



Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society

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

Officers

President

Don Childress
(208) 255-7928

March 8, 2011

Vice-President

Rae Charlton
(208) 255-7666

Sandpoint Ranger District
Priest Lake Grazing Allotments Project
1500 Highway 2, Suite 110
Sandpoint, ID 83864

Secretary

Dennis Rieger
(208) 610-8362

The KNPS is a large and active organization dedicated to educating about and protecting the native plants of North Idaho. Grazing is an activity with ecological impacts and we appreciate the opportunity to comment on this EA.

Treasurer

Bob Wilson
(208) 683-2387

We wish to register our general support for the preferred alternative, but express our concern that it does not go further in protecting riparian areas. Although it reduces the allotment size from current, there will still be grazing in riparian areas. Especially in the Priest Lake basin, these are potential homes for sensitive *Botrychium* and other species of interest. Page 15 of the EA indicates that:

Arboretum Manager

Sylvia M. Chatburn
(208) 263-2175

Board Members

Marilyn McIntyre
(208) 290-7176

Jim Stern
(208) 265-6733

Lorrie Stockwell
(208) 255-5904

"Within the Four Corners Allotment the suitability analysis (see Table 4) shows a disproportionate amount of suitable acres located within the riparian area. This indicates that most of the suitable grazing within this allotment is centered around moist to wet riparian areas."

Mary Toland
(208) 265-2674

The non-native canary grasses in the Moores allotment are a concern as well as a "lack of trees with a shrub component of spirea..." It appears that noxious, invasive weeds are present in the allotments, especially near roads. We appreciate the steps you are taking with the preferred alternative (#2) to reduce the number of cattle and somewhat limit access to streams, but would like to see more. We appreciate the allotments this alternative withdraws.

Founder

Lois Wythe
(208) 263-8038

We understand that grazing will be monitored for compliance and ask that a botanic survey be done in four or five years after implementation to determine the effect of management actions.

Sincerely,

Molly O'Reilly
Conservation Committee co-chair