



# *Kinnikinnick Chapter* of The Idaho Native Plant Society

Carol Jenkins, President, P.O. Box 1092, Sandpoint, ID 83864; [president@nativeplantsociety.org](mailto:president@nativeplantsociety.org)

[www.nativeplantsociety.org](http://www.nativeplantsociety.org)

**President**

Carol Jenkins  
(208) 265-9204

**Vice-President**

Jim Stern  
(208) 265-6733

**Secretary**

Dennis Rieger  
(208) 263-5947

**Treasurer**

Ken Haag  
(208) 255-4413

**Arboretum Manager**

Sylvia M. Chatburn  
(208) 263-2175

**Founder**

Lois Wythe  
(208) 263-8038

**Board Members**

Janice DeBaun  
(208) 263-8970

Nancy Fontaine  
(208) 255-7748

Joanna Fuchs  
(208) 265-4839

Bob Wilson  
(208) 683-2387

January 29, 2009

Mr. Ron Durham  
Priest Lake Supervisory Area  
Idaho Dept. of Lands  
4053 Cavanaugh Bay Road  
Coolin, ID 83821

Dear Ron,

Thank you for sending us the FY 2010 Proposed Timber Sale Plan and accepting our comments. We have several concerns and questions:

1. Roads: 8.5 miles will be constructed, 15 miles reconstructed and 35 miles improved. Roads are corridors for spreading weeds, they fragment habitat, damage streams and promote ORV use. We understand that you reconstruct roads to higher standards, designed to protect waterways. However, this proposed schedule of sales would increase the number and density, and probably the use, of roads. To offset this increased disturbance and to decrease their impact, which of the new and upgraded roads will be closed to vehicular use, and what rehabilitative steps will be taken?
2. Weeds: logging and road building provide access for weed spread. What prevention and control measures will be employed, short and long term?
3. Expansion of ORV use; two proposed sales, Inside Outlet and Northwest Flats are near the Dickensheet unit of PLSP, which is currently pursuing a grant indicating increased ORV use on public lands and an expansion of other recreational and camping opportunities. ORVs in this (and any) area can damage young trees, stream banks, soils and habitat for sensitive plants. Are you coordinating with PLSP to define clearly designated trails and roads for ORV use and determining how to keep ORVs on authorized trails? Is there an education component? Are both regulations and enforcement available and sufficient?
4. Habitat: The Priest Lake basin is a fragile and unique botanic area. It is the only Idaho home to several sensitive, disjunct, coastal plant species. Plants from the Rocky Mountains and Canadian Boreal ecosystems are found here, as are some found primarily further south.

We are likely to contact you in spring to look together at some areas that might be of interest or ones that are near the Dickensheet unit of PLSP.

Thank you for your continuing cooperation.

Sincerely,

Molly O'Reilly  
Conservation Committee Chair