

$m{ec{E}}$ Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society

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March 4, 2013

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The Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society is a robust and active organization in the two northern counties of Idaho's Panhandle. We are intimately concerned with the health and success of our native flora and work for its conservation.

The East-West Access Around Continental Mountain Project is in an area of unique botanic significance. We have several comments:

- 1. We strongly urge that a complete botanic survey be completed prior to your work, so the results can inform your project implementation. It should be carried out by a Forest Service botanist from the Northern Region of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. We request a copy of that survey.
- 2. Sensitive plant habitats should remain undisturbed.
- 3. We support your proposed closure of the entire road. It is difficult to prevent unauthorized vehicular use and we encourage robust efforts to prevent such use.
- 4. Weeds are an ongoing threat to the area's native vegetation. We encourage strenuous measures to prevent the incursion of weeds into this area. Once introduced, they are virtually impossible to eradicate. Project timing should take weed prevention into account as a very highest priority.

We wish to remain on your list for this project.

Sincerely,

Gail Bolin

Gail Bolin, President

Cc: Mary Farnsworth, IPNF Supervisor