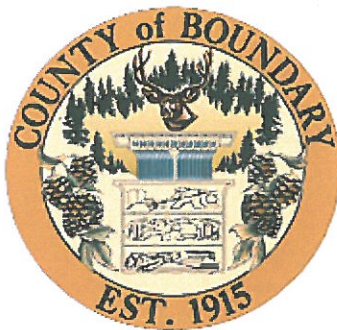


Boundary County Commissioners

Dan R. Dinning, Chairman

LeAlan L. Pinkerton, Commissioner

Walt Kirby, Commissioner



Telephone (208) 267-7723

Fax: (208) 267-7814

commissioners@boundarycountyid.org

BOUNDARY COUNTY

P. O. Box 419

Bonnors Ferry, ID 83805

November 25, 2013

USDA Forest Service

Objection Reviewing Officer

EMC, RPC-6th Floor

Attn: Judicial and Administrative Reviews

1601 N. Kent Street

Arlington, VA 22209

RE: Forest Plan Objections

To Whom It May Concern:

For reference, Boundary County Commissioners have attached our letter of comment dated May 3, 2012, to the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

Respectfully,

Dan R. Dinning, Chairman

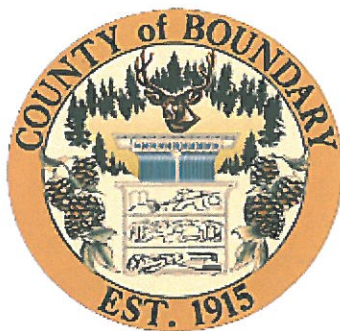
Boundary County Board of Commissioners

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BOUNDARY COUNTY
P. O. Box 419
Bonnors Ferry, ID 83805

November 25, 2013

Boundary County Commissioners – 2013 Idaho Panhandle National Forest and Kootenai National Forest Plan Revision Objection #1

Objectors Name: Boundary County Commissioners.

Address: PO Box 419, Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805.

Phone # and E-mail address: (208) 267-7723 commissioners@boundarycountyid.org.

Name of lead objector (if more than one): All Commissioners are equal objectors.

Name of the plan revision being objected to and the responsible official:

Idaho Panhandle National Forest and Kootenai National Forest Management Plan 2013 Revision.

Responsible Official: Faye L. Krueger – Regional Forester, Northern Region.

Statement of issues and/or parts of the plan revision which the objection applies:

Boundary County absolutely objects to any areas of Recommended Wilderness within the Idaho Panhandle National Forest and the Kootenai National Forest. We specifically object to the Recommended Wilderness designation of the Salmo, Page 174, Table 154, 16,027 acres and the Selkirk Crest IRA, on Page 179, Table 163, 35,636 acres, of the Appendices, Final EIS for Revised Land Management Plan, August 2013.

Statement explaining the objection and how the proposed plan should be altered:

Recommended Wilderness, Wilderness and Primitive Classification does not allow for adaptive management of the forest as the condition is constantly changing. The inability to manage for human benefit, endangered species benefit, water quality benefit and other habitat needs, is not allowed under these classifications.

The current theme designation for this area under the Idaho Roadless Rule is Wild Land Recreation. See CFR 294.23(a) and CFR 294.24(a), which allows for mountain biking and mechanical devices. Should the Recommended Wilderness designation apply to all the identified lands on Page 179, Table 163; 35,636 acres, of the Appendices, Final EIS

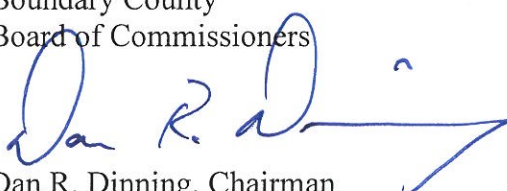
for Revised Land Management Plan, August 2013, and also identified on Page 86, Table 18, Land Management Plan 2013 as 35,026 acres, then per national directive the current uses will eliminate and cause harm to the public that enjoys them at present.

Clearly, losing the current uses of mountain biking and mechanical devices as per the national directive regarding Recommended Wilderness causes irreversible harm to current and future recreational uses. With the emerging and growing markets of recreational activities, i.e., mountain biking, the local economies are inhibited from expanding.

Proposed Solution:

Our recommended solution is to designate all of the areas within the IPNF and the KNF forest as general forests. However, based on current status, the only reasonable solution classification, which can protect the existing uses and allow the public to enjoy this area as they have been accustomed, would be a classification of Primitive; MA1e.

Boundary County
Board of Commissioners



Dan R. Dinning, Chairman



LeAlan L. Pinkerton, Commissioner



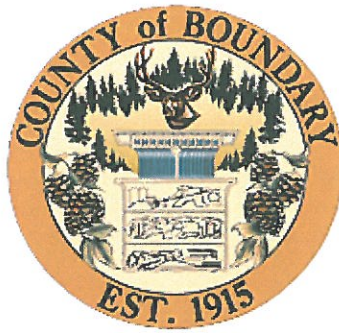
Walt Kirby, Commissioner

Boundary County Commissioners

Dan R. Dinning, Chairman

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BOUNDARY COUNTY
P. O. Box 419
Bonnors Ferry, ID 83805

November 25, 2013

Boundary County Commissioners – 2013 Idaho Panhandle National Forest and Kootenai National Forest Plan Revision Objection #2

Objectors Name: Boundary County Commissioners.

Address: PO Box 419, Bonnors Ferry, Idaho 83805.

Phone # and E-mail address: (208) 267-7723 commissioners@boundarycountyid.org.

Name of lead objector (if more than one): All Commissioners are equal objectors.

Name of the plan revision being objected to and the responsible official:

Idaho Panhandle National Forest and Kootenai National Forest Management Plan 2013 Revision

Responsible Official: Faye L. Krueger – Regional Forester, Northern Region.

Statement of issues and/or parts of the plan revision which the objection applies:

No consideration or analysis given regarding local law enforcement, national security agencies, i.e., Homeland Security/Border Patrol, and emergency response units, etc., access of restricted National Forest roads and trails, where the road system is restricted to administrative use only.

Statement explaining the objection and how the proposed plan should be altered:

The northern most portions of the IPNF are unique to the forest as it intersects the international boundary with Canada. National security issues are paramount to the management of the road system.

Currently the Forest does not allow local law enforcement, national security agencies, i.e. Homeland Security/Border Patrol, and emergency response units, etc., unrestricted access. Responses to emergency situations have been significantly delayed as the result of access obstructions such as locked gates, kelly humps, tank traps, water bars, stationary barriers, etc. Homeland Security requires free unrestricted access to the road system within the border area.

Furthermore, such entities engaged with National Security activities must be exempt from adhering to administrative trip restrictions.

Moreover the entities must be afforded unrestricted, un-reportable, and un-monitored access while retaining security sensitive information. Trip numbers shall not be disclosed to any party void or lacking an appropriate Security Clearance level.

The majority of closures of roads have been dictated by outdated and inconclusive science, inhibiting the free and unfettered access that our citizens have historically enjoyed.


Proposed Solution:

All roads shall be open to public motorized use until such time as updated conclusive science proves otherwise. The current Forest Service budget restraints are not a valid reason for road closures. There must be an undeniable reason to close any road other than financial. The Forest Service shall require increased timber harvest to overcome budgetary shortfalls.

At minimum exempt the above named agencies from the current "administrative trip" restrictions and/or create a categorical exclusion to allow for such essential uses.

Boundary County
Board of Commissioners


Dan R. Dinning, Chairman


LeAlan L. Pinkerton, Commissioner


Walt Kirby, Commissioner