



Payette Forest Coalition  
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Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation  
5657 Warm Springs Ave.  
Boise, ID 83716-8700

The Payette Forest Coalition (PFC) was formed to build diverse community support and provide input to the Payette National Forest for forest restoration projects. The PFC focuses its attention and efforts on restoration projects because current forest conditions depart from the historic range of variability. The PFC works to ensure treatments are designed to make forests more resistant and resilient to wildfires, to improve watershed conditions, wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities, and to contribute to rural economic development.

The Payette National Forest (PNF) is currently seeking approval for four grants through the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) that ~~the PFC~~ will contribute towards meeting ~~PFC~~ coalition goals that address recreation enhancement and opportunities and watershed rehabilitation and improvement. One of the PFC goals is specific to forest access and recreation: “Enhance the road and trail network to support access for resource management, outdoor recreation and public safety.” All four 2022 grant applications from the PNF meet this criteria, and portions of three out of four projects will meaningfully enhance watershed conditions in the individual project areas.

The Payette Forest Coalition supports the Payette National Forest’s requests for grant funding from the IDPR for the 2022-23 season. Each of the projects and the associated resources listed below provide a wide range of recreation opportunities for the public that lives, works, and plays in the West Central Mountains.

### **Jenkins Crossing**

- The Forest Service will replace the dilapidated bridge at Jenkins Crossing of French Creek in the McCall District of the PNF. The new bridge will span 70 feet, will be designed for stock, livestock, motorized, and non-motorized use, and will replace a human health and safety hazard. Further, bridge replacement will improve watershed conditions by reducing sediment introduction to French Creek. The vast majority of the funds for this project will come from the Great American Outdoors Act.



### **Heavy Trail Maintenance, McCall and New Meadows Districts**

- This project will address trail maintenance issues on 146.9 miles of PNF trails, which is a great service for the recreating public. With a nearly even split between the proposed motorized (76.2 miles) and non-motorized (70.7 miles) trail work, the project also includes constructing two trail bridges: Granite Mtn Trail (north of Goose Lake); and the Big Hazard ATV trail.

### **Huckleberry Water System Replacement**

- This much needed and long-overdue project will replace an outdated and non-functioning human health and safety hazard at a highly popular campground. This project also has significant support through the Great American Outdoors Act and could use additional support to ensure its completion.

### **Council Ranger District Trails Proposal**

- The grant funds from IDPR would support the finishing touches on the construction/reconstruction of the Little Weiser, Grouse Creek/Grizzly Creek trails, which began in 2021 with funding through the Great American Outdoors Act. The proposed work is to improve trail tread compaction and repair drainage issues following the trail's first post-construction winter.

The PFC believes these four projects meet several of the coalition's criteria for engagement, and we appreciate the Payette National Forest proactively working to improve watershed conditions while working to enhance recreation opportunities for all Idahoans. Therefore, we respectfully request that you fund the grant applications for these four important projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Payette Forest Coalition