



# Kaniksu Over-Snow Vehicle Project

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

AUGUST 30, 2022

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL



# Meeting Goals



- ▶ Provide people with information to write informed comments about the Kaniksu Over-snow Vehicle Proposed Action .
- ▶ Answer questions about the Kaniksu Over-snow Vehicle Proposed Action.
- ▶ The Forest Service is not documenting comments made at this meeting for the project record.

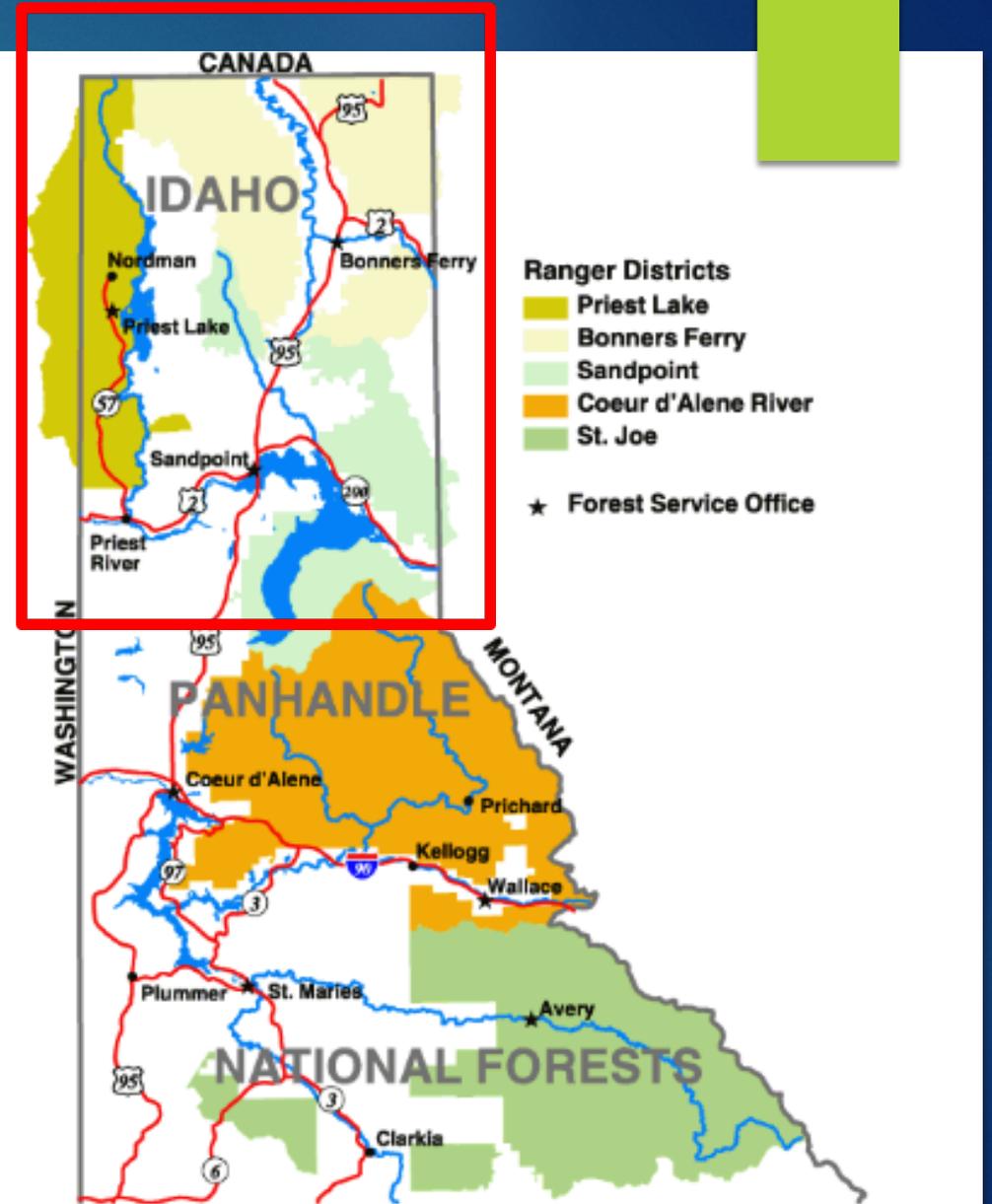


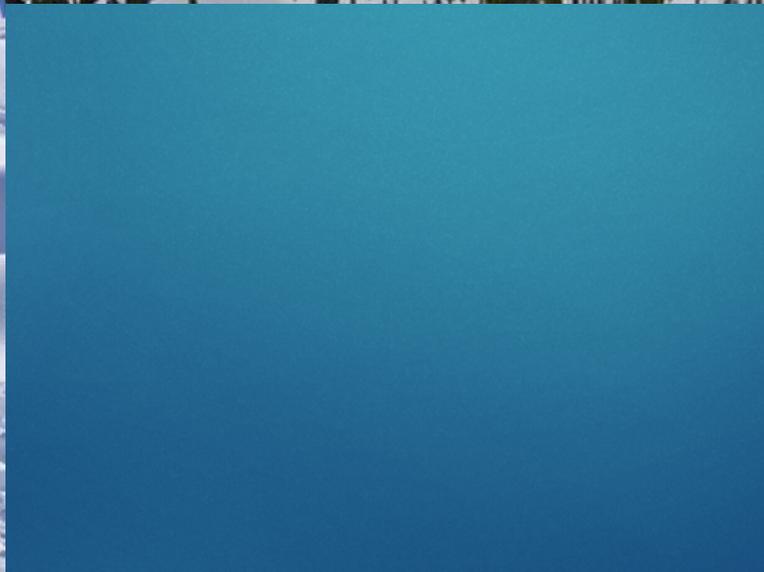
# Team Members

- ▶ **Jessie Berner** – Sandpoint District Ranger
- ▶ **Sarah Canepa** – Project Team Leader
- ▶ **Dan Gilfillan** – Recreation Specialist
- ▶ **Brett Lyndaker** – Wildlife Biologist
- ▶ **Beth Bigelow** – Cultural Resource Specialist
- ▶ **Vicki Regula** – Botanist
- ▶ **Patrick Lair** – Public Affairs Officer

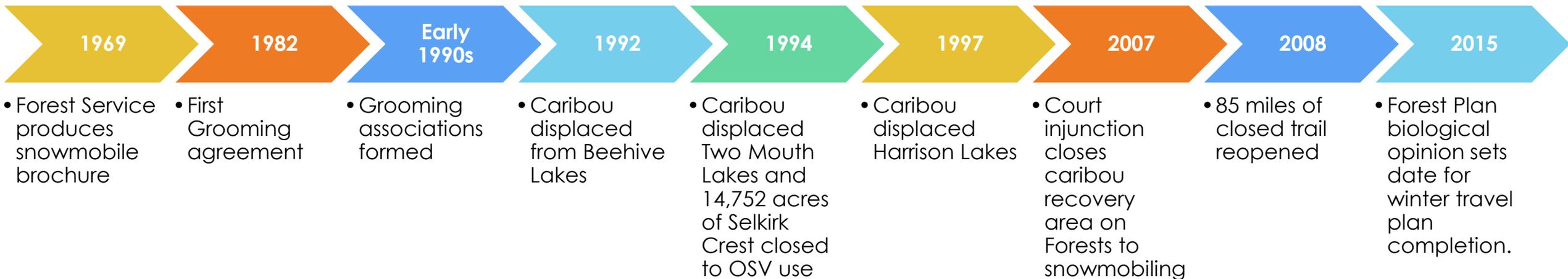
# Project area

- ▶ Kaniksu Unit:
  - ▶ Bonners Ferry Ranger District
  - ▶ Priest Lake Ranger District
  - ▶ Sandpoint Ranger District





# History of over-snow vehicle use in the Kaniksu Project Area





# Why Here? Why Now?



- ▶ The agency has an obligation to conduct winter travel planning in a manner that considers forest users and effects to natural resources.
- ▶ The 2007 injunction, requires that the forest designate areas and trails that are open to winter motorized use and areas that are closed to motorized use within the caribou recovery area.
- ▶ The 2015 Forest Plan Biological Opinion set a timeline for travel planning to be completed.



# What is a Proposed Action?

- ▶ A starting point for the agency to scope the proposed project to receive early public comment on proposed activities.
- ▶ Helps the agency identify issues that are important to the public and the affected resources.
- ▶ A proposed action can be modified based on public feedback and new information.

**A proposed action is NOT a decision.**



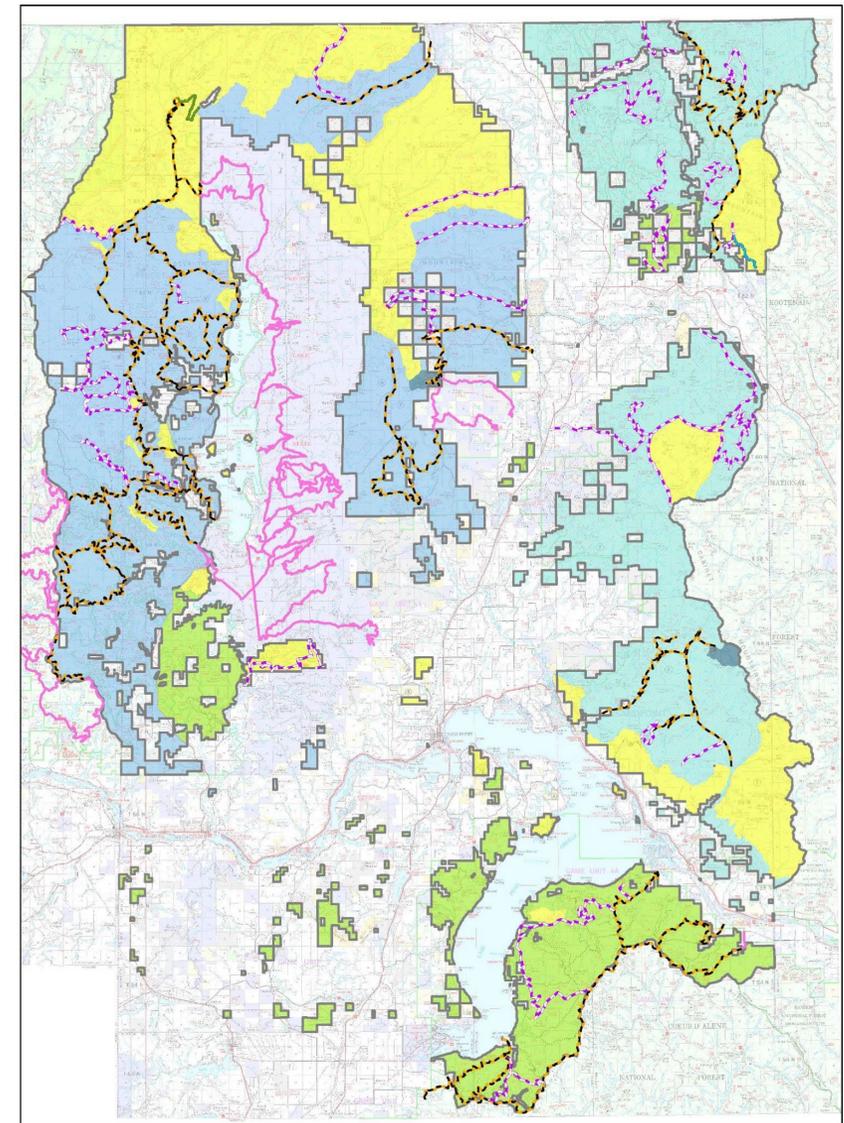
# Development of the Proposed Action

- ▶ Input provided by the North Idaho Working Group on areas agreement that they found between motorized, non-motorized users, conservation groups, outfitters and guides, and local elected officials.
- ▶ Input from local, State, and Federal government agencies.
- ▶ Input from Tribal governments.
- ▶ Review of law, policy, and regulation.

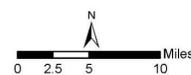
# Proposed Action

## Proposes the following:

- ▶ Areas open to over-snow vehicle use.
- ▶ Seasonal dates where over-snow vehicle use can occur.
- ▶ Areas to be closed to over-snow vehicle use.
- ▶ Designated over-snow vehicle routes.



Map Disclaimer:  
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Map 1 - Kaniuku OSV Designation Project Proposed Action  
Idaho Panhandle National Forests

- Proposed OSV Routes**
- Closed
  - - - Unopened
  - Unopened OSV route - Open 1 December to 31 March
  - Unopened OSV route - Open 18 November to 31 March
  - OSV route - Not FFS jurisdiction
- Proposed OSV Areas**
- Closed to OSV travel pending
  - Open to OSV travel December 1 to March 31
  - Open to OSV travel November 18 to March 31
  - Open to OSV travel pending (Other BMA are meeting standards)
  - Open to OSV travel pending

# Proposed Over-snow Vehicle Areas

## ▶ **Open to over-snow vehicle use on 770,165 acres**

- ▶ Open to OSV yearlong
- ▶ Open to OSV yearlong (once motorized access standards are met)
- ▶ Open to OSV November 16 to March 31 in the Selkirk Ecosystem.
- ▶ Open to OSV December 1 to March 31 in the Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem.

## ▶ **Closed to over-snow vehicle use on 271,294 acres**



# Proposed Over-snow Vehicle Routes

- ▶ **Over-snow vehicle routes totaling 750 miles**
  - ▶ Groomed routes for 434 miles
  - ▶ Ungroomed routes for 316 miles
  - ▶ Ungroomed December 1 to March 31
  - ▶ Ungroomed November 16 to March 31

# Next Steps in the NEPA Process

<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>30-day scoping period for public comment</b>	<b>Aug.16 – Sept.15, 2022</b>
Environmental Assessment	30-day public comment	December 2022/ January 2023
Draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact	45-day objection period	February/March 2023
Final Decision	Consultation Completed	Summer 2023
Implementation		Winter 2023/2024

# How to provide public comment

- ▶ Review the proposed action materials  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53091>
- ▶ Follow the instructions for comment provided in the Kaniksu OSV Scoping Letter on the website  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53091>
- ▶ Please provide comments by September 15, 2022.
- ▶ If you have additional questions, contact Sarah Canepa, Project Team Leader,  
[sarah.canepa@usda.gov](mailto:sarah.canepa@usda.gov) or 406-471-8145.





# QUESTIONS?

For additional questions, contact Sarah Canepa, Project Team Leader,  
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