



Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society,

Inc.

P.O. Box 1092, Sandpoint, ID 83864 www.nativeplantsociety.org

Bureau of Land Management
Coeur d'Alene Field Office
3815 Schreiber Way
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

May 15, 2018

Re. Gamlin Lake Vegetation Treatment EA

The Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society (KNPS) recognizes that the Gamlin Lake site is unique in our area with forest types ranging from wetlands to upland forest dominated vegetation. We see that the forest composition is showing signs of decline in overall health and has become overstocked with small diameter conifers with an increased amount of downfall from recent wind and storm events. There appears to be a decline in hardwood trees such as aspen, birch, black cottonwood and red alder. KNPS supports the Alternative A Proposed Action as this would promote a historic species composition of these hardwoods as well as ponderosa pine, western white pine, western red cedar and western larch.

KNPS supports the following proposed treatments:

- Replant with only native species
- Retain large diameter trees where possible
- Treat areas with excessive forest fuel loading and ingrowth
- Treat areas with insect or disease infestation
- Use care working within the riparian conservation areas to reduce potential impacts to the rare plant populations. Reroute trails as needed to protect these areas. Monitor the rare plant areas during and after the project is completed
- Reduce sources of weed seed and/or plant parts and minimize risk of spreading existing infestations by treating pre-existing weed populations prior to project activities. Clean mechanized equipment by power washing at an approved location before entering the site. Monitor and treat weed infestations on trails, roads, landings, skid trails, and treatment areas regularly after work is completed.

More specifically, page 7 of the EA states that excessive trail width is to be rehabilitated with "appropriate" seed mix. We request this be clarified as "appropriate native seed mix." Page 18 lists canarygrass and dog rose as two invasives in the wetland/riparian areas yet they are not included in Table 4 Noxious Weed List on pg. 27.

KNPS appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Gamlin Lake EA and looks forward to its success.

Sincerely,

Molly O'Reilly
Chair, Conservation Committee