



## THE BOARD OF BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

206 FIRST AVENUE SOUTH, SUITE 300

HAILEY, IDAHO 83333

PHONE: (208) 788-5500 FAX: (208) 788-5569

[www.blainecounty.org](http://www.blainecounty.org) [bcc@co.blaine.id.us](mailto:bcc@co.blaine.id.us)

Sarah Michael, Chair \* Tom Bowman, Vice Chair \* Dennis Wright, Commissioner

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BLAINE COUNTY, IDAHO  
MICHAEL, BOWMAN AND WRIGHT

A RESOLUTION OF THE BLAINE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS MAKING RECOMMENDATION TO GOVERNOR  
KEMPTHORNE AS TO THE DISPOSITION OF INVENTORIED ROADLESS  
AREAS WITHIN THE SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST.

### Resolution of the Commissioners of Blaine County, Idaho

#### # 2006 - 12

This resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Blaine County declares support of the **Blaine County Inventoried Roadless Area Recommendations**, which includes a summary of the National Forest Inventoried Roadless Areas in the County, a summary of public involvement and comments, and recommendations by this Board of County Commissioners.

Whereas, The Blaine County Board of Commissioners have held public informational meetings and recorded oral public statements and comments,

Whereas, The Blaine County Board of Commissioners have collected and reviewed written public comment on future proposed management of Inventoried Roadless Areas in Blaine County and surrounding areas,

Whereas, The Blaine County Board of Commissioners have reviewed the management prescriptions of Inventoried Roadless Areas in Blaine County detailed in current National Forest Plans and summarized in the Blaine County Inventoried Roadless Area Recommendations document.

Whereas, The Blaine County Board of Commissioners have developed and reviewed the recommendations made in the Blaine County Inventoried Roadless Area Recommendations document,

Whereas, The current Sawtooth Forest Plan was completed in July of 2003 and 3,605 comments were received from interested parties and the Inventoried Roadless Areas and their Management Prescriptions were carefully scrutinized during this process,

Whereas, Blaine County highly values those areas designated as roadless areas not only in Blaine but everywhere on the Sawtooth Forest,

Whereas, Blaine County values those areas designated as roaded for access and for recreation,

Whereas, The economy of Blaine County is dependent upon our pristine air and water which results from adjacent roadless areas, and the visitors that come to enjoy those areas in the Sawtooth Forest,

Whereas, Blaine County, along with our colleagues in Custer County, is concerned with fuel loading in the Upper Salmon River roadless area,

Therefore be it resolved, that the Blaine County Commissioners do hereby adopt and support the following two Roadless Area Recommendations, as the Blaine County recommendations to the Governor of the State of Idaho, for a State of Idaho petition to the USDA Secretary for rulemaking regarding Inventoried Roadless Areas in Idaho.

**1.** In Sawtooth National Forest Management Area 02 – the Upper Salmon River Valley, the Boards of Commissioners for Blaine and Custer Counties need to be assured that the Management Prescription allows for the harvesting and thinning of the beetle-killed, dying or infected trees that are referred to as “red fuels”. With the recent experience of the Valley Road Fire in 2005 on the east of Highway 75, we now understand that a catastrophic fire starting on the west side of Highway 75 in the Sawtooth Valley could be harmful to the local economy for years to come. The current management prescription for this area is ambiguous as to whether access is allowed for the sole purpose of preventative action. Therefore, we recommend to Governor Kempthorne the following for Management Area 02 – the Upper Salmon River Valley which has a management prescription designation as 3.02:

The intent, whether allowed in the current prescription plan or not, is to allow temporary access to beetle-killed, dying or infected trees, commonly known as red fuel areas, limited to the area north of Galena Summit, south of Highway 21 and west of Highway 75, to the Sawtooth Wilderness boundary for the purpose of fuel mitigation to decrease the probability of a catastrophic

uncontrollable wildfire. Any access provided for this purpose would be temporary in nature and rehabilitated to a natural state once the program is complete. Access would not be provided until a red fuel mitigation plan and funding is in place for this purpose.

If in fact this action is currently allowable, we request that ruling be made in writing by the U.S. Forest Service.

**2.** For all other Inventoried Roadless Areas in Blaine County and on the entire Sawtooth National Forest, we recommend **no change** to the current roadless management prescriptions and current Sawtooth National Forest Plan.

Passed and approved this \_\_\_\_\_ Day of February 2006

Board of County Commissioners, Blaine County, Idaho

---

By: Sarah Michael , Chair  
Blaine County Board of Commissioners

---

By: Tom Bowman  
Blaine County Board of Commissioners

---

By: Dennis Wright  
Blaine County Board of Commissioners

---

Attested by: Marsha Reimann  
County Clerk