

2/28/14

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
The Wilderness Society, Idaho Conservation League,
International Mountain Bicycling Association, and the Wood River Bicycle Coalition
regarding proposed Boulder-White Clouds National Monument

In support of the mutual benefits of protecting the Boulder-White Clouds (BWC) landscape, the undersigned organizations (The Wilderness Society, Idaho Conservation League, International Mountain Bicycling Association, and the Wood River Bicycle Coalition) have reached consensus and agree to advocate for designation of the BWC area (as depicted on the attached BWC NM reference map) as a national monument (NM) for the long term preservation and enhancement of the wilderness character, world-class human-powered recreation, and historical, cultural and scientific values that define this remarkable landscape.

TWS, ICL, IMBA and WRBC (hereafter referred to as “We”) members share a connection and love of this place, therefore this memorandum of understanding (MOU) captures and defines how and where We will move forward together and the public position(s) We will take regarding the following: the future of mountain biking within a Boulder-White Clouds National Monument and protection of the BWC landscape – one of the largest intact roadless areas in the lower United States – in perpetuity.

Together, We support a national monument and components of the subsequently related management plan as defined below.

Support a Presidential Proclamation

We will urge and advocate that the President, utilizing his authority under the Antiquities Act, protect the BWC as a national monument so the values and objects existing on this landscape are permanently conserved, protected and enhanced, and that the public may continue to enjoy the area in largely the same way and in the same condition that it is today.

We will advocate for a BWC NM proclamation that:

- Preserves the outstanding wilderness character and opportunities for backcountry solitude away from areas where modernity dominates the landscape and therefore is scientifically, biologically, and socially valuable and worth monitoring, maintaining, and protecting;
- Preserves and maintains unique world-class human-powered recreation opportunities in the BWC;
- Acknowledges that hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, skiing and other forms of human-powered recreation are appropriate and important, and that a

quiet backcountry experience for all human-powered recreation groups needs to be monitored, maintained, and protected;

We will jointly and individually advocate for the BWC NM designation and the components within this MOU by:

- Promoting the principles stated within this MOU;
- Holding a local information session for local elected officials, commissioners, and other community leaders;
- Meeting with key decision makers in the US Department of Agriculture, the US Department of the Interior, and the Council on Environmental Quality.

In order to ensure the values stated above are protected in a BWC NM, We believe that the long-term protection of wilderness character and mountain biking and other appropriate human-powered recreation in the landscape can and should be balanced through active and adaptive management techniques.

Management Plan Recommendations

To protect values listed above and objects of interest on the BWC landscape, and as an agreeable mechanism to maintain outstanding wilderness character while maintaining acceptable bicycle access, We support and advocate the following joint management plan recommendations regarding management of mountain biking for the proposed BWC NM until such time a Record of Decision is signed and final:

Recommendations for Western Portion of Proposed BWC NM

With regard to lands within the proposed BWC NM lying west of the East Fork Salmon River, South Fork East Fork Salmon River and Silver Creek, We recommend that:

- The United States Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manage the lands that are not part of designated motorized road/trail corridors under two management categories: Wilderness Character Zones and Human-Powered Backcountry Recreation Zones.
- **Wilderness Character Zones** should be managed to prevent degradation of their wilderness character, and specifically to prevent degradation of the following qualities: Natural (the area's ecological system are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization); Untrammelled (the area is essentially unhindered and free from modern human control or manipulation); Undeveloped (the area retains its primeval character and influence, and is essentially without permanent improvement or modern human occupation); and Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation (the area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation). We recommend that all motorized use and mechanized transportation be prohibited within the Wilderness Character Zones, except when required to address emergency situations.

- **Human-Powered Backcountry Recreation Zones** should be managed as trail corridors to ensure a high-quality human-powered recreation experience. In the management plan, using either language-based exceptions or Non-Motorized Backcountry corridors, mountain bicycling is identified as an existing and appropriate use and should be allowed to continue on the trails listed. These shared use corridors ensure a high-quality human-powered recreation experience. Human-powered recreation is defined as outdoor recreation activities in which no motorized source of power is used as part of the activities or as part of the means of transport.
- All areas proposed for wilderness designation under the most recent draft of Representative Mike Simpson's Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act should be managed as Wilderness Character Zones with the exception of trail corridors managed as Human-Powered Backcountry Recreation Zones that are identified below, and roads/trails managed as open to motorized travel as determined in the management plan.
- The following areas be managed as Human-Powered Backcountry Recreation Zones:
 - Trail #675 – French Creek (from terminus of Road 670 to terminus of Road 668)
 - Trail #678 – Big Lake Creek (from Road 670 to Jimmy Smith trailhead)
 - Trail #664 – Bluett Creek (from monument boundary to trail terminus)
 - Trail #112 – East Fork Salmon River Trail (from monument boundary near Grand Prize Gulch trailhead to East Fork trailhead)
 - Trail #111 – Germania Creek Trail (from Pole Creek Road to Germania Creek trailhead)
 - Trail #114 – Bowery/Germania Connector Trail (from East Fork trailhead to Germania Creek Trail)
 - Trail #215 – Galena Gulch Trail (from East Fork Salmon River Trail to Pole Creek Road)
 - Trail #108 – Gladiator Creek Trail (from monument boundary to East Fork Salmon Trail)
 - Trail #109 – Washington Lake Trail (from monument boundary to Germania Creek Trail)
 - Trail #110 – Chamberlain Creek Trail (Castle Divide Trail east to Germania Creek Trail)
 - Trail #047 – Castle Divide Trail (from Washington Lake Trail to Big Boulder Creek trailhead)
 - Trail #682 – Little Boulder Creek Trail (from Big Boulder Creek Trail to Little Boulder Creek trailhead)
 - Trail #671 – Warm Springs Creek Trail (from Ants Basin Trail to monument boundary)
 - Trail #219 – Ants Basin Trail (from Washington Lake Trail to Warm Springs Creek Trail)

- Trail #104 – Williams Creek Trail (from monument boundary to Warm Springs Creek Trail)
- Trail #203 – Washington Creek Trail (from Washington Lake Trail to Castle Divide Trail)
- Trail #332 – Fisher Creek Trail (from Fisher Creek Road to Williams Creek Trail)
- Trail #647 – Rough Creek Trail (from monument boundary to Casino Lakes Trail/Garland Creek Trail junction)
- Trail #646 – Big Casino Trail (from monument boundary to Warm Springs Creek Trail)
- Trail #616 – Casino Lakes Trail (from monument boundary to Rough Creek Trail/Garland Creek Trail junction)
- Trail #672 – Garland Creek Trail (from Rough Creek Trail/Casino Lakes Trail junction to Warm Springs Creek Trail)
- Trail #603 – Martin Creek Trail (from Big Casino Trail to trail terminus near headwaters of Martin Creek)

Recommendations for Eastern Portion of Proposed BWC NM

With regard to lands within the proposed BWC NM lying east of the East Fork Salmon River, South Fork East Fork Salmon River and Silver Creek, We will seek to achieve harmony in the management plan between areas managed for wilderness character and areas managed for human-powered recreation.

General Recommendations for Proposed BWC NM

We recommend that motorized trail maintenance tools are permitted on all trails that are open to mechanized travel.

We recommend that any and all necessary trail realignments or reroutes, determined through agency management decisions that are based upon an identified need, whether social and/or environmental, be made possible and contained within the closest proximity of the original trail as possible.

In order to preserve opportunities for solitude and a backcountry experience, We recommend that the USFS and BLM develop monitoring and adaptive management plans to maintain the environmental and experiential integrity of a BWC NM.

Media and Public Communications

All external communications (media, membership outreach, alerts, etc.) will be consistent with this memorandum of understanding as presented below. Concerns or disputes with consistency will be addressed immediately through open communications between signatories.

For the purpose of strengthening trust and maintaining the integrity of this MOU, all parties to this MOU will be encouraged to the level practical, to respond in a timely and

public manner to public discourse (written or otherwise) that comes from within each of our respective communities that is contradictory and/or detrimental to this agreement. Responses should espouse the productive value and/or specific components of this MOU in a favorable manner.

For purposes of clarity, no party to this memorandum of understanding shall make a public statement on behalf of any of the other parties without prior written consent and no party to this memorandum of understanding shall make a lobbying contact on behalf of any other party.

Sincerely,



For

Craig Gehrke
Regional Director
The Wilderness Society, Idaho Office

Date 2/28/14



Rick Johnson
Executive Director
Idaho Conservation League

Date 2/28/14



Brett Stevenson
Executive Director
Wood River Bicycle Coalition

Date 3/2/14

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anna Laxague".

Anna Laxague

Date 3/1/14

Pacific Northwest Region Director
International Mountain Biking Association