



# 2025 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
John Robison	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
Sherry Maupin	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

*Cover Photo: Moose Creek, Hoodoo Roadless Area,*

*Nez Perce Clearwater 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 11 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 2025, the Roadless Commission's Spring meeting was held in Boise on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the fall meeting was held in Boise on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Below is a summary of actions taken by the Roadless Commission over the past year.

The Commission reviewed 40 projects across 7 National Forests with presentations and Q & A sessions with USFS project leads, Regional, and Washington Office staff.

**Pilot Project Overview:** 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 roadless areas surrounding the Hemmingway Boulders, Cecil D. Andrus White Clouds, and the Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness Areas (Phase I) and communities at risk from wildfire on the McCall Ranger District of the Payette National Forest (Phase II) 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 20<sup>th</sup>, 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](#).

Outside of an acknowledgement of receiving the letter, the Commission has not received an official response from the Forest Service. The Commission sent a follow up letter requesting a final response from the new Chief Tom Shultz as well as informing the Forest Service of the initiation of Phase II of the Pilot Project on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## Field Trip Highlight: Poison Rock

Members of the Commission toured the Poison Rock fire salvage project with the Forest Service on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. This project was implementing fire salvage on 96 acres of the Poison Rock IRA following the Rock Fire the previous year, complementing work being done on the state-owned property adjacent to the IRA. Commission members were able to ask questions and see the burn severity of the site, which improved the Commission's understanding for the need of an expedited NEPA process.



**Figure 1.** Poison Rock IRA, post Rock fire in October of 2025.

## 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. Mike Hanna, Blair Dance, and Dan Dinning will both be seeking re-appointments. Earlier this year, Jon Oppenheimer, Idaho Conservation League representative, announced his decision to step down from his Commission seat. The Governor selected John Robison, also of ICL, to replace Jon. Sherry Maupin, Valley County Commissioner, replaced Elt Hausbrouck's seat on the Commission. The Chair and Co-Chair are working with the Governor's Office to submit re-appointment applications.

## 2025 Project Lists and Maps

The Commission was updated on and reviewed 40 projects total in 2025 spanning across Idaho's 9.2 million acres of Roadless. Over the past 5 years, the Commission reviewed 47 projects per year 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.

## Region 1 Projects

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

### Idaho Panhandle National Forest (3)

Granite Fuels – *Update/Status*

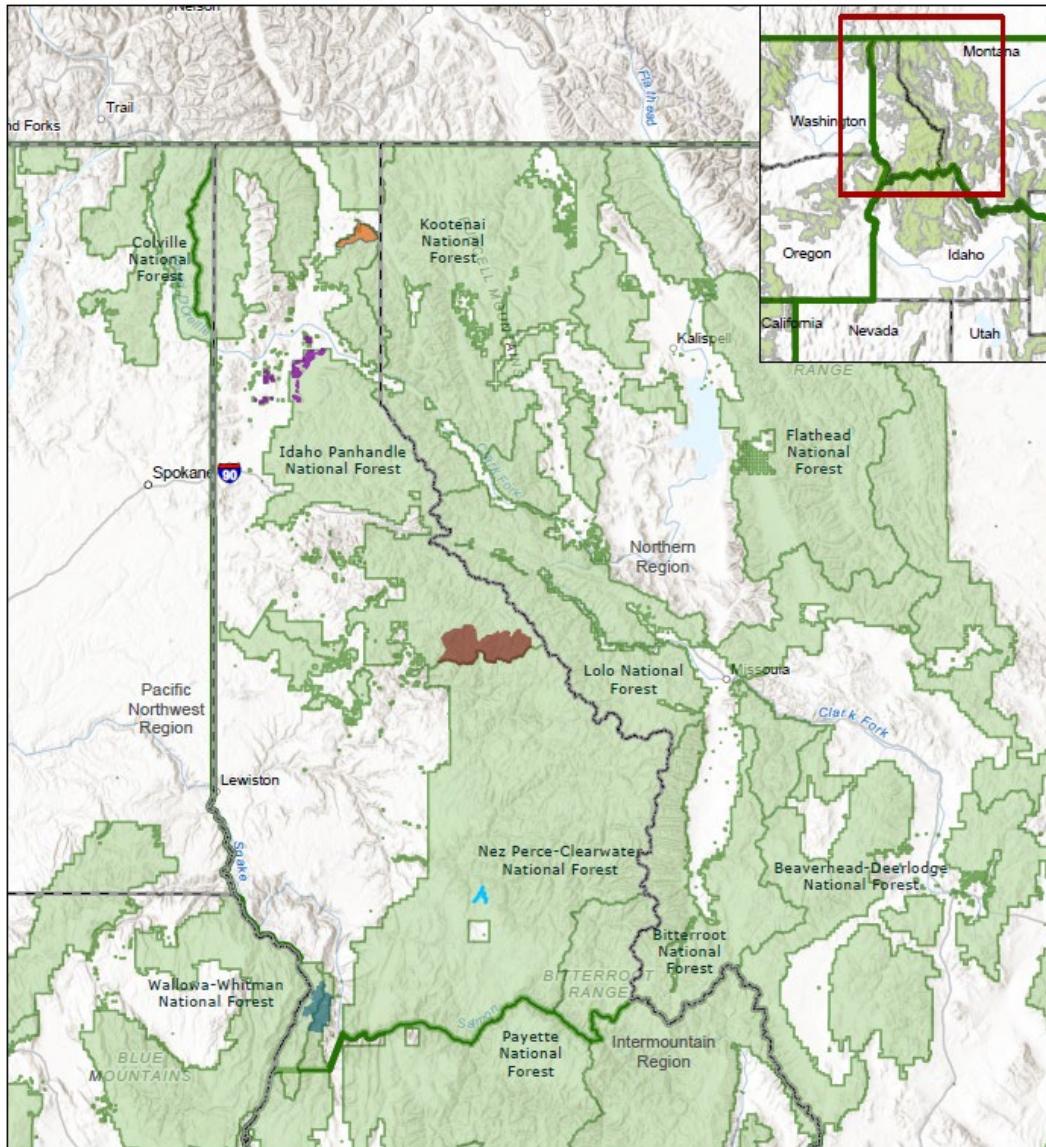
Kathee Fuels – *Update/Status*

Sandpoint South – *Initial Briefing*

### Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest (2)

Forest Wide Fuels Reduction – *Initial Briefing*

Island Creek Fire Emergency Treatment – *Initial Briefing*



**Roadless General Project Overview Map**  
**Region 1, Northern Region**

0 20 40 80 Miles



- NPC- Race Cow
- NPC- Island Creek Fire Fuel Break
- IDPH- Sandpoint South
- IDPH- Kathee Fuels
- IDPH- Granite Fuels

- States - Regional Extent
- Administrative Forest
- Regional Forest Boundary

**Not Displayed:**  
NPC- Forestwide Aspen Restoration  
NPC- Forestwide Fuels Reduction

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service uses the most current and complete data available. GIS data and products/accuracy may vary. They may be developed from sources of differing accuracy, accuracy only at certain scales, based on modeling or interpretation, incomplete while being revised or created, etc. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were created, may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The Forest Service reserves the right to correct, modify, or replace GIS products without notification.

## Region 4 Projects

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

## Boise National Forest (2)

## Southwest Idaho Resilient Landscape (SWIRL) – *Update* Poison Rock Implementation – *Update*

## Payette National Forest (1)

## Granite Goose - *Update/Status*

## **Sawtooth National Forest (1)**

Elk Meadows Trail Reroute and Habitat Restoration – *Update/Status*

## Caribou-Targhee National Forest (1)

## Lower Portneuf Cooperative Vegetation Restoration Project – Update/Status

## Salmon-Challis National Forest (5)

## Lucky Horseshoe REE Drilling – *Initial Briefing*

## Pepper Spring Sanitation – *Initial Briefing*

Heep Creek Trail Connector – *Initial Briefing*

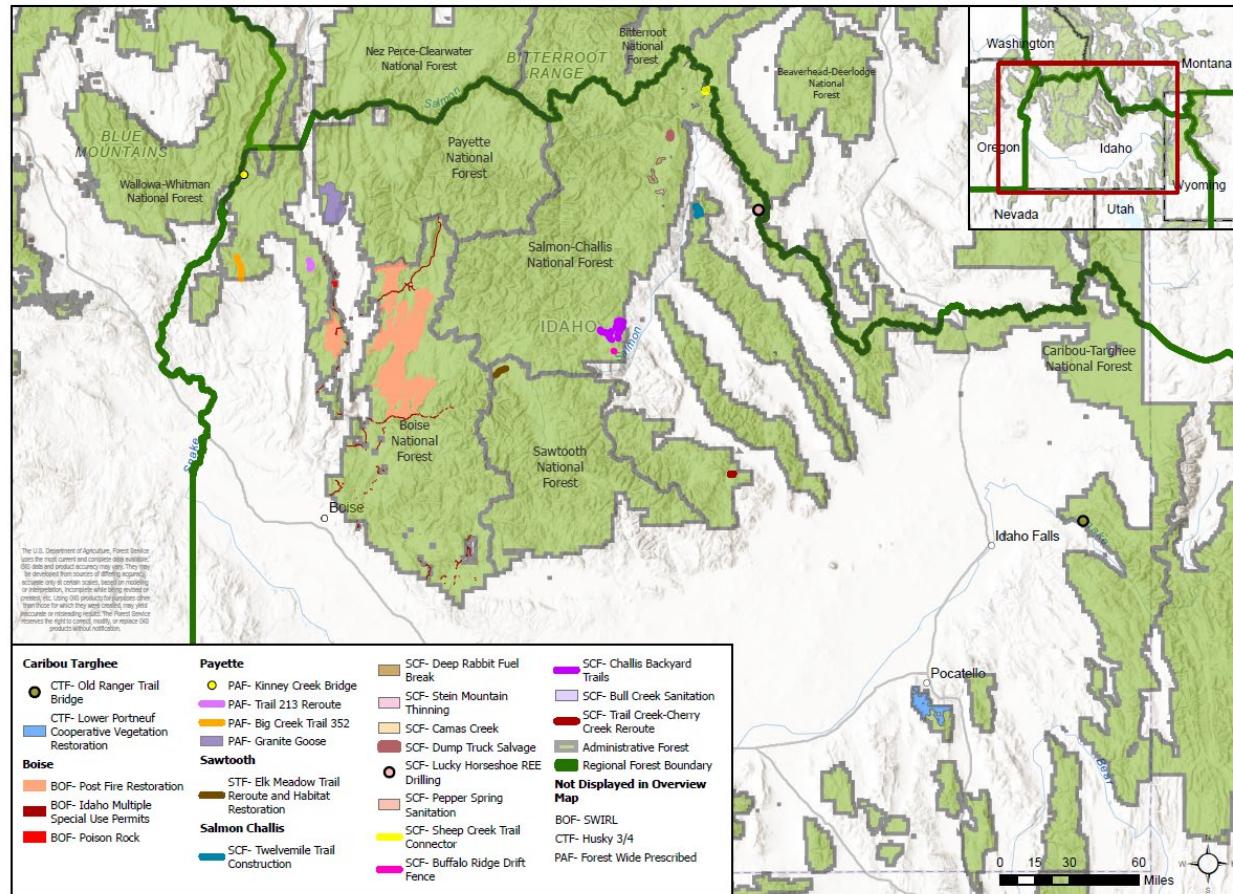
## Buffalo Ridge Drift Fence – *Initial Briefing*

## Challis Backyard Trails – *Initial Briefing*

## Bull Creek Sanitation – *Initial Briefing*

## Trail Creek-Cherry Creek Reroute – *Initial Briefing*

## Roadless General Project Overview Map Region 4, Intermountain Region



## Next Steps

The Commission plans to continue to meet in person with a hybrid option for the Spring 2026 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 follow-up letter (sent on 12/19/25) on Phase I of the Pilot Project from the new Chief of the Forest Service, Tom Shultz.
- The Commission will continue to work with the Governor's Office to find new Commissioner to replace William Barquin in 2025, as well as work on the reappointment of Mike Hanna, Dan Dinning, and Blair Dance.
- The Commission looks forward to continuing to work with the new Forest Service Roadless Coordinator, Allison Ginn, who took over for Adam Shaw and serves in multiple capacities for the Forest Service.
- The Commission will work with OSC and the Forest Service to begin Phase II of the Pilot Project, looking at communities at risk from wildfire, their proximity to wildfire, and how the theme of a particular IRA impacts this work.

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