



Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society

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May 17, 2013

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Proposed Kreist Creek Project

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The Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society appreciates the opportunity to comment on this large project. We are a robust and active organization in the two northern counties of Idaho's Panhandle, intimately concerned with the health and success of our native flora and we work constructively for its conservation.

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1. We appreciate that a botanic survey has been conducted. Sensitive plant habitats should remain undisturbed or be managed carefully for the success of those populations.
2. We are concerned about roadways as vectors for weed spread. We support your proposed closure of a mile of roadway, and some minor restrictions on others. It is difficult to prevent unauthorized vehicular use and we encourage robust efforts to prevent such use. We hope your 23 miles of road reconstruction will not encourage an increase in vehicular traffic, especially in areas where there is little or none today.
3. Weeds are an ongoing threat to the area's native vegetation. We encourage strenuous measures to prevent the incursion of weeds. Once introduced, they are virtually impossible to eradicate. Project timing and methodology should take weed prevention into account as a very highest priority.
4. Enhancement of aspen groves is a goal we strongly support. The decline of aspen throughout the west is a significant problem for biodiversity. We endorse your plan to use prescribed burns to ensure that aspen clones have room and sunlight to expand. This action should also help reduce the fuel load that can result in unplanned and destructive burns.
5. Your goal of producing a forest of mixed ages and species is one that should maximize its health and diversity.

We would appreciate being included in any field trip conducted after project completion. Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment. We wish to remain on your list for this project.

Sincerely,

Gail Bolin

Gail Bolin, President