



2024 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	4 years
Bill Higgins	Timber Industry	4 years
Jonathan Oppenheimer	Idaho Conservation League	4 years
Jim Caswell	Public at Large	4 years
Michael Gibson	Trout Unlimited	4 years
Alan Prouty	Mining Interests	5 years
Pete Stegner	Timber Interests	5 years
Elt Hasbrouck	Valley County Commissioner	5 years
Blair Dance	Fremont County Commissioner	3 years
Mike Hanna	Motorized Recreation	3 years
Dan Dinning	Participated in Rule Development	3 years

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

Cover Photo: Agency Roadless Area, Salmon Challis 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 were appointed in staggered terms of two to five-years, and after the initial terms, appointed to five-year terms. Per the amended Idaho Code, the commission is composed of nine to twelve members. There are currently 12 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 2024, the Roadless Commission's Spring meeting was held in Coeur d'Alene on June 11th and the fall meeting was held in Boise on December 4th. Below is a summary of actions taken by the Roadless Commission over the past year.

The Commission reviewed 43 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 relevant 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 the Governor's Office of Species Conservation, then hired Northwest Natural Resource Group to carry out the Pilot Project. The final product was presented at the Fall 2023 meeting, which comprised of an interactive ArcGIS map that was shared among the Commission members for their review. The subcommittee met over the summer of 2024 and worked with the Governor's Office to develop a final report letter and set of recommendations to give the Chief of the Forest Service. The final letter was sent on December 20th, 2024. The preferred course of action, recommended by the Commission, is the administrative one (Option 3) where the Forest Service develops and promulgates an official letter to document the inventory corrections by theme and management direction inside and outside the 2015 Wilderness boundaries. The letter is available [on the Idaho Roadless Commission website](#).

Appointment Updates

Per Idaho Code 67-826, Roadless Commissioners serve on staggered terms and are appointed by the Governor. William Barquin's Commission seat remains open as the Governor's Office continues to look for a tribal representative. Alan Prouty and Peter Stagner will both be seeking re appointment. Earlier this year, Elt Hasbrouck, Valley County Commissioner, announced his decision to step down from his Commission seat. The Chair and Co-Chair are working with the Governor's Office to find new appointments and to submit re-appointment applications.

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

2024 Project Lists and Maps

The Commission was updated on and reviewed 43 projects total in 2024 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 received a brief overview of non-Roadless projects within the Southwest Idaho Wildfire Crisis Strategy Priority Landscapes. All of the projects were presented by Forest Service District Rangers and NEPA Planners with supporting resource staff brought on the call as needed to answer questions from the Commission members.

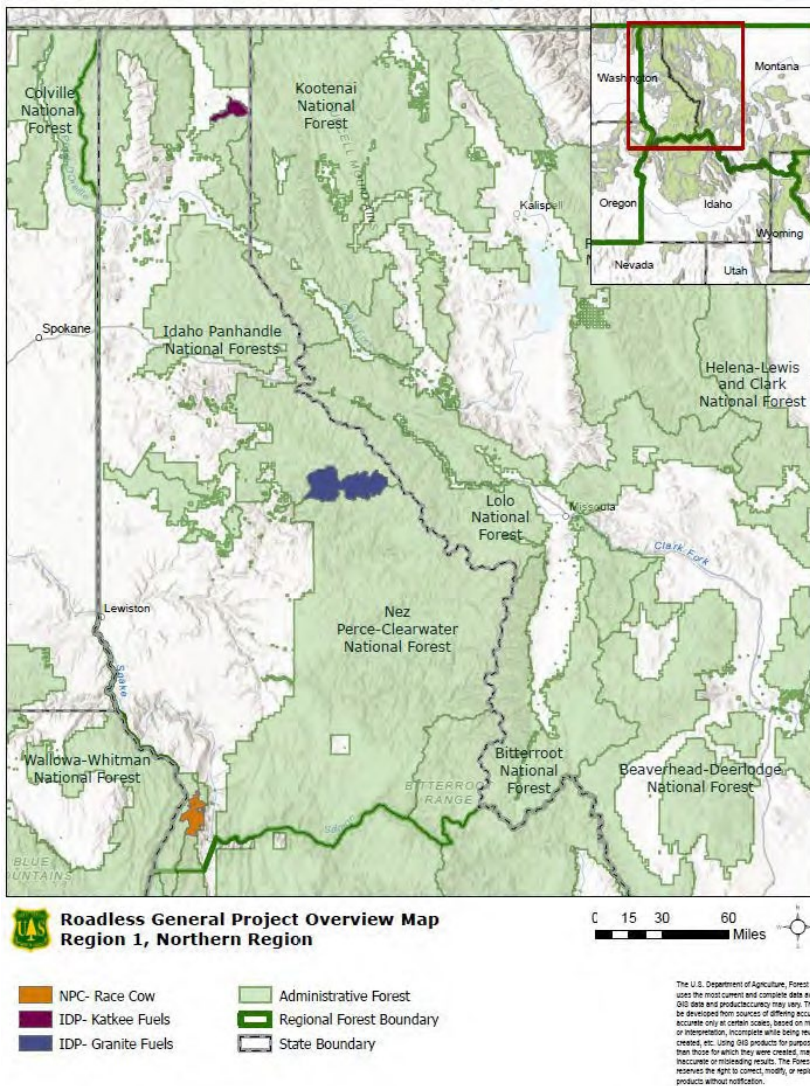


Figure 1. Map of Region 1 projects presented to the Idaho Roadless Commission.

Region 1

To the left is a map provided by the Forest Service for the Commission and only includes projects with NEPA.

Idaho Panhandle National Forest (2)

Granite Fuels – *Update/Status*
Katkee Fuels – *Update/Status*

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest (5)

Forest Plan Revision – *Update/Status*
Race Cow – *Update/Status*
Forestwide Aspen Restoration – *Update/Status*
Dixie – Comstock – *Status*
Dead Laundry – *Status*

Other (Non-Timber, Roads, or Minerals Small Projects)

These are projects that are done through Categorical Exclusions or administrative action and are on smaller scale (single parking lot, fence extension, gravel pits, etc.)

Idaho Panhandle National Forest (1)

Invasive Plant Management

Caribou-Targhee National Forest (1)

Ashton/Island Park 8 Range Permit Reissuance

Sawtooth National Forest (2)

Sawtooth Forest-Wide Reforestation CE
Fox Creek Bridge Replacement

Salmon-Challis National Forest (1)

Cruikshank Riparian Fence

Payette National Forest (5)

Council RD 2022-2024 Post-fire Reforestation
Lick Creek C&H Allotment Range Projects
Buckhorn Creek Bridge Installation
Pete Creek Trail Bridge Replacement
West Pine Brownlee Range Improvements

Region 4

Below is a map provided by the Forest Service for the Commission and only includes projects with NEPA.

Boise National Forest (1)

Southwest Idaho Resilient Landscape (SWIRL) - *No update;*

Payette National Forest (4)

Stibnite Gold Project - *Update/Status*

East Fork South Fork RAMP - *Update/Status*

Granite Goose - *Update/Status*

PNF Resilience and Fuels Reduction Rx Fire Project - *Update/Status*

Caribou-Targhee National Forest (3)

Lower Portneuf Cooperative Vegetation Restoration Project - *Update/Status*

Phosphate Ore Slurry Spill Clean-Up (CE Signed) - *Initial Briefing*

Graham Hollow Watershed Restoration Project – *Initial Briefing*

Salmon-Challis National Forest (5)

Update Forest Plan Revision - *Update/Status*

Twelve-mile Trail Construction - *Initial Briefing*

Dump Salvage - *Initial Briefing*

Camas Creek Road and Fish Habitat Improvement Project - *Initial Briefing*

Everson Creek Trail Re-Route - *Initial Briefing*

Roadless General Project Overview Map Region 4, Intermountain Region

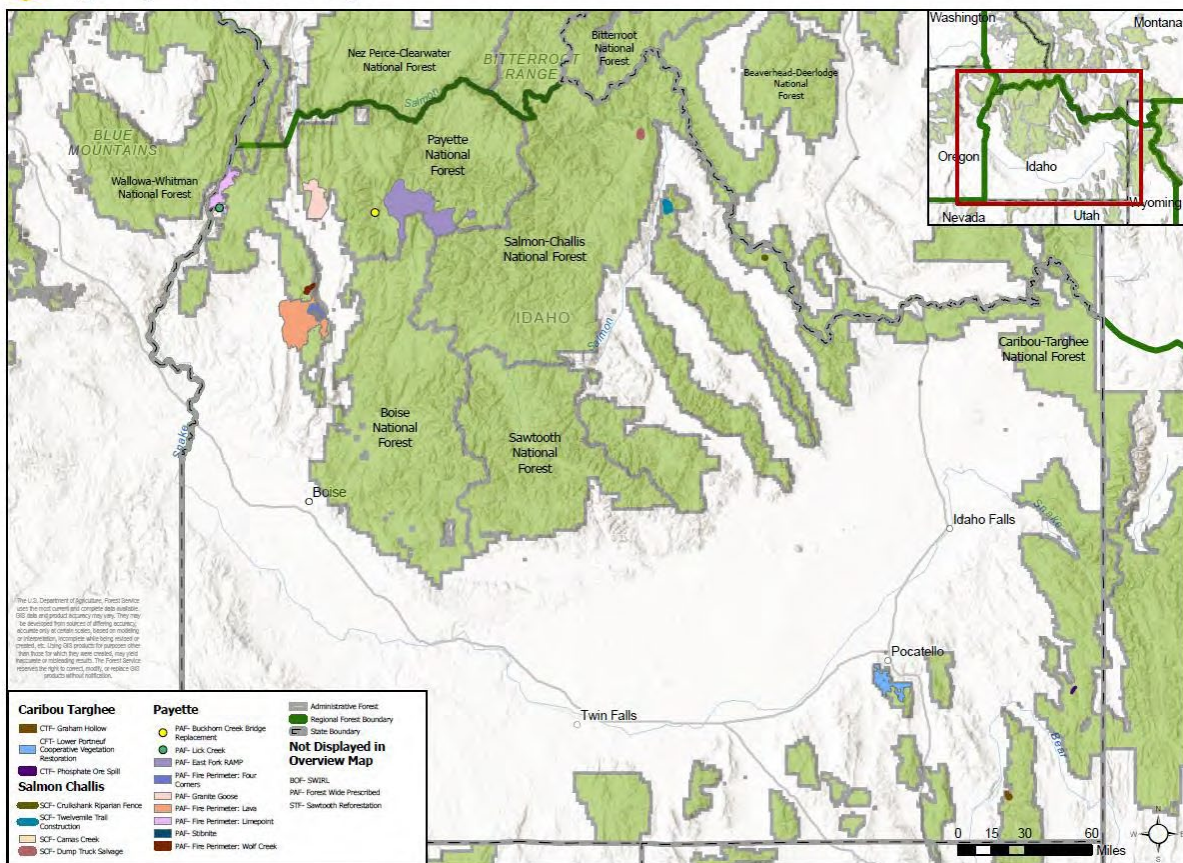


Figure 2. Map of Region 4 projects presented to the Idaho Roadless Commission.

Litigation Updates

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. The proponent released a Draft SEIS in July of 2023, with a comment period that ended in September of 2023. The Final ROD and FSEIS were signed on December 4th, 2024.

Next Steps

The Commission plans to continue to meet in person with a hybrid option for the Spring 2024 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 looks forward to receiving a response to the final Pilot Project letter from the Chief of the Forest Service.
- The Commission will continue to work with the Governor's Office to find new Commissioners to replace William Barquin and Elt Hasbrouck in 2025, as well as work on the reappointment of Alan Prouty and Peter Stegner.
- The Commission looks forward to working with the new Forest Service Roadless Coordinator, Adam Shaw, who took over officially for Catherine Blackwell for the Spring 2024 meeting.
- The Commission will work with OSC and the Forest Service to enter an updated Memorandum of Understanding for coordination of the Roadless Meetings and Forest Service interaction with the Commission.