

Joe Heisel

North Zone Road Manager
Forest Service
Idaho Panhandle National Forest
Sandpoint Ranger District
1602 Ontario Street
Sandpoint ID 83864
Email: jheisel@fs.fed.us

Dear Joe,

It is with sincere gratitude that the Panhandle Forest Collaborative expresses our support of the Sandpoint Ranger District's Recreational Road & Bridge Fund Program grant application. We support the request for Recreational Road & Bridge Fund (RRBF) moneys to be used to develop, construct, maintain and repair roads, bridges and parking areas within and leading to parks and recreation areas in the state of Idaho. The Sandpoint Ranger District's proposal to improve the Auxor Road (Forest Service Road 489) will accomplish that goal.

The Auxor Road is important access into the high mountains for motorized and hiking trailheads, dispersed camping, and alpine views. Improvements to the Auxor Road will provide better access to upper Wellington Creek and Round Top Mountain for vehicles pulling trailers and passenger cars. The approval of the Sandpoint Ranger District's grant application would also provide for increased maintenance efficiencies on the Auxor Road.

The Panhandle Forest Collaborative supports the funding request for improvements to the Auxor Road as a means to improve access and safety, reduce maintenance costs, and enhance the overall experience of visitors to the area. Please contact us with any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

On Behalf of the Panhandle Forest Collaborative:

Liz Johnson-Gebhardt (Chair)

Mike Petersen (Vice-Chair)

