

## Idaho Panhandle National Forests

# Sustainable Recreation Strategy

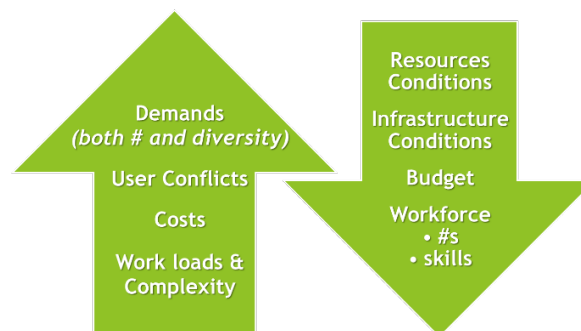
*'A strategy to position the IPNF through a leveraged organization, to take advantage of unique funding opportunities to deliver a sustainable recreation program.'*

## Introduction

### Background

In 2010, the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF) became an “Urban” national forest due to the increasing population centers of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. An urban national forest is considered to be within an hours drive of a million people. The IPNF is the only urban forest in the Northern Region and within the state of Idaho. As national leadership has encouraged Americans to get outside and utilize the nation’s natural resources to recharge, energize, and improve our health; these area residents seek the variety of opportunities that can be enjoyed on the IPNF. This has placed a high demand on recreation sites and facilities, as well as trails and dispersed sites, and has resulted in increased strain on recreational personnel striving to meet these demands.

Urban Forests such as the IPNF experiencing population growth & high rates of local visitation can expect the following recreational trends:

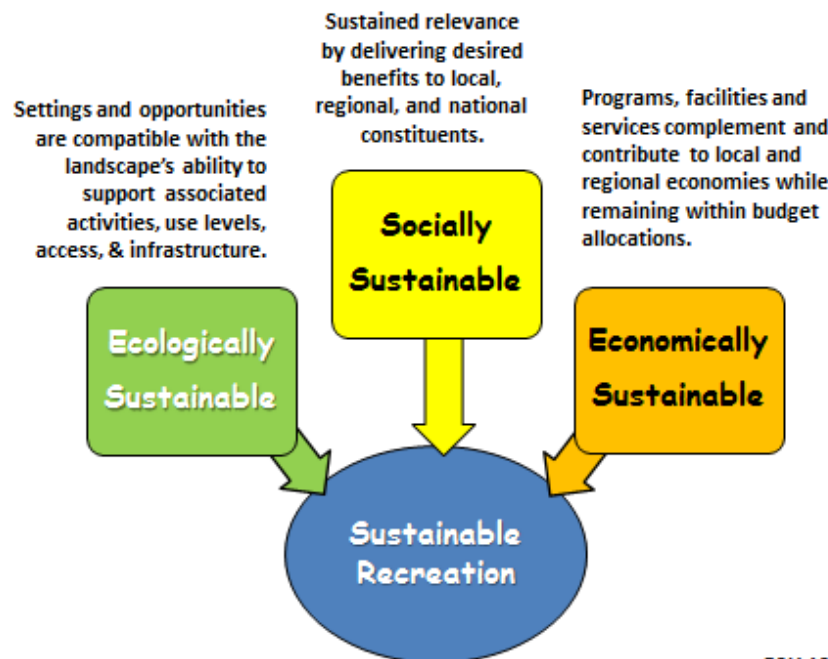


The purpose of IPNF Sustainable Recreation Strategy is to position the IPNF through a leveraged organization, to take advantage of unique funding opportunities to deliver a sustainable recreation program. This strategy provides direction and guidance for the promotion, integration, and management of sustainable recreation and trails. The intent of this strategy is not to identify additional work, but instead, to focus our limited workforce and budget on actions that: address common issues and needs; creates long term efficiencies for the field; and ensure sustainable program delivery to the public.

## Sustainable Recreation

Policy guidance and direction is imbedded within the National Forest 2012 Planning Rule that emphasizes sustainable recreation and is aligned with the Forest Service Strategic Plan 2015-2020. The goals of the Framework for Sustainable Recreation are to:

- Provide a diverse range of quality natural and cultural resources based recreation opportunities in partnership with people and communities
- Protect the natural, cultural, and scenic environment for present and future generations to enjoy
- Partner with public and private recreation benefit providers
- Perform and plan by implementing systems and processes to ensure: effective decisions, sound investments and accountability, collaborative approaches to integrated solutions across the landscape, and the enhanced professionalism of our workforce



FSH 1909.12

This strategy will focus our recreation program activities to insure that we provide quality settings and opportunities and protect the resources from overuse, across the landscape. That means that we will provide recreational opportunities that our visitors demand at a forest-wide scale. Not every amenity or opportunity can be provided on every acre or administrative zone, instead opportunities will be provided and managed where they can be done sustainably.

July 10, 2019

This Strategy is designed to be dynamic and respond to new information and changing conditions. Forest leadership and forest recreation leaders will review annually at November's FLT to keep it current and useful, including accomplishment reporting and addressing any challenges faced throughout the year.

Also, the strategy incorporates the outcomes of the 2008 Recreation Facility Analysis (RFA) process, including the forest's recreation niche statement.

The IPNF's Sustainable Recreation Strategy will be used to:

- Guide future management decisions
- Integrate and prioritize program needs and associated work
- Align and right size our infrastructure to complement our niche and move toward our goals
- Hold ourselves accountable by monitoring implementation and effectiveness of our actions.
- Assess current and future funding sources and organizational structure

## Strategy Components

The IPNF Sustainable Recreation Strategy considers four components to align and focus our limited resources to provide the maximum benefit to the recreating public. These are 1) recreation niche, 2) goals and opportunities, 3) recreation settings, and 4) priority areas. Each are discussed in further detail below.

### Recreation Niche

A recreation niche identifies, develops, and markets those assets unique to our Forest, and articulates our role in providing outdoor recreation opportunities for the public. We identify a niche to focus our resources and priorities that most closely align with the niche. The niche includes geographic and historical settings where activities and opportunities are identified.

The niche for the Idaho Panhandle National Forest is Endless Waters, Edges and Islands". From the shores of big lakes to the banks of winding rivers, the IPNH creates a tapestry of land and water in the handle of North Idaho. The forest has been and continues to be the lifeline for local communities. Silver, gold and large timber drew settlers to the area. Remnant roads that once led to work now lead to play, and treasures sought are now recreational. Convenient access is available to forest visitors year round, making the IPNF a progressively more used destination spanning from lake based to high country. The Forest recognizes the importance of its role in the need to find balance and maintain relevance, while providing sustainable recreation for a growing diverse population.

In order to meet the Forest niche, the strategy sets program-wide goals with opportunities for the recreation program across the Forest. The opportunities are specific activities or practices that are recommended to help us meet or move towards the desired conditions. The strategy also sets Annual Business Practices (ABP's) that are integral to operational and financial sustainability. Furthermore, the strategy identifies key steps into program integration into landscape scale reforestation and restoration efforts on the Forest.

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### **Goals and Opportunities:**

The program goals are aligned to the agency's priorities and will guide essential work we must perform to respond to the needs and challenges faced by our Forest and demands by our public. Opportunities identify the unique prospects, including funding sources, to help achieve our goals and meet our desired conditions of our settings.

### **Settings:**

The landscapes and Heritage on the IPNF are broken down into "settings". Each setting provides unique opportunities for visitors and therefore should be managed differently. The strategy sets desired conditions (DC) and objectives that are specific to each setting. The desired conditions are a picture of how the setting should look, in order to meet our niche, in the next 20 years. The desired conditions address five areas:

- Setting DC which describes how the natural and physical resources should function,
- Opportunity DC which describes the recreation opportunities we plan to provide,
- Infrastructure DC which describes the infrastructure needed to provide the opportunity and protect the setting, and
- Education and Communication DC which describes the focus and methodology of our public involvement and education efforts.
- Community and Partner DC which describes the shared vision and values

### **Priority Areas:**

The strategy identifies priority areas within each setting across the Forest. These are locations that future recreation projects/dollars should focus. Priority areas are defined as:

- Highly valued by the public and agency and they demand our time and attention,
- Areas where recreation use is having a significant adverse effect on the resources,
- Where there are many user conflicts, and
- Places that are unique to the IPNF and have high public interest and use.

Actions to meet our goals in these priority areas would, generally, be a higher priority than activities in other areas. That is not to say that individual activities would not be proposed in "non-priority" areas, however, the recreation program as a whole will focus activities in priority areas by setting.

### **Challenges:**

This strategy is designed to be a roadmap to success. With that being said, there are known challenges that we must confront to achieve our goals. Being agile and nimble to address issues associated to hiring, contracting, and other administrative processes associated with our opportunities, will be key in achieving our goals. Also, addressing long standing concerns associated to the Emerald Creek Garnet Area and Idaho Panhandle Avalanche Center (IPAC) will continue to be evaluated.

## Program-wide Goals

### Customer Service

- Self-Service information centers at key entry points will be coordinated with communities and user groups. These kiosks and signs will follow Regional and Forest design guides. Kiosk messaging is strategic and focused.
- Web-based platforms are relevant and easy to follow
- Resource and land use etiquette information will be integrated through all disciplines in order to successfully disseminate through field personnel who contact the public.
- Annually, explore opportunities to streamline our recreation special uses program through center of excellence model and using web based resources, to be focused and consistent with our overall program of work.

### Shared Stewardship

- Forest program managers and line officers coordinate planning, construction, and maintenance of infrastructure with communities and partners to become integral partners in balancing resource needs with recreation demands for both summer and winter recreation opportunities.
- Recreation opportunities engage local communities to reconnect to the outdoors and provide a wide-range of local economic benefits
- Information and education efforts will focus on introducing youth to the opportunities on the IPNF and helping develop a land stewardship ethic within all visitors.
- Annually, explore opportunities to integrate with cooperating law enforcement agencies to increase the safety of visitors, compliance with management objectives, and education and to reduce vandalism.
- Look at and integrated approach for a forest level partner coordinator position
- Pursue further opportunities associated to the avalanche forecasting program

### Enhancing Recreation Opportunities

- The Forest provides facilities that are in character and commensurate with the development level and desired conditions of the setting in which they are found. ABA accessible facilities are highly emphasized in priority areas.
- The recreation program focuses on providing opportunities within the capacity of the natural resources. Not every opportunity will be available on every acre, or every unit, but across the Forest, we will meet our niche.
- Integrate vegetation projects to incorporate recreation opportunities. Look at ways to utilize retained receipts, stewardship, and GNA to fund dispersed recreation ABP's to satisfy setting/resource DC.
- Recreation facilities improvements will focus on relevancy, protecting the natural resources, and accessibility. These updates may accommodate additional use if within the capacity of the resources and consistent with this strategy.
- Where appropriate, encourage private sector investment in providing recreation services and facilities.

## Opportunities

### **IDPR RV & Waterways Grants – 6 Million Annually**

- Develop two separate 10 Year Implementation Plans for Concessions and FLREA sites concentrating on Priority Areas first.

### **IDPR Motorized & Non-Motorized Trail Grants – 2 Million Annually**

- Maintenance Grants should be focused to achieve our Trail ABP's (Refer to Appendix A).
- Emphasis given to priority areas and other trails that are valued by our partners and communities.
- Improvement Grants should be focused on achieving results that have been documented in our decisions from our five year integrated veg plan

### **IDPR Heavy Maintenance & Trail Ranger Programs**

- Collaborate with the State to increase opportunities through new changes to reciprocity laws
- Promote the shared stewardship philosophy toward our motorized trail systems utilizing the CZ model
- Work should be focused to achieve our Trail ABP's (Refer to Appendix A)

### **Landscape Scale Integration**

- Review 5 year Integrated Veg Plan to incorporate recreation/trails infrastructure valued by our communities and partners
- Align our workforce and actions towards pre-planning with our stakeholders and implementation (Refer to Appendix C).
- Incorporate basic trail clearing into prescribed fire activities to meet Trail Stewardship Act (TSA) requirements

### **Good Neighbor Authority - GNA**

- Look for contracting opportunities associated to trail improvements within Veg projects
- Explore opportunities with IDPR to increase capacity associated to the State's Heavy Maintenance and Trail Ranger programs
- Implement Vegetation Management Plans and Pre-Season Hazard Tree Inspections for campgrounds focusing on priority areas first

### **Stewardship and other Retained Receipts**

- Explore expanding opportunities to include maintenance of infrastructure that exists to protect the resource from adverse effects of public use. Explore expanding authority to address Dispersed Rec ABP's (Refer to Appendix A) for priority areas in settings such as Urban Influence and Dispersed Play

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### **Concessions GT Funds**

- Retain 50% of the Campground Concessions GT funds to be used as match for the improvements within the implementation plan for IDPR RV and Waterway Grants
- Route of Hiawatha GT funds will be prioritized on required condition surveys and as a match for Trail Bridge CIP and other critical health and safety items.

### **FLREA Funds**

- 80% of Funds to supplement Developed Recreation ABP's (Refer to Appendix A) of the fee site
- 20% of Funds to be used as match for the improvements within the implementation plan for IDPR RV and Waterway Grants or other grant funds.
- Develop 5-10 Implementation Plan for Rental Improvements for Historic Preservation Team

### **FERC**

- Continue to engage in funding opportunities for Respect the River Campaign and NF CDA priority areas for the Scenic Rivers and Travel Ways Setting

### **SRS –Title II (RAC)**

- Concentrate on visitor services associated to Dispersed Rec ABP's (Refer to Appendix A)
- Focus on Improvements in priority areas such as non-motorized trails, trailheads, interpretive areas.
- Engage Youth and Senior Programs in projects

### **NRDA**

- Concentrate projects on NF CDA River corridor priority areas for both Scenic Rivers and Dispersed Play
- Consider additional projects along the St. Joe River corridor priority area

### **NATIONAL CIP**

- Focus Trail Bridge CIP towards RoH Tunnels and Trestles
- Review/update current CIP proposal to make sure they are in priority areas
- Develop/ Modify Infrastructure Decommissioning list on non-priority areas first, then infrastructure in priority areas that are no longer relevant in meeting the demands of the public

### **Partnership and Volunteer (Center of Excellence)**

- CDA will continue to provide excellence in partnership and community support through their Trail Partner Coordinator position
- Bonners Ferry will continue to provide excellence in volunteers, youth, and seniors through their Volunteer Coordinator position
- Sandpoint will develop a partner coordinator that emphasizes on connecting trails to the community

## Setting: Lake Based

*This setting includes the three large lakes (Priest, Pend Oreille and Coeur d' Alene), as well as many small mountain lakes, that attract boaters, anglers, and campers. The forest offers natural appearing recreation settings along the shores.*

*Activities include destination boating, fishing, and camping. In addition, unique opportunities for boat-in island and lakeshore camping are offered.*

## Desired Future Conditions

1. (setting/resource) Vast, deep, glaciated lakes that define the panhandle of Idaho. Scenic resources complement the lake based settings and experiences while reflecting healthy and sustainable ecosystem conditions. Recreation activities do not unacceptably impact the natural quality of vegetation and aquatic ecosystems.
2. (opportunity) Revenue generated through FLREA, Concessions, Waterways and RV grants, FERC, and landscape scale restoration efforts will be used to reduce deferred maintenance of existing facilities and construction of new facilities to respond to increasing demands from expanding populations while protecting the water-based resource values.
3. (infrastructure) Quality, highly developed, and well maintained facilities exist at key locations to provide comfortable setting allowing visitors to congregate, socialize, recharge, and relax from the summer's heat. Redesign of highly developed sites will focus on RV use and improving accessibility and services. Boat-in infrastructure will be provided for resource protection.
4. (education) Self-facilitated visitor information services are emphasized to improve experiences and educate users on good stewards. Concentrate messaging on water and people to improve conditions and human waste techniques and pack it in pack it out through Interpretive Education Programs
5. (community & partner) Cooperation between local communities, concessions, and other agencies for an integrated approach to recreation management. Work with concessionaire to keep pace with changing demands and expectations at our highest developed sites.

## Priority Areas:

- Priest Lake
- Lake Pend Orielle



## Setting: Scenic Rivers & Travel Ways

*These river and road corridors offer concentrated recreation use areas, both developed and undeveloped. Although these corridors serve as destinations, they also provide four-season access to and passage through the Forest, connecting visitors to cultural and natural resources by a network of roads and trail systems. Rivers often run parallel to these roads, providing a secondary travel route, and often, blue ribbon fisheries.*

*Primary activities in these settings include: floating, boating, fishing, and camping along the waters edge.*

## Desired Future Conditions

1. (setting/resource) Scenic resources complement the recreation settings and experiences while reflecting healthy and sustainable ecosystem conditions. Recreation activities do not unacceptably impact the natural quality of soil, vegetation, wildlife, and aquatic ecosystems.
2. (opportunity) Revenue generated through FLREA, Concessions, RV grants, NRDA, FERC, and landscape scale restoration efforts will be used for improvements of existing and new facilities to respond to increasing demands from expanding populations while protecting resource values.
3. (infrastructure) Facilities under concessions and fee sites will be accessible, very well maintained and there is little if any deferred maintenance; these facilities are mostly supported by the fees they generate. Facilities that do not support the recreation niche and priorities have been decommissioned. Dispersed sites that have been hardened to protect the resource have and integrated management approach.
4. (education) Self-facilitated visitor information services are emphasized to improve experiences and educate users on good stewards. Concentrate messaging on water and people to improve conditions and human waste techniques through Interpretive Education Programs such as “Respect the River” Campaign.
5. (community & partner) Work with community and partner organizations such as the North Fork Watershed Advisory Group for a “Shared Corridor” approach in education and infrastructure needs to protect the setting and resource

## Priority Areas:

- North Fork of the Coeur d Alene River Corridor
- St. Joe River Corridor

## Setting: Urban Influence

*This is where the Forest meets valley communities, developments, and corridors. Daily rejuvenation occurs along Forest edges and within Forest parcels intermixed with private lands.*

*These areas are often extensions of local communities and provide quick, convenient access. Motorized and non-motorized trails are used for daily exercise and recharge, opportunities to appreciate the natural environment and cultural history. Designated trail systems are provided with community partnership and support. Interpretation and education messages encourage stewardship and “Tread Lightly” behavior.*

## Desired Future Conditions

1. (setting/resource) Scenery and green space enhance to quality of life for residents while being managed to protect the biological and physical resource.
2. (opportunity) Work with local communities, partners, and industry to understand and leverage how trail systems can support rural and urban economic health. Opportunities are examined to connect trail systems with neighboring trail systems providing links with communities.
3. (infrastructure) Trail systems that connect to communities are sustainably designed, well maintained, used for their intended purpose. Well designed and maintained trailheads exist and offer adequate parking and turnaround areas. Other recreational infrastructure is provided for day use activities.
4. (education) User Groups and other partner organizations work with communities bordering the Forest to be actively involved in disseminating education materials and building stewardships through programs such as Tread Lightly!, Leave Not Trace, and NFF’s “it’s all yours” campaign.
5. (community & partner) Strong partnerships continue to grow with community support through a model of shared stewardship. Trails and recreation infrastructure are maintained with a wide array of groups assisting with a shared vision approach. Adopt a Trail, Adopt a Potty are some techniques that will be deployed to expand capacity and skillset.

## Priority Areas:

- Coeur d’ Alene
- Sandpoint

## Setting: Wild Places

*The wild places are sporadic throughout the Forest. These include the high country of the Selkirk's and Scotchman's, the diversity of the Mallard Larkins, and the lowlands of the upper stretch of the St. Joe River. These rugged, remote, backcountry areas provide solitude, adventure, and self-reliance for users in these landscapes.*

*Hiking, hunting, fishing, backpacking, horse packing, rafting, and back-country skiing are primary activities in these settings.*

## Desired Future Conditions

1. (setting/resource) Natural ecological processes and disturbances are the primary forces affecting the composition, structure, and pattern of vegetation and have the ability to protect the soil resource from recreation use. Large remote areas with little recreation disturbance provide habitats for species with large home ranges. Wild Rivers are free flowing in nature, providing remarkable scenic, recreational, wildlife, water quality, and fishery values. Air quality is good and the resource values such as scenery are protected.
2. (opportunity) Landscapes away from the urban centers that provide opportunities for solitude, exploration, risk, challenge, self-reliance and primitive recreation. Wild rivers provide the free flowing characteristics of the river and outstanding scenery.
3. (infrastructure) Natural landscapes dominate; infrastructure is minimal and focused toward key locations to access the setting such as trails and minimally developed trailheads and campgrounds. Trails and their surrounding environment are challenging, both physically and mentally.
4. (education) Visitors have opportunities to learn the need for self-reliance; develop the abilities to withstand physical challenges, and learn to use Leave No Trace (LNT) Skills. LNT messaging should be provided through social media, key portals, and direct interaction.
5. (community and partnership) Work in collaboration with partner organizations such as Friends of Scotchman's Peak, North Idaho Fly Casters, Idaho Conservation League, Trout Unlimited, Idaho Trails Association, and other state & federal agencies with shared values, interest and needs in regards to education efforts to protect the setting.

## Priority Areas:

- Upper St. Joe River- Mallard Larkins
- Scotchman's Peak

## Setting: Dispersed Play (Winter & Summer)

*These vast areas comprise of the majority of the Forest and interfaces with some of the more rural communities and compliment traditional life-styles. Largely open, undeveloped, or minimally developed landscapes provide a variety of less structured, 4-season recreation opportunities with thousands of acres to explore.*

*Uses are dispersed in nature and include: camping, OHV use on designated routes, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking, and gathering forest products.*

## Desired Future Conditions

1. (setting/resource) Native surface and graveled routes winding through forested ecosystems. Access routes, activities, infrastructure are located to maintain water quality, wildlife habitats, and properly functioning riparian areas. Development and restrictions are only used to protect the resources, not to provide amenities/comforts, i.e. they are used to mitigate impacts, not provide additional opportunities. Forests are managed so landscapes are resilient and resistant to effects of climate change.
2. (opportunities) Through landscape scale reforestation and restoration efforts, visitors can experience a sense of unstructured recreation in a defined system of roads and trails, camp locations, and portals for all four seasons. Forest Service, State and private sector partners to provide trails, amenities and portals, for all four seasons. A mixture of motorized and non-motorized winter opportunities, designed to reduce user conflicts, is provided.
3. (infrastructure) Infrastructure and facilities are placed and managed primarily for resource protection rather than user convenience. The Forest provides a mix of “common-use” roads and OHV specific trails that considers both provisions of access and safety for all four seasons. Non-motorized and motorized winter recreation opportunities are easily identified by access portals and web site postings.
4. (education/communication) Forest Service cooperates with other federal and state agencies, “Tread Lightly”, “Know Before You Go”, and local partners to promote responsible OHV and Over The Snow vehicle (OSV) use on the Forest. An OHV/OSV education trailer is used Forest wide to promote safe, responsible riding. Other similar education tools are developed and used in the field to cultivate stewardship across the OHV/OSV community.
5. (Community & Partnership) Winter Trails are groomed and maintained through partnership with the State, Counties, and Clubs. Continue to work with the State for “shared stewards” of our motorized trail systems.

## Priority Areas

- North Fork Coeur d’Alene River Drainage

## Setting: Special Places

*These are places that are truly unique and offer visitors key recreation destinations that highlight their heritage value, engage visitors, and instill an appreciation for the area's heritage. These include significant historic sites, structures and corridors such as the Route of the Hiawatha, Pulaski Tunnel Trail, Emerald Creek Garnet Area, and our rental cabins and lookouts.*

### Desired Future Conditions:

1. (setting/resource) The 14 mile Route of the Hiawatha Rail-Trail winds through the Forest along the abandoned Milwaukee Railroad grade through numerous tunnels and trestles. The Emerald Creek Garnet Area is one of two areas in the world where you can find the Star Garnet, Idaho's state gem. Recreational rental cabins and lookouts provide safe, comfortable, overnight facilities that allow visitors to experience and learn about the rich history of the area.
2. (opportunity) Revenue generated through Concessions, FLREA, and National CIP will be utilized for critical improvements by completing deferred maintenance items that are essential to preserve our special places for the next generation.
3. (infrastructure) Well maintained facilities shall preserve the cultural value and integrity of the resource in a way that will not detract from the ambience of the setting. Relevant infrastructure will support user comfort for multigenerational use and will complement the setting.
4. (education) Self-facilitated and hands on visitor information services are emphasized to improve experiences and to educate users about the importance of protecting these resources and to discourage vandalism and incidental damage.
5. (Community and Partnership) Route of the Hiawatha and the Emerald Creek Garnet Area are economic generators for small communities within rural counties. These towns now annually draw thousands of recreationist to enjoy these special places. We will work with our communities and partners encouraging innovative approaches and collaborative stewardship to develop "Friends Group" concepts for these two sites.

### Priority Areas:

- Route of the Hiawatha
- Emerald Creek Garnet Area

## Appendices

*Appendix A – Recreation Annual Business Practices (ABP's)*

*Appendix B – Recreation Special Uses Operating Tenants*

*Appendix C – Landscape Scale Integration*

*Appendix D – Desired Leveraged Organization*

*Appendix E – Idaho Parks and Recreation (IDPR) Grant Cycle*

*Appendix E – Settings Maps*

*Appendix F – Out-Year Program of Work*

## **Appendix A –Recreation Annual Business Practices (ABP's)**

*Defines program of work associated to annual operations. Web based platforms will also be annually updated to be accurate, relevant, and easy to follow.*

### **1. RECREATION SPECIAL USES**

- Annual work is defined by the Recreation Strategy - Operating Tenets for special use management.

### **2. DEVELOPED SITE ANNUAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE**

- Developed sites in priority areas are operated in compliance with national critical standards:
  - Visitors are not exposed to human waste,
  - Water, wastewater, and sewage treatment systems meet federal, state, and local water quality regulations,
  - Effects from recreation use do not conflict with environmental laws (such as ESA, NHPA, Clean Water Act, TES, etc.),
  - High risk conditions do not exist in developed recreation sites,
  - Utility inspections meet federal, state, and local requirements,
  - When signed as accessible, constructed features meet accessibility requirements as stipulated in the FSORAG and ABAAS
  - Constructed features are serviceable and in good repair
- Developed sites outside of priority areas, concessionaire, and FLREA operated sites that are not maintained by partners, if open, are in compliance with national critical standards. Routine operation and maintenance is minimal.

### **3. TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT**

- Hazardous conditions outside the acceptable range of the recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) are mitigated.
- Effects from recreation use that conflict with environmental laws (such as ESA, NHPA, Clean Water, TES, etc.) are analyzed and mitigated as needed.
- Trails meet guidelines in FSTAG when applicable
- Trail bridges are inspected by a qualified bridge inspector at required intervals.
- Routine annual maintenance is based on trails that are valued and prioritized by user groups and communities, as well as trails in priority areas

### **4. TRAVEL MANAGEMENT & DISPERSED RECREATION**

- Within Recreation Strategy priority areas annual work is as follows:
  - visitor information
  - effective signing
  - field presence/enforcement
  - visitors are not exposed to human waste

## Appendix B – Recreation Special Uses Operating Tenets

*Increased capacity through a Center of Excellence model allows us to appropriately respond to applicants, permit holders, the needs of the public, and focus on communication consistency.*

**RECREATION SPECIAL USES** (includes ski and other resorts, concessionaires, recreation residences, outfitter/guides, recreation events, etc.)

### **Applicable to all authorizations (unless specific tenets apply)**

1. All permits will be billed on schedule.
2. Required follow-up for unpaid bills will occur as prescribed by agency direction.
3. Targets (# of permits administered to standard) will be met. (this requires that fee is paid, permit is inspected, and permit is in compliance with permit clauses)
4. Basic Administration for all permits:
  - Billing & follow-up
  - Respond to permittee inquiries (not necessarily assessment/decision on proposals). Schedule significant permit additions and modifications as staff and budget allow. Process cost recovery fees for all permit modifications.
  - React to health & safety concerns and significant adverse impacts to other uses/resources.
5. Renew expiring permits.

### **Ski Area (specific)**

1. Administer to standard
2. Annually review all annual/seasonal required operation plans and update as required.
3. Respond to proposals. Review, evaluate, and make timely decisions.
4. Complete Title VI Inspection and Reviews every 5 years.

### **Recreation Residences (specific)**

1. Administer recreation residence permits according to FSH direction and the IPNF's operating plan titled Recreation Residence Standards and Guidelines.
2. Proposals for repair, replacements and new construction (outside of emergencies) will be handled under the "Open Season" for new proposals and is part of the Recreation Residence Standards and Guidelines.
3. Recreation Residences will be inspected annually (per FSH direction).



**Resort (specific)**

1. Inspect annually, insure annual O&M Plan is updated, and insure compliance with Title VI.
2. Review permit fee formula data as provided by permittee sufficiently to insure accuracy.

**Outfitter Guides (specific)**

1. Address future needs through streamlined NEPA and coordination with Idaho Licensing Board
2. Future offerings through a prospectus will be completed at a forest level.

**Campground and Route of the Hiawatha Concessions Permits (specific)**

1. Administer to standard.
2. Insure compliance with permit requirements (over and above operating standards)
3. Facilitate prioritization of current year and out-year GT fee offset; insure compliance with FS specifications and local requirements.
4. Coordinate with Reservation Service.
5. Respond to and facilitate permit holder response to visitor complaints.
6. On 10 year cycle evaluate extension of Campground permit. 15 year cycle complete prospectus and issue new permit.
7. On 15 year cycle evaluate extension of Route of the Hiawatha permit. 20 year cycle complete prospectus and issue new permit

**Recreation Events (specific)**

1. Winter event applications will be accepted during winter “Open Season” which occurs in August.
2. Summer event applications will be accepted during summer “Open Season” which occurs in January
3. They are either denied, or accepted. If accepted a permit must be prepared following FSH direction.

**Non-commercial Group Use (specific)**

1. Recommend applications be submitted 60 days in advance
2. Pre-designated sites for common activities are provided to applicant in advance
3. They are either denied, or accepted. If accepted a permit must be prepared following FSH direction.

## Appendix C – Landscape Scale Integration

*Keys to success for the **3R** approach to Landscape Scale Integration (Reforestation, Restoration, and Recreation).*

### PRE NFMA

- When developing project boundaries for the 5-Year Integrated Vegetation and Fuels Action Plan, consider recreation and trail opportunities
- Review 5 year Integrated Vegetation and Fuels Action Plan to incorporate a ranking component on recreation/trails infrastructure valued by our communities and partners
- Alignment of our workforce to work with partners and communities to better understand the opportunities needed across the landscape before NFMA

### NFMA

- Integrate recreation/trails opportunities into the NFMA assessment that include:
  - TROADS – Look for opportunities to reroute non-motorized and single track trails
  - Trail Connectivity – Look for loop opportunities while decommission non-used cherry stems
  - Facilities to complement trail connectivity such as trailheads
  - Decommission of infrastructure that is no longer relevant - (Facilities, Trails)
  - Winter Haul Routes – Identify highly valued winter trail systems vs. little used for alternatives
  - Signing - Improve for navigation, trails, interpretation, and other facilities where appropriate
  - ROS/Scenery - Keep the desired experience for each setting and look for opportunities to rehabilitate scenery objectives
  - Dispersed Recreation - Look for opportunities to harden in order to protect the resources of the setting
  - Developed Recreation – Improvements and expansion should be considered if it progresses us closer to our desired conditions of our settings

### Implementation

1. GNA, stewardship, and other retained receipts that are used for trail projects need to be coordinated with State of Idaho trail grant timeline procedures.
2. RV and Waterways improvements coordinated with Vegetation Management Treatments of Developed Campgrounds and other Day Use Sites.
3. IDPR Heavy Maintenance Tours for motorized trails scheduled after all Reforestation and Restoration efforts are completed.

## Appendix D –Desired Leveraged Organization

*The goal of our Recreation organizational structure is to have a leveraged organization that positions the Forest to deliver a sustainable recreation program for the next 5-10 years. We would want to revise as needed based upon new information and changing conditions such as fee retention of recreation residences, ski resorts, and any other shared stewardship opportunities. Workforce should reflect effective implementation of our program goals by utilizing our opportunities to complete priority work across the Forest.*

The structure takes into account the following:

- Landscape Scale Integration
  - GS-11 Zone Recreation Staffs are spending 80-120 days on veg projects based on the veg matrix for the Forests Integrated Veg. Management Plan
- Special Uses are now under a Center of Excellence concept
  - Position #1 –Campground Concessions, Recreation Residences, NZ O&G's and Recreation Events
  - Position #2 – Route of the Hiawatha, Lookout Ski Resort, CZ/SZ O&G's and CZ Recreation Events
- Recreation Positions on zones are leveraged through fee retention (Campgrounds & Recreation Rentals)
- Trail Managers, Partner Coordinator, and Volunteer Youth Coordinators on zones are “leveraged” positions to take into account unique opportunities associated to trails through the State and local communities
  - FS Match for State Grants. Grants then pay for seasonal workforce

**Workforce is positioned in a way to cover our Forests Annual Business Practices (ABP)'s, otherwise known as custodial mode, of our Forest's Special Uses, Developed Recreation, and Trails Program.**

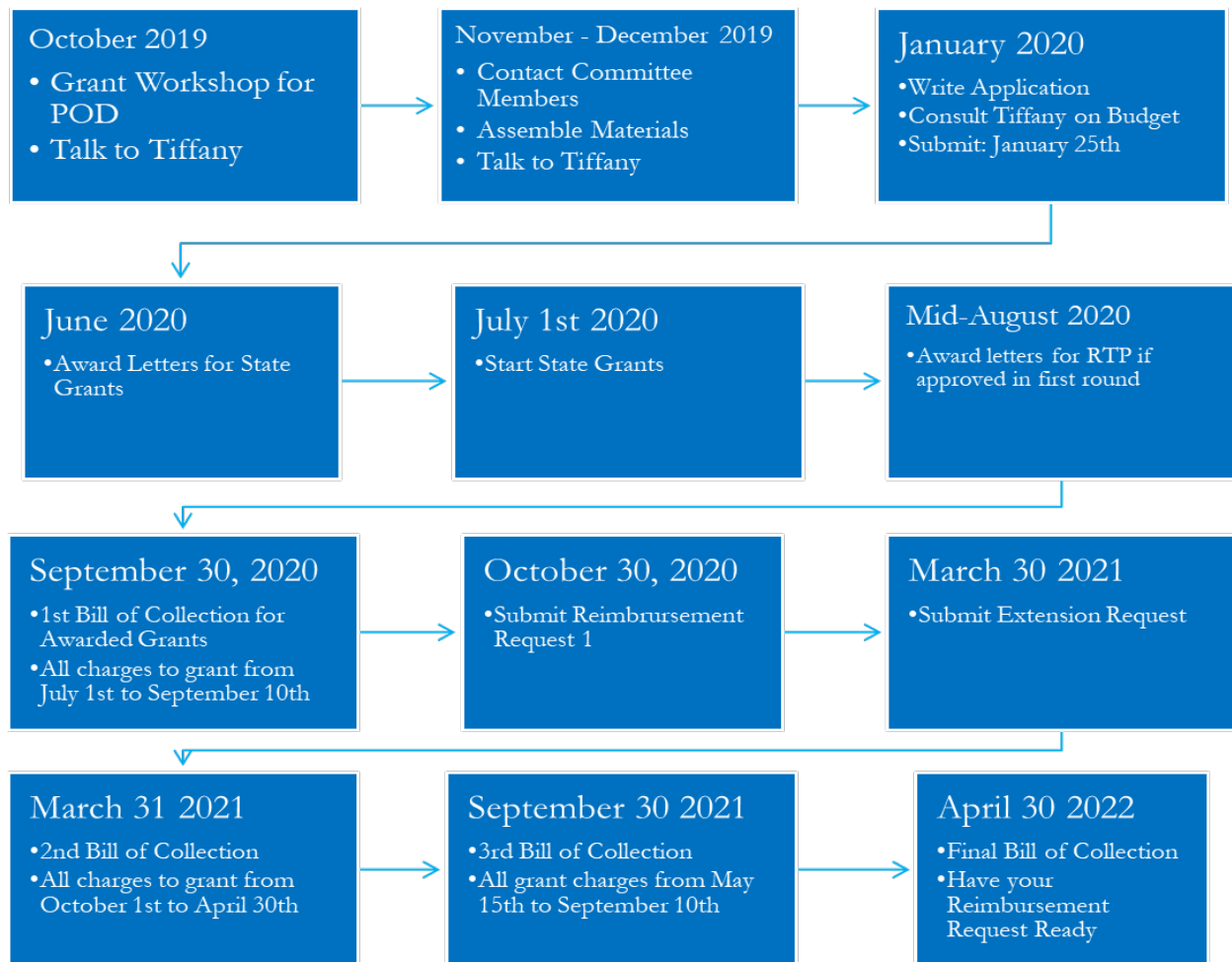
**Permanent seasonal workforce is matched with the work need and location**

**Future Improvements will be strategic based off of priorities identified in “Out-Year Program of Work”.**

July 10, 2019

## Appendix E – Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Grant Cycle

*The goal of this timetable is to understand IDPR requirements in order for the IPNF to successfully identify projects on the forest's out-year POW. This will be a supplemental document to our out-year planning efforts for RV and Waterway Grant funds in which survey and design can be used as a match for up to one year prior to grant submission.*



- Project needs to be “Officially” closed out by June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2022.