

**North Idaho Over-Snow Travel Management
December 16, 2021 Meeting Record
4:00 – 7:00 PM**

The meeting was held both on Zoom and at the Idaho Forest Group's Athol mill conference room. Karen DiBari of the National Forest Foundation facilitated.

Everyone in the meeting introduced themselves (either verbally if in person in Athol, or via chat in the Zoom platform). Karen DiBari described the National Forest Foundation and its role as a neutral convener and facilitator of this collaborative process for the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF).

Karen presented a general overview about what a collaborative process is and how it is different from the typical public involvement process required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). She described the opportunity the Forest Service is offering to bring together community members to develop creative approaches and solutions before NEPA begins.

Jessie Berner, the Sandpoint District Ranger for the IPNF, provided a verbal overview of the timeline the Forest Service is on (need to complete and implement a winter travel plan by the end of 2023; anticipate a proposed action in June, effects analysis starting in July, and scoping in early fall 2022). The timeline will be on the Idaho Panhandle website once it is updated.

The IPNF has a draft map put together, which includes wildlife protection areas and recreational trails (see attached). The Working Group can use the map as a starting point but it does not need to be the boundaries of the work.

Christy Johnson-Hughes provided a description of what "complete and implement" means. What is important is that the IPNF will complete an over-snow motorized travel plan that includes considerations for post-den emergent grizzlies, a map that depicts closed and open areas, and an implementation plan that outlines any future on-the-ground activities and timelines. Signage would happen after the decision has been made on the project.

Karen asked the group present at the meeting if, based on the information they had heard so far, whether they wanted to continue with a detailed discussion to move forward with a collaborative process. The group agreed they wanted to move forward. For now, the collaborative group working through the process will be called the North Idaho Working Group.

Karen shared a draft code of conduct and explained how collaboration generally works in terms of expectations of members and how decisions are made. See the attached PPT for further information. The anticipated process will require at least monthly meetings with a target of developing recommendations to the Forest Service in six months.

Following the presentations, the group expressed general agreement for the following:

- Categories for membership, listed below
- Support for a Process Committee with the following roles:
 - Represent a balance of interests from within the broader Working Group
 - Work with the NFF to develop meeting agendas and overall process steps
 - Work with other stakeholders to establish a Working Group membership that is balanced and inclusive across interests
 - Consider how this collaborative effort can be visible to the broader public

- A group of people volunteered to serve on the Process Committee (see excel spreadsheet), which will meet the week of January 3
- State agency representatives, Congressional staff and state legislators will serve in an advisory capacity
- Meetings will be held on a rotating basis between Bonner and Boundary County
- People who weren't able to attend (but who were on the invitation list) and others who may be interested in this process will be given the opportunity to express interest in serving on the Working Group
- The next meeting will be January 18, 2022 at the Bonner County Administrative Building in the Commissioner's Conference Room (1st Floor, 1500 US-2, Sandpoint, ID 83864). Most of the meeting participants suggested that having the meeting start at 5 pm was preferable.

North Idaho Working Group (tentative name)

At the meeting, participants identified interest areas they'd like to see represented in the Working Group.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens at large representing geographic balance (one from each county) • Elected officials - one commissioner each from Bonner, Boundary and Kootenai Counties • Business/ Chamber of Commerce • Non-motorized recreation • Motorized recreation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outfitters & Guides • Tribes • Conservation • Private land owners (inholdings or adjacent) • Wildlife • Timber • Mining • Communications |
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Advisory status:

- Congressional staff
- State elected officials
- State agencies
 - Governor's Office
 - Office of Species Conservation
 - Idaho Department of Lands
 - Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation