



# Kinnikinnick Native Plant

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*P O Box 1092, Sandpoint, ID 83864  
NativePlantSociety.org*

August 29, 2017

To: David Cobb [dcobb@fs.fed.us](mailto:dcobb@fs.fed.us)  
Re: Hanna Flats GNA Project

Thank you for including Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society in the scoping comment process for the Hanna Flats GNA Project. We are pleased to be represented in your process by Jim Dubuisson. Our comments reflect his observations and the principles we adhere to.

We are pleased that the process will follow appropriate protection of known wetlands and riparian areas, and is willing to add to this list as smaller and unknown riparian and wetlands are located. That can be especially important to protection of sensitive plant communities.

We strongly encourage that the FS Botanist survey in the spring, as well as the survey now underway. A number of perennial, ephemeral species will be missed now. Also, some important wetlands could well be dry now, after a record period of hot, dry weather, and need scoping in springtime. Sensitive and rare plants are known in this area and actions to adequately find and buffer these plants and locations is essential.

One result of harvesting on a large scale is the seemingly unavoidable fracturing of continuous or contiguous ecosystems. Protecting these sites is essential, as it provides wildlife and sensitive plant populations with stable habitats. Both are also impacted by adjacent disturbance and harvests.

As populations are further divided, sometimes by great distances, isolated locations certainly reduce, over time, the probabilities of propagation and genetic diversity. In addition to additional regeneration of desired and sensitive populations, consider seeding and planting near natural stream and wetland corridors. Compatible, native seeds could also be planted along with or alongside trees planted during reforestation.

The forester has identified several potential (candidates for future) old growth stands, on both wet and dry sites. We support adding them to the reserve.

We understand that you may create or 'improve' several cross country trails, which could open possible routes for vehicles. We oppose vehicular use of them. The trails likely will widen with use and time and damage the meadows they cross. We encourage both leaving a narrow entrance to these trails with plus gating and narrowing the trails periodically. We hope this would further discourage encroachment and would seem more natural, leaving small meadows intact and more dense stands.

As always, we encourage every possible action to prevent the spread of noxious weeds and monitoring for weed infestations for at least five years.

Weeds are hard to eradicate; prevention is best.

We appreciate the responsive and cooperative interactions and input that this Good Neighbor process allows.

Sincerely,

Ken Thacker  
President, Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society