

Idaho Panhandle Public Lands Initiative

Selkirks Subcommittee Meeting

November 13, 2025

Location

Paradise Valley Grange Hall, 3661 Kootenai Trail Rd, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805.

Attendees

Rose Olson, Brad Smith, Bob Hays, Stan Myers, Chuck Roady, Ed Atkins, Scooter Drake, Olivia Drake, Emily Strizitch, Pam Duquette, Rod Barclay, Tony McDermott, John Finney, Mat Kramer, Eric Olsen

Notes

- At the April meeting of the IPPLI, representatives of over-snow vehicle (OSV) users presented a wilderness proposal that included Long Canyon, Parker Creek, and the very upper end of Smith Creek. That proposal was reviewed to refresh everyone’s memory and to introduce it to those who could not attend the April meeting.
- The Idaho Conservation League then presented three different options for the group to consider. Each option included a wilderness designation and a recreation area designation—which would be managed like wilderness except that OSV use and motorized equipment for trail maintenance would be allowed. The overall size of the designations varies across the three options.
- Additionally, the period during which OSV use would be allowed is shorter under Options B and C than under Option A. Mountain bike access would be allowed in the recreation area under Option B only. Public motorized access to the Bog Creek Road would be allowed July 15–September 15 under Options A and B, but not under Option C.

Option	Selkirk Wilderness	Pack River Recreation Area	Mandated dates for OSV access to recreation area	Mountain bike access to recreation area	Use of motorized equipment for trail maintenance in recreation area	Public motorized access to Bog Creek Road
A	Similar to the Forest Service recommendation	Similar to Forest Service Primitive Area	Nov 15 to May 15	No	Yes	Jul 15 to Sep 30
B	Excludes	Adds Roman	Nov 15 to	Yes	Yes	Jul 15 to

	Two Mouth Lakes; adds Lion's Head, Abandoned Mtn, West Fork Mtn, West Fork Lake, Cutoff Lake, Lake Mtn, Trout Lake, Pyramid Lake, Ball Lakes	Nose, Snow Lake, Bottleneck Lake, Brooks Lake, Cooks Lake, Two Mouth Lakes	Mar 31			Sep 30
C	Same as Option B except excludes Trout, Pyramid, Ball Lakes	Same as Option B	Nov 15 to Mar 31	No	Yes	No

- A discussion about the Bog Creek Road ensued. It was clarified that the proposal to allow public motorized access was intended to provide a connected route across the northern Selkirks—allowing travel from the Kootenai Valley to Priest Lake—not simply open the five-mile Bog Creek segment.
- The date range of July 15–September 30 was chosen to avoid conflict with cattle grazing operations in Cow and Grass Creeks. Cattle are rounded up the first week of October, and public access could interfere with the process.
- Representatives of OSV users expressed opposition to including West Fork Lake and West Fork Cabin in wilderness. It was clarified that West Fork Cabin is not included in any of the options, but West Fork Lake remains a desirable wilderness addition for conservation interests.
- Attendees also discussed Trout and Pyramid Lakes. Conservation representatives expressed interest in including these lakes in wilderness—especially if Two Mouth Lakes are excluded—while OSV users preferred placing the boundary on the ridgeline above them.
- The Cutoff Lake area was also discussed as a possible wilderness addition.
- There was further discussion about mountain bike use in the recreation area and whether it should be allowed or prohibited. One suggestion was to allow bikes only on certain trails (such as Fault Lake and Chimney Rock, which follow old roads), while prohibiting them on others (such as Harrison Lake and Beehive Lakes). Allowing bike use in some parts of the recreation area was not viewed as a dealbreaker for conservationists.
- A representative of the agricultural community requested a buffer between the wilderness boundary and private land at the bottom of Long Canyon and Parker Creek to allow for fuels reduction and other management activities to protect residents and property from wildfire. This concept received general support.

Next steps

- The Selkirk Subcommittee will meet again in January.
- Participants were encouraged to use maps to illustrate the designations they can support.
- These maps will be shared at the next meeting to identify areas of agreement and areas requiring further discussion to work toward consensus.