



Kinnikinnick Chapter Of The Idaho Native Plant Society

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January 18, 2008

Jennifer Costich-Thompson
Sandpoint Ranger District
1500 Hwy 2, Suite 110
Sandpoint, ID 83864

Dear Jennifer,

Thank you for the email scoping notice on Gold Crown Fuels Reduction Project. The Kinnikinnick Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society would like to submit the following comments. We wish to receive copies of the EA and Decision for this project.

We would be interested in a site visit when ground conditions and your schedule permit. Of particular interest are Treatment Types 3 and 6, regeneration harvests and overstory removal.

We would like to review the botanical assessment of this area, or recommend that one be done. We would like to review project plans for the moist draws/riparian areas, weed control, and planting locally produced native plants for future climate change projections as well as fire and disease. We would like to see maps with more complete topographical and hydrological detail.

Finally, all slash/fuels treatments specified are burning. Certainly areas have been identified, such as the hazardous fuels harvest on rock outcrops using broadcast burning, where this is ideal. We do propose identifying areas where "pile and burn" would be replaced by chipping and chunking. This would have the benefits of returning nutrients to the soil to promote soil health, reducing air pollution resulting from burning and increasing carbon sequestration.

We support Forest Service efforts to improve the overall health of NFS lands and to lessen the risks from landscape fire in populated areas, and we look forward to learning more about this project.

Sincerely,

Carol Jenkins