



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**
IDAHO

Dear Mr. Soletti,

The Idaho Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (“ID BHA”) supports the proposal in the Cassia Division Seasonal Closure Project Draft Environmental Assessment (the “Proposed Action”). The Proposed Action represents a good first step towards addressing the need for non-motorized hunter opportunities in the South Hills, which is a critical component of ensuring balanced outdoor recreation and hunting access in particular during the October season.

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (“BHA”) is the voice for our wild public lands, waters and wildlife. We seek to ensure North America’s outdoor heritage of hunting, fishing, and trapping in a natural setting through education and work on behalf of fish, wildlife and wild places. With chapters in 48 states, Washington D.C., two Canadian provinces and one Canadian territory, as well as nearly 2,000 dues paying members in Idaho, BHA attracts sportsmen and women, as well as other public land users, from across the continent.

Although the Proposed Action could have gone further, the proposal represents collaboration and compromise, which are important in managing hunting use on public land. Once implemented, the Proposed Action would allow for a 140% increase in non-motorized opportunities in the South Hills during the month of October. Because the South Hills is still heavily skewed towards motorized hunting opportunities due to the high road densities in the area, BHA encourages the Forest Service to continue to develop additional non-motorized hunting opportunities in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and we encourage the Forest Service to move forward with the Proposed Action.

Sincerely,

The Idaho Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers



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