within any of the IRAs. However, pretreatment activities are planned to occur in all IRAs except for themes Wildland Recreation or Primitive. No pretreatment activities (slashing, hand thinning, or mastication) will occur in either of these two themes in the Caribou City, Meade Peak, or Stump Creek roadless areas. However, incidental cutting of small diameter trees and limbing of larger trees would only occur for fire line construction. Discretionary Minerals: No. Modification or Correction: No. Timeline: January 2024 is the target date for issuance of the decision documents.			
Does Proposed Activity require use of an Exception?	Yes: - ✓ Exception: 294.24(a),	No	
	294.24(b), 294.24(c)(1) (iv & v),		
	294.24 (d), 294.28(d).		
Commission Discussion: Jon Oppenheimer: Objections related to roadless? A: Some of them, worked through the objection points and upheld the analysis on that. Major points were about it being adaptive management.			
Brad Gilbert: Any forest wide bur	ning project have been approved? .	A: In Salmon Challis.	
No further questions/comments.			

Action Requested: None

Project: Diamond Creek Forest Management			
District: Caribou- Targhee/Montpelier and Soda Springs Ranger District.	Roadless Area: Dry Ridge, Sage Creek, and Stump Creek.		
Status: Preparing Environmental EA and Draft DN/FONSI.	Table Location: Table 2	Project Lead: Dylan Johnson 208-281-7075 Link to Project Briefing Paper:	
Project Summary: Road Construction/Reconstruction: Both the proposed action and action alternative propose reopening and/or construction temporary roads with three different IRA's. Refer to Table 2 an Table 4 for more details. Timber Cutting, Sale, or Removal: Both the proposed action and action alternative proposed timber cutting, sale, or removal with in the IRA's. Refer to Table 1 and Table 3 for more details. Discretionary Minerals: Not in the roadless areas. The proposed action does include using mineral materials from the inactive Timber Creek Pit. Modification or Correction: No. Timeline: Environmental Assessment and Draft DN/ FONSI released to the public on August 4, 2023. Decision expected to be signed in October 2023.			
Does Proposed Activity require use of an Exception?	Yes - √ Exception: 294.23(c), 294.24(1)(c)(iv, v), 294.24(d).	No	
Commission Discussion: Excitement that this was signed!! No further questions/comments. Action Requested:			

Motion to bring Caribou Prescribed Fire Restoration once more by Mike Hanna, Second by Michael Gibson, All in favor. Moved.

Boise National Forest

Project: Southwest Idaho Resilient Landscape Project (SWIRL)		
District: Boise National Forest /	Roadless Area: Multiple	
Emmett, Cascade, Lowman,		

Idaho City, and Mountain Home			
Ranger Districts			
Status: Project is being	Table Location:	Project Lead:	
analyzed. Public comment		Ryan Jones	
period expected July 2023.		ryan.c.jones@usda.gov	
		Link to Project Briefing Paper:	
Project Summary:			
 Road Construction 	n/Reconstruction: No		
Timber Cutting. Sa	ile, or Removal: Yes. Non-commer	cial thinning treatments would	
•	of generally small diameter trees	<u> </u>	
ŭ	I felling of a larger tree to mitigate		
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	e public. The material would not be		
The proposed action	on does not include the use of harve	esting systems as a pre-	
treatment.			
Discretionary Min	Discretionary Minerals: No		
 Modification or Correction: No 			
Does Proposed Activity require	Yes -	No	
use of an Exception?			
	Exception: 294.24		
Commission Discussion:			
No update at this time; will bring project back for Spring 2024 meeting.			
Jim Caswell: Will see this in the spring? Catherine: Yes.			
Action Requested: None			

Payette National Forest

Project: Stibnite Gold Project			
District: Payette (Lead Forest) and Boise National Forests	Roadless Area: Black Creek, Burnt Log, Meadow Creek IRA's		
Status: Preparing final EIS.	Table Location: Project Lead: Kevin Knesek 208 819-5786		
Project Summary:	Link to Project Briefing Paper:		
 Road Construction/Reconstruction: Yes. The Burntlog Route (38 miles) for SGP access 			
during last year of construction, mining and ore processing operations, and closure and			

reclamation. Includes improvements of existing segments (23 miles) and road construction for new segments (15 miles).

- **Timber Cutting, Sale, or Removal:** Yes. Non-commercial tree removal related to 63 miles of upgraded transmission lines, along Burnt Log improvement/new construction areas, and the mine operations area.
- Discretionary Minerals: No, as this project falls under the General Mining Law of 1872.
- Modification or Correction: No, as the Idaho Roadless Rule has exceptions/conditioned permissions for minerals activities/road construction.

Does Proposed Activity require	Yes - ✓	No
use of an Exception?	Exception: 294.24 (c),	
	294.25(b).	

Commission Discussion:

Jim Caswell: Anything changed in terms of current proposal? **A:** Nothing significant, small acreage changes.

Jon Oppenheimer: Commission never took an official vote..and that is not the commission's role. Questions around the road, log route and these date back about four years. Briefing paper discussed burnt log route during the last year of construction. What does that mean? They have access to the road during the last year of construction but not after? A: Burnt log is the primary route, and will be used for the life of the project. Johnson creek route will be the only way to get in until burnt log is completed.

Jon Oppenheimer: Insight on whether that route will be open to administrative once constructed? **A:** New sections completed and then the public will have access to what they currently do have.

Jon Oppenheimer: Permanent nail walls, also decommissioned? **A:** Will get an answer back to the commission.

Jim Caswell: SGP acronym meaning? A: Stibnite Gold Project.

No further questions/comments.

Action Requested: None

Project: East Fork South Fork Restoration and Access Management Plan (EFSF			
RAMP)			
District: Payette NF, Krassel RD	Roadless Area: Caton Lake, Hors	se Heaven, Sugar Mountain,	
	Meadow Creek, Secesh		
Status: The project was	Table Location: Project Lead:		
initiated in August 2019 with		Joshua Simpson	
field validation of the draft Big	208 634-0616		
Creek-Yellow Pine Collaborative	Link to Project Briefing Paper:		
proposal. The initial Project			

Scoping period closed on		
November 22, 2021. The		
environmental assessment is		
being drafted currently and is		
anticipated for publishing for a		
public comment period in late		
2023 or early 2024.		
Project Summary:		
 Road Construction 	n/Reconstruction: Unknown at thi	s time.
Timber Cutting, Sa	le, or Removal: Possibly, due to pot	tential road decommissioning and
trail maintenance a	activities.	
 Discretionary Mine 	erals: No, there is no mineral activi	ty associated with this project.
 Modification or Co 		,
•		
Have not gone out for comment	maybe this winter. Capacity issue	with this EA.
Does Proposed Activity require	Yes - ✓	No
use of an Exception?		
	Exception: 294.24(c)(1)(vii)	
Commission Discussion:		
	w motorized trail for all vehiclewi	thin or outside of roadless? A: Not
sure, Catherine will get the answe	er back to commission.	
Ion Onnanhaimar: Man is illegible	e. Impossible to see the proposed ro	outos
John Oppermenner: Wap is megible	Impossible to see the proposed re	outes.
No further questions/comments.		
questions, comments.		
Action Requested: None		

Project: Railroad Saddle Forest Restoration Project		
District: Payette National	Roadless Area: Rapid River	
Forest, New Meadows District		
Status: The project is awaiting	Table Location:	Project Lead:
the biological opinion from		Kara Kirkpatrick
USFWS, before signature of the		208 631-8427
decision notice.		Link to Project Briefing Paper:

Project Summary:

- Road Construction/Reconstruction: No
- Timber Cutting, Sale, or Removal: Within the Rapid River IRA, trees are proposed to be cut for site preparation for whitebark pine planting and for pre-treatment before prescribed fire. Vegetation removed will be small diameter trees and brush or other vegetation, with the occasional felling of a larger tree to mitigate hazards of those

working within the burn area or the public. The material would not be removed from the IRA or sold. The proposed action does not include the use of harvesting systems as a pre-treatment. The prescribed burning and whitebark pine planting in the Rapid River IRA is only a small aspect of the larger project.

Discretionary Minerals: NoModification or Correction: No

Timeline: The estimated final decision is Fall 2023 – Awaiting BO from USFWS. Expected in October.

Does Proposed Activity require	Yes - ✓	No
use of an Exception?		
	Exception: 294.24 (a)(1)(2)	
Commission Discussion:		
No questions/comments.		
Action Requested: None		

Project: Payotto National Forest Positions and Fuels Podustion Proscribed Fire		
Project: Payette National Forest Resilience and Fuels Reduction Prescribed Fire		
Project		
District: Payette National Forest	Roadless Area: Multiple.	
/ Council, Weiser, New		
Meadows, McCall, and Krassel		
Ranger Districts.		
Status: The project is being	Table Location:	Project Lead:
analyzed. Scoping period		Linda Jackson
occurred in November 2022.		
Public comment period on the		Link to Project Briefing Paper:
EA expected September 2023.		
Project Summary:		
 Road Construction 	n/Reconstruction: No	
Timber Cutting, Sa	ile, or Removal: Yes. Non-commer	cial thinning treatments would
include the cutting of generally small-diameter trees and brush or other vegetation,		
with the occasional felling of a larger tree to mitigate hazards of those working within		
the burn area or the public. The material would not be removed from the IRA or sold.		
The proposed action does not include the use of harvesting systems as a pre-		
treatment.		
Discretionary Min	erals: No	
Modification or Correction: No		
Does Proposed Activity require	Yes - ✓	No
use of an Exception?		
	Exception: 294-24	

Commission Discussion:
Jon Oppenheimer: Hand thinningnon-commercial and to facilitate the prescribed fire? A: Yes.
No further questions/comments.
Action Requested: None

Motion to bring East Fork/South Fork Ramp, Stibnite Gold, and Forest Wide By Jonathan Oppenheimer, Seconded by Mike Hanna, All in favor. Moved.

Lunch Break from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm.

Salmon—Challis National Forest

Project: Forest Plan Revision		
District: Salmon-Challis National Forest	Roadless Area: Salmon: 30 Idaho Roadless Areas, Challis: 28 IRAs	
Status: Multi year planning effort was initiated in October 2016. Phase 1, Assessments and collaborative relationships just beginning.	Table Location:	Project Lead: Josh Milligan 208-756-5560 Link to Project Briefing Paper:

Project Summary:

- Road Construction/Reconstruction:
- Timber Cutting, Sale, or Removal:
- Discretionary Minerals:
- Modification or Correction: None proposed.

The new Forest Plan will not propose specific projects or activities which include these features, but will outline what areas are suitable for such and conducted underdeveloped standards and guidelines.

Does Proposed Activity require	Yes -	No
use of an Exception?		
	Exceptions: TBD	

Commission Discussion:

Michael Gibson: How much of the work will be carried on? Next year will be a review of what's been done? **A:** Yes, hope to utilize the most we can after starting in 2018. Mountain planning service group will help with those concurrent processes. **A:** National perspective, tweaked to fit in that scale.

Brad Gilbert: How do you assure your agreement with the commissioners after you retire? **A:** Nothing engraved in stone or documented as an agreement at this point. Handshake agreement with the commissioners. Discretions with MPG, differences with the forest and similarly with needs for change that we are looking at. Looking at gaining efficiency with analysis.

No further questions/comments.

Action Requested: None

Project: Sheep Creek Vegetation Improvement Project		
District: Salmon-Challis National	Roadless Area: West big hole - 943	
Forest / North Fork District		
Status: NFMA gathering,	Table Location: Project Lead:	
collaborative development, and		Chris Waverek
public engagement of Purpose		208 865-2731
and Need and Proposed Action.		Link to Project Briefing Paper:

Project Summary:

- Road Construction/Reconstruction: Road needs will be defined within the next several months to ensure access and miles reflect the project purpose and need. However, it is anticipated that new temporary roads would be utilized within the project area to remove merchantable timber, to access critical areas for hazardous fuels reduction work, and use as fire control lines. When possible, these temporary roads would be constructed utilizing existing or old roads or skid trail corridors and/or access routes that already exist. All newly constructed temporary roads would be fully decommissioned after use. Existing FS system roads would be improved to facilitate use and access. These routes may be used by but are not limited to tracked/rubber tired equipment, 4x4 vehicles and other machinery needed to conduct fuels management activities. We are currently evaluating the authority provided by 36 CFR 220.6 (e) (6) that allows no more than one mile of low standard road construction to determine additional treatment opportunities.
- Timber Cutting, Sale, or Removal: A variety of treatments would likely be utilized to meet the purpose and need of the project including ground and cable based commercial and non-commercial harvest systems, pre-commercial thinning, prescribed fire, and pile burning. Harvestable timber acres for commercial and noncommercial use will be defined within the next several months to ensure acres reflect the project purpose and need. Thinning and piling of trees less than 10 inches in diameter with a tree spacing from 20 feet to 50 feet will occur throughout a majority of the project area. This type of treatment will depend on specific prescriptions that will reflect treatment location, past/current insect/disease areas and sensitive

tree species like Aspen or White bark pine. **Discretionary Minerals:** No **Modification or Correction:** No Project Update: Decision pending ESA concurrence. Does Proposed Activity require Yes - ✓ No__ use of an Exception? **Exception:** 294.23 (b) (2), 294.23 (d) (1), 294.23 (d) (2), 294.24 (c), 294.24 (c) (i), 294.24 (c) (vii), 294.24 (d), 294.28 (d), 294.29 (f) **Commission Discussion:** Jim Caswell: ESA consultation complete? A: Yes. We were waiting for that. Verbal agreement to move forward with the project. **Jon Oppenheimer:** Relative to temporary road construction within general forest, contract stipulations about need for decommissioning after the project. A: Acknowledged. Jim Caswell: Anticipating first part of the year? A: Yes, 45-day objection period and go from there to implement this coming summer.

Project: Bayhorse Project V2		
District: Salmon-Challis N.F., Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger District	Roadless Area: Paasasikwana Naokwaide	
Status: Ready for decision.	Table Location:	Project Lead: Heath S Perrine 208 879-4125 Link to Project Briefing Paper:

Project Summary:

No further questions/comments.

Action Requested: None

- Road Construction/Reconstruction: There is potential for maintenance of Forest Roads.
- Timber Cutting, Sale, or Removal: There would be no commercial cutting of trees in IRA. The noncommercial cutting of trees would be authorized to reduce conifers encroaching into sagebrush, restoration of aspen and whitebark, and conifers that are encroaching into fen/wetlands. Other noncommercial thinning would reduce live and dead fuels and ladder fuels. Fire control line would use landscape feature (rock scree),

	s where possible, but in cases contr	ol line could be constructed in IRA
and require the felling of trees.		
Discretionary Minerals: No		
 Modification or Co 	orrection: None.	
Does Proposed Activity require	Yes - ✓	No
use of an Exception?		
	Exception: 294.23(e),	
	294.24(c)(1)(iii), 294.24(c)(1)(iv),	
	294.24(c)(1)(v), 294.24(c)(1)(vii)	
Commission Discussion:		
Bood Cillord Cood and		
Brad Gilbert: Good work.		
No further questions/comments		
No juither questions/comments	•	
Action Requested: None		
netion nequested. None		
Project: Salmon-Challis Fu	uels Reduction and Restora	tion Proiect
District: Salmon-Challis N.F	Roadless Area: All	Section 4
Status: NFMA gathering, collaborative development, and	Table Location:	Project Lead: Christine Droske
public engagement of Purpose		406-529-1750
and Need and Proposed Action. Link to Project Briefing Paper:		
Project Summary:	/Paganetrustian: No roads would	he constructed or reconstructed
 Road Construction/Reconstruction: No roads would be constructed or reconstructed. 		
Existing Forest Service roads would be utilized to access treatment units and/or as		
prescribed fire control lines.		
 Timber Cutting, Sale, or Removal: Yes. Hand treatment of vegetation using chainsaws 		

- **Timber Cutting, Sale, or Removal:** Yes. Hand treatment of vegetation using chainsaws and hand tools would include thinning, piling, lop and scatter, pruning, and girdling to meet the purpose and need of the project and applicable Idaho Roadless Management Theme.
- Discretionary Minerals: NoModification or Correction: No

Does Proposed Activity require	Yes - ✓	No
use of an Exception?		
	Exception: 294.23 (d)(2),	
	294.24(a), 294.24 (b)(ii)(iii)(v),	
	294.24 (c)(i)(ii)(iv)(v))vii).	
	294.24(d), 294.24(a), 294.26(b),	
	294.29(f)	
Commission Discussion:		

No questions/comments.	
Action Requested: None	

Project: Big A Vegetation		
District: Salmon-Challis N.F. Challis-Yankee Fork R.D.		
Status: Decision.	Table Location:	Project Lead: Erin Pierson 208 879-4155
		Link to Project Briefing Paper:

Project Summary:

Road Construction/Reconstruction: Yes. An estimated 1.5 miles of new temporary road construction will be needed to reduce hazardous fuel conditions and reduce the risk of wildland fire disturbance that could directly or indirectly adversely affect the atrisk community of Challis, Idaho, and its municipal watershed in Garden Creek. The Garden Creek Municipal Watershed is approximately one mile northeast of the proposed IRA units. The community of Challis is in the Garden Creek Watershed further to the northeast. Historic burn patterns on the Salmon-Challis NF indicate wildland fire generally moves in a northeast direction. The expected burn pattern of a wildfire in the Squaw Creek Drainage would pose a risk to the municipal watershed and the at-risk community.

294.23(b)(3)(i) The Regional Forester may approve temporary road construction or road reconstruction to reduce hazardous fuel conditions outside a community protection zone where in the Regional Foresters judgement the circumstances set out below exist. Temporary road construction or road construction to reduce fuels conditions under this provision will be dependent on forest type and is expected to be infrequent. There is significant risk that a wildland fire disturbance event could adversely affect an at-risk community or maniple water supply system pursuant to 294.24(c)(1)(ii). A significant risk exists where the history of fire occurrence, and fire hazard and risk, indicate a serious likelihood that a wildland fire disturbance event would present a high risk of threat to an at-risk community or municipal water supply system.

294.23(b)(3)(ii) The Regional Forester may approve temporary road construction or road reconstruction to reduce hazardous fuel conditions outside a community protection zone where in the Regional Foresters judgement the circumstances set out below exist. Temporary road construction or road construction to reduce fuels conditions under this provision will be dependent on forest type and is expected to be infrequent. The activity cannot be reasonably accomplish without a temporary road.

- **Timber Cutting, Sale, or Removal:** Yes. Proposed 705 acres of commercial harvest, timber stand improvement and aspen restoration.
- Discretionary Minerals: No

 Modification or Correction: None. 			
Does Proposed Activity require	Yes - ✓	No	
use of an Exception?			
	Exception: 294.24(c)(1)(ii),		
	294.24(c)(1)(iv),		
	294.24(c)(1)(viii),		
Commission Discussion:			
Jim Caswell: Think you will make it by the end of year? A: Maybe even the end of the day!			

Jon Oppenheimer: Briefing paper cites the portion of the rule, allowing timber cutting in an area that has been logged or roaded prior to 2008.. insight on what those areas were and on the task management? **A:** In major drainage, there was some significant commercial harvest and road construction prior to 2008 and designated as back country restoration. Impacted by past actions.

Q: When exactly? A: 260 acres, not sure..maybe late 1980's early 1990's.

No further questions/comments.

Action Requested: None

Project: Copper Mountai	oject: Copper Mountain Road Reroute		
District: Salmon-Challis N.F, Middle Fork Ranger District	Roadless Area: Hanson Lakes IRA		
Status: Preparing to scope.	Table Location:	Project Lead: Heath Perrine 208-879-4125 Christine Stewart 208-756-7120 Link to Project Briefing Paper:	

Project Summary:

- Road Construction/Reconstruction: Yes. The current FS Road # 656 will have a section of road rerouted to an area that is primarily outside of riparian areas. The road currently fords through Capehorn Creek and Banner Creek that both contain ESA listed Chinook Salmon, steelhead and Bull Trout presence and critical habitat. Both ford crossings are primary locations for salmon spawning. The project will involve decommissioning approximately 0.25 miles of road in the Hanson Lake IRA and building approximately 0.3 miles of new road in the Hanson Lake IRA.
- Timber Cutting, Sale, or Removal: No.
- Discretionary Minerals: No.
- Modification or Correction: No.

Does Proposed Activity require	Yes - ✓	No
use of an Exception?		
	Exception: 294.23(b)(1)(iv)	
Commission Discussion:		
No further questions/comments.		
Action Requested: None		

Project: Everson Creek Trail Reroute		
District: Salmon-Challis N.F., Leadore RD	Roadless Area: Lemhi	
Status: Preparing to scope.	Table Location:	Project Lead: Lizzie Jossie 208-993-9936 Link to Project Briefing Paper:

Project Summary:

- Road Construction/Reconstruction: No
- **Timber Cutting, Sale, or Removal:** Yes, trees will need to be cut along the ¼ mile reroute, and encroaching conifers will be cut in the 4-acre meadow. Trees will be cut with chainsaws and will be either used in the meadow restoration or to block the old trail.
- Discretionary Minerals: No.
- Modification or Correction: No.

Does Proposed Activity require	Yes - ✓	No
use of an Exception?		
	Exception: 294.24(c)(1)(iii),	
	284.24(c)(1)(vii)	

Commission Discussion:

Jim Caswell: A trail or road? A: Motorized trail.

Q: Is it open to all vehicles? A: Includes full size vehicles, yes.

Jim Caswell: Suggest you reference the rule references relative to roads, the ability to put roads on the landscape. Previous project is 294,24 (b) and talks about roads and moving them for resource benefit. Not in this but one of the reasons you're doing it. **A:** Acknowledged, might not be in there because we call it a trail.

Jim Caswell: In a cherry stem situation? Outside of roadless right? **A:** Yes. Reroute is inside but the existing is outside.

Mike Hanna: What was the width? A: Width varies.

Q: How do they know they're in a roadless area then? **A**: The map and GIS data.

Jim Caswell: One single roadless area? A: All the same, Lemhi.

Q: Road go through or dead end? **A:** Ends at Everson Lake, so it's a dead-end.

Dan McKeague: Concern that the rule references are listed, and is that precentdent set around it? Jeep trail vs road precedent. Expectation for future jeep trails despite being listed as a trail. **A:** No decision made, never put forth the recommendation. **A:** Difference is, a trail and doing work on it in roadless. When you decide to widen or do drainage work and then call it open to all vehicles but still call it a trail..that is where something like this is cherry stemmed. Is outside of roadless.

Why cherry stemmed out if its out of roadless?

Need to make that distinction when referencing the rule and the fact that it was excluded and treated the same way.

Comes down to protecting roadless characteristics.

Mike Hanna: Some parameters are set. A semantics thing.

Dan McKeague: Either it's a distinction based on the type of vehicle accessing it...or excluded from roadless because it had road like characteristics.

Bill Higgins: How is this different from the previous project other than this being cherry stemmed out? Purpose and need are the same. **A:** Mostly speaking towards the rule and its application. It is effectively the same on the ground. Numbers are also consistent.

Jon: Did we do a letter to the governor on this topic?

No further questions/comments.

Action Requested: None

Motion to bring back Forest Plan Revision, Everson Creek Trail Reroute by Michael Gibson, Second by Jonathan Oppenheimer, All in favor. Moved.

Discussion

- Dan McKeague: Jim or Catherine..with this rule reference..are we doing documentation there?
 A: Anything that has regional forester approval is all the same process.
- **Jim Caswell:** Valuable part of that is being able to say under the rule, typically cant build a road there. Unless the regional forester is given that permission. Have to ask permission if you don't it violates the rule.
- Jon Oppenheimer: Timber cutting outside a CPZ is another example.

Catherine Blackwell – Megan Clever GIS map Demo

- Showed a quick demo with the Winnemucca Project.
- **Kurt:** Going to show purposed action spatially or just project area scale? A; Project area scale at the moment but open to that discussion.
- **Brad Gilbert:** Legends can be hard to read..can we access this tool to read the legends? A: That is what is intended..
- Michael Gibson: Looks great...web based and can log in through a link? A: That is the intention, need to communicate with others and will keep everyone updated on the progress.
- **Catherine:** Wants this to be interactive and easy to navigate!

Feedback

- Have a web app for the pilot project..hasnt been expanded state wide yet.
- Q: Plans to expand that? A: Get it wrapped up with the wilderness first and then come back to the McCall district area and looking at those communities in finer detail to be aware of risks. Engage what we learned from it and if it is worth replicating throughout the state? What are those priorities?

Wrap up

- Spring meeting project load...significant discussion on the wilderness piece.
 - o In CDA, second half of May 2024.
- Catherine Blackwell: Date to meet with subcommittee for Challis and Sawtooth?
- Field Trip for Spring Meeting....
 - New forest supervisor over there..plan in the works.

Motion to adjourn by Michael Gibson, Second by Jonathan Oppenheimer, All in favor. Moved.

Adjourn @ 2:00 pm.