March 16, 2012

A.J. Helgenberg
Lower Priest Project Leader
Sandpoint Ranger District
1602 Ontario Street
Sandpoint ID 83864

Re: Lower Priest Project

The Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society appreciates the opportunity to comment on this project. It is clear that great thought has gone into the project design. We admire the goal of restoring this forest toward its historic white pine and larch composition.

Topics that we encourage have substantial attention:

1. New road construction be minimized.
2. Areas to be treated be surveyed botanically for sensitive plant species, and any found be undisturbed. The Priest Lake basin is an especially important area botanically in North Idaho.
3. When roads are put in storage, they be monitored for invasive weed invasion until proven clean (we assume that will be a number of years).
4. All efforts be made to prevent noxious weeds spreading from treatment activities; treatment and monitoring for weeds subsequently be part of this project.
5. Riparian habitat be protected.

If a tour of the proposed treatment area is planned, please let us know. We likely will have interested members.

Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society wishes to remain on the notification list for this project.

Thank you,

Gail Bolin
President