



Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society

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

Officers

December 17, 2010

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RE: Schweitzer Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

Treasurer

Ken Haag
(208) 255-4413

The Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society is an active organization of 150 members based in Bonner County. We educate about the value of native plants and their habitats and advocate the conservation of this important natural resource.

Arboretum

Manager
Sylvia M. Chatburn
(208) 263-2175

We have questions and concerns about several aspects of the Schweitzer project, and would like more information:

Board Members

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1. We would like to better understand the need for and goals of this project. Much of the project area seems to be primarily cedar/hemlock habitat with streams (perennial and intermittent) and plant communities found in moist forests; these habitats do not burn readily. Further, the parcel is not adjacent to roads or developed communities.
2. With a project of this sort, we are concerned about the spread of weeds and opening of roads to vehicular use. Any activity in the forest is likely to spread exotic, invasive weeds. This parcel is seldom visited now and the ecosystems are in good shape. We would urge reducing or eliminating roads in the project design.
3. We are particularly concerned about the "reconstruction" of roads to the project across private land. This appears to set the stage for sprawled housing development that will put the ecosystems in your parcel at risk long term. Again, eliminating or reducing roads would reduce these long term threats to the native plant ecosystem. We ask that you consider several alternatives including one with no road building as well as a "no action" alternative in the EA. We ask that you hold a public meeting in Sandpoint prior to proceeding further with the project design.
4. We are very interested in receiving the botanic surveys of this parcel.

Sincerely,

Don Childress, President

Cc: Dick Kramer (rpkrumer@fs.fed.us)