

## Glenda Wiles

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**From:** Dan and Karen Thompson <dkthomps@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 22, 2018 1:57 PM  
**To:** Greg Chilcott; Jeff Burrows; Glenda Wiles; Ray Hawk; Chris A. Hoffman; Doug Schallenberger  
**Subject:** Idaho County Taking the Fight to the Forest Service  
**Attachments:** More Forest Plan Comments from Idaho County.2.20.18.pdf

FYI, attached is a letter from Idaho County commenting on the Forest Plan revisions going on in the New Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

The Bitterroot will soon start the Plan revision process. It is important that the revisions to the Ravalli County Natural Resource Plan be in place before that begins. I would be happy to help in any way I can.

Dan Thompson  
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## BOARD OF IDAHO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 20, 2018

Cheryl Probert, Forest Supervisor  
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest  
903 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Kamiah, ID 83536

RE: Forest Plan Revision Assessment Comments

Dear Cheryl;

We are writing this letter as additional comments concerning the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest's Forest Plan Revision (Plan Revision) and to provide additional information to the Assessment (219.3 and 219.6).

### Assessment

36 CFR 219 defines the Assessment as it relates to Forest Plan Revision. Forests are to use the "best available scientific information" to inform the planning process (219.3). We submit the two following recent studies, which contain relevant scientific information:

- U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, dated February 14, 2018 and titled "Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account: Prototype Statistics for 2012 – 2016"
- Idaho's Park and Recreation, titled "Idaho National Forest Motorized Trails Changes Between 1978 and 2017" (Trail Reduction)

Also, we did not see our Resource Plan in the Assessment and ask the Forest to ensure its inclusion (219.6(a)(1)).

### Additional Comments

The "Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account: Prototype Statistics for 2012 – 2016" (Recreation Statistics) provides information that supports our previous comments concerning economic and social sustainability. The reduction of available timber over the last 30 years has had significant

adverse impacts on Idaho County. Prior to the previous Forest Plan, numerous mills operated in Idaho County; only one mill remains. The reduction of motorized recreation opportunities on the forest also has adverse economic impact and this, cumulatively combined with reduced available timber, leaves an even greater adverse impact on Idaho County.

Outdoor recreation is important and Idaho County supports a diverse pool of recreational opportunities. However, when looking across the Forest there has definitely been a move from timber harvest and motorized opportunities to wilderness/roadless and non-motorized activities. The current Proposed Action for Plan Revision continues this trend. This trend has had and continues to have a devastating effect on the economic sustainability of the County.

The Recreation Statistics study indicates, and we have always believed, that motorized recreation provides for a significantly larger economic input into the economy than does non-motorized uses. We do not see the logic, given the facts, as to why the Forest continues to reduce those activities that provide the greatest economic return to the County in favor of those activities that provide the least economic return. Every Travel Plan and NEPA decision seems to systematically reduce motorized recreation on the Forests. Given the Planning Rules recognition of economic and social sustainability and the protection of customs and cultures, what is the Forest rationale for continuing this trend?

The Great Burn is the only unique high elevation, semi-primitive area available for snowmobiles, yet the forest appears to be on track to permanently make this last remaining area non-motorized.

The Forest is also looking to remove one of the only areas to maintain or increase the summer semi-primitive motorized areas left by making the Meadow Creek Roadless areas recommended wilderness. There is a shortage of semi-primitive motorized opportunities when compared to other opportunities on the Forest and within Idaho County.

The reduction in motorized trails in Idaho over the last 30 years is staggering, particularly on the Nez Perce-Clearwater NF (see Trail Reduction document). This has an adverse effect on the economy for Idaho County, yet we see little or no cumulative effects analysis for these decisions.

There are several items we are asking to see addressed in the alternative development and/or analysis:

1. Alternatives that address our concerns and aim to help accomplish our Resource Plan objectives and provide economic and social sustainability.
2. Cumulative effects analyses concerning the loss of motorized opportunities, both summer and winter, while recognizing unique opportunities.
3. Cumulative effects of a reduced suitable timber base over time
4. Rationale for any such decision that further removes the larger economic opportunities for lesser economic opportunities as it relates to economic and social sustainability and our Resource Plan

We look forward to coordinating your Plan Revision with our concerns and the opportunity to have a good dialogue on these important topics.


Sincerely,



R. Skipper Brandt, Chairman



Mark Frei



Denis B. Duman

## News Release

EMBARGOED UNTIL RELEASE AT 8:30 A.M. EST, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018

BEA 18-07

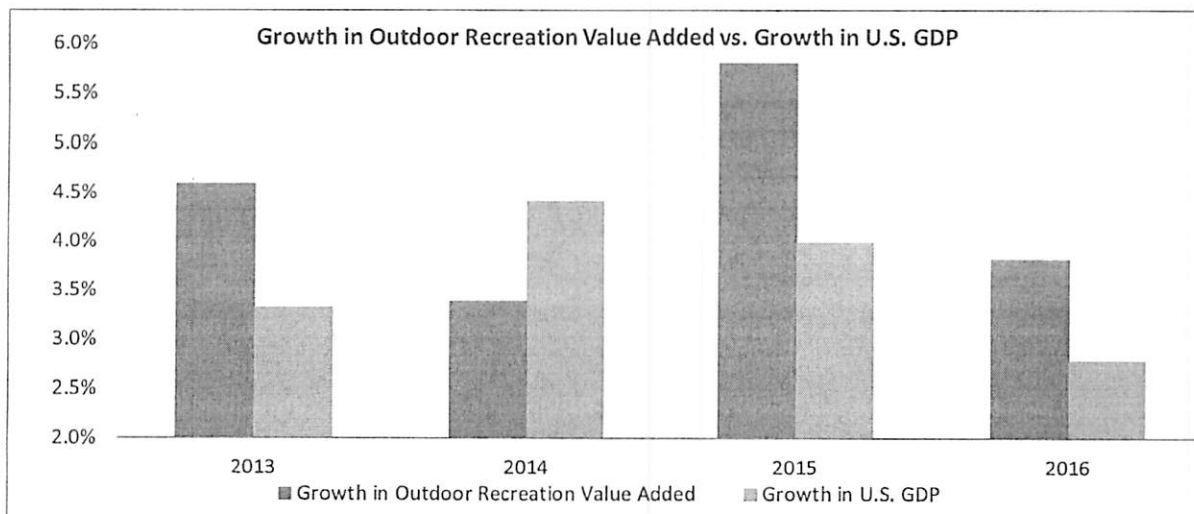
Technical: Tina Highfill (301) 278-9266 [OutdoorRecreation@bea.gov](mailto:OutdoorRecreation@bea.gov)  
Tom Howells (301) 278-9586  
Media: Jeannine Aversa (301) 278-9003 [Jeannine.Aversa@bea.gov](mailto:Jeannine.Aversa@bea.gov)

### Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account: Prototype Statistics for 2012-2016

*Outdoor recreation accounts for 2.0 percent of GDP in 2016*

Prototype statistics from the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (ORSA) released today by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) show that the outdoor recreation economy accounted for 2.0 percent (\$373.7 billion) of current-dollar GDP in 2016 (table 1). In addition, the outdoor recreation economy grew 3.8 percent in 2016, compared to growth of 2.8 percent in the overall economy.

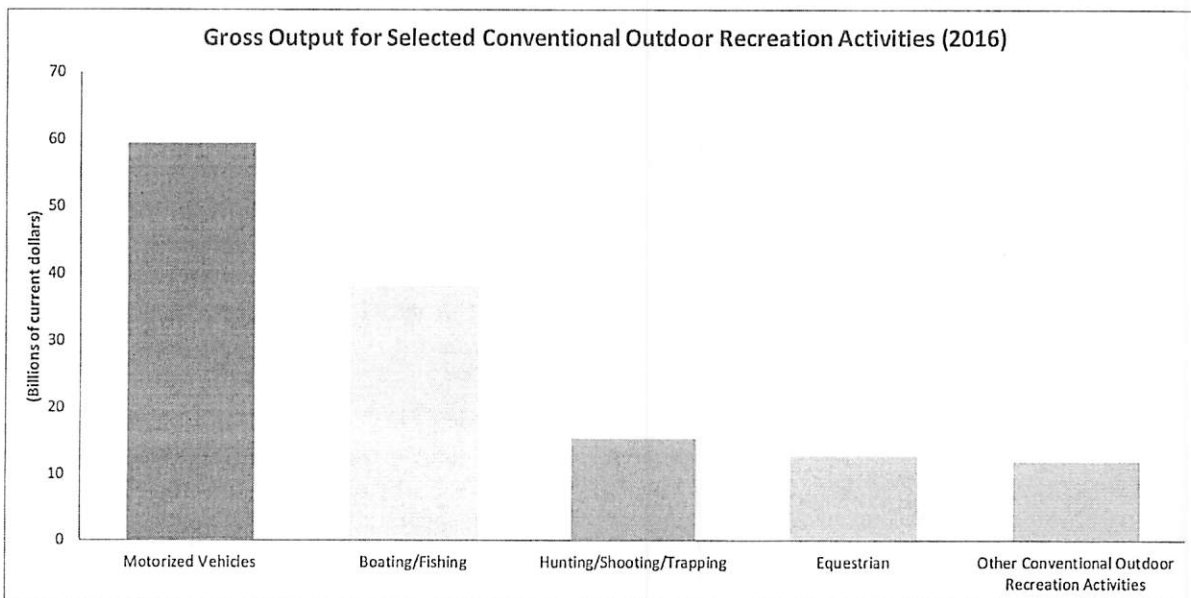
"Businesses need the right data to help them hire, invest and grow. The historical lack of detailed federal data regarding outdoor recreational activities has handicapped both the private and public sectors. The public will no doubt be surprised at the economic importance of this industry as we release prototype statistics measuring the impact of activities like boating, fishing, RVing, hunting, camping, hiking, and more. This release is a milestone for business executives, small-business owners, entrepreneurs, and government officials, who will rely on these detailed data to plan, grow, and gain new insights into this dynamic part of the U.S. economy," said U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross.



The new account is the latest addition in a series of satellite accounts complementing BEA’s statistics, including accounts on travel and tourism and arts and cultural production. These accounts do not change BEA’s official statistics, including GDP. They provide greater detail and allow closer analysis of a specific area of the economy by extracting information embedded in the official economic statistics.

### Outdoor Recreation by Activity

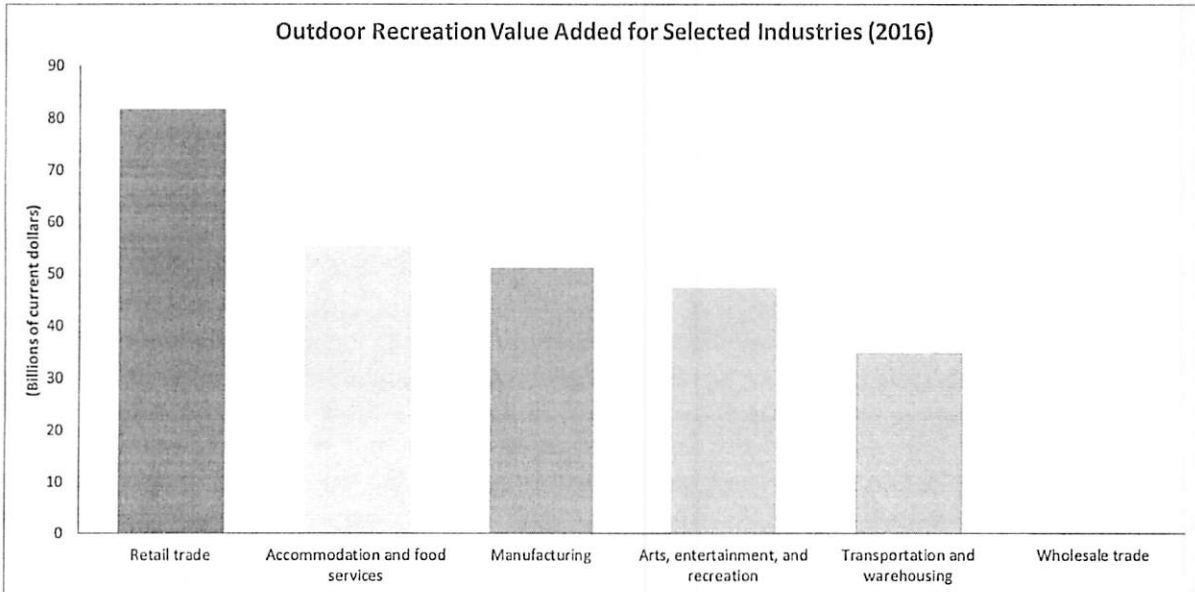
In the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, gross output—principally a measure of sales or receipts associated with the outdoor recreation economy—is presented both by industry and by outdoor recreation activity. Outdoor recreation activities fall into three general categories: conventional core activities (including activities such as bicycling, boating, hiking, and hunting), other core activities (including activities such as agritourism and outdoor festivals), and supporting activities (including construction, trips and travel, and government). In 2016, conventional recreation accounted for 36.7 percent of total outdoor recreation gross output, other recreation accounted for 22.1 percent, and supporting activities accounted for the remaining 41.2 percent (table 2).



- Motorized Vehicles was the largest activity within conventional outdoor recreation in 2016, accounting for \$59.4 billion of gross output. Recreational vehicles accounted for more than half of this value at \$30.0 billion.
- Boating/Fishing activities were \$38.2 billion in 2016, an increase of 4.0 percent from the previous year.
- Hunting/Shooting/Trapping activities were \$15.4 billion in 2016, with hunting accounting for over 60 percent of this value.
- Multi-use apparel and accessories, which include backpacks, bug spray, and other general-purpose gear and accessories that could not be allocated to specific activities, grew 7.2 percent in 2016 and accounted for 35.0 percent of conventional outdoor recreation gross output.

## Outdoor Recreation by Industry

Outdoor recreation value added is presented by industry in the ORSA and shows how an industry's participation in the outdoor recreation economy contributes to GDP. For example, the data show that the retail trade, accommodation and food services, and manufacturing industries were the largest contributors to the outdoor recreation economy in 2016, accounting for half of all outdoor recreation activity (table 1).

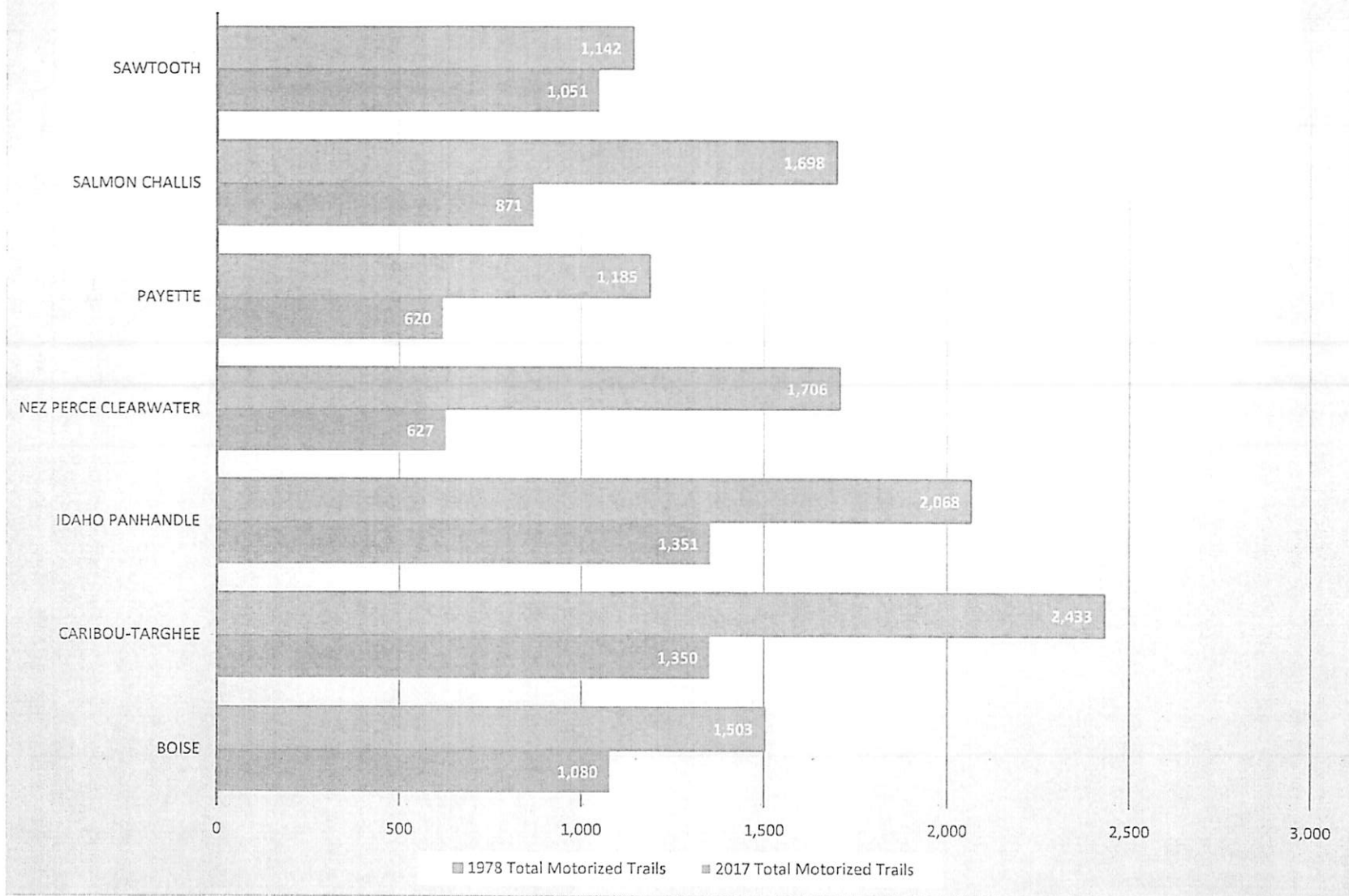


- For the retail trade industry, outdoor recreation value added was \$81.7 billion and accounted for 21.9 percent of all activity in the outdoor recreation economy.
- Outdoor recreation value added was \$55.7 billion in accommodation and food services, with about 63 percent of this value coming from accommodations and 37 percent from food services and drinking places.
- Outdoor recreation value added for manufacturing was \$51.3 billion, primarily reflecting activity in the subcategories of petroleum and coal products and other transportation equipment.
- Outdoor recreation value added was \$47.4 billion in arts, entertainment, and recreation and accounted for 24.7 percent of that industry's total value added.

### Public comment and feedback

The public is invited to submit comments and feedback on these preliminary statistics by emailing [OutdoorRecreation@bea.gov](mailto:OutdoorRecreation@bea.gov). Final statistics are scheduled for release in the fall of 2018, and feedback will be used to help finalize the definitions, data sources, and methodology that underpin the new account and the format in which final results are displayed. To ensure consideration, comments should be submitted no later than April 27, 2018.

## Idaho National Forest Motorized Trails Changes Between 1978 and 2017



Jeff Cook, Outdoor Recreation Analyst  
 Idaho Dept. of Parks Recreation  
 January 2018

1978 Total Motorized Trails 11, 785 Miles

2017 Total Motorized Trails 6,950 Miles