

Outdoor Recreation Fund

APPLICATION

Contact Information

Applicant	Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation	Contact	Ryan Ghelfi- Exec. Director
Address:	PO Box 1886	Phone:	208-373-4381
	<i>Street address</i>		
	Boise	ID	83702
	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Zip Code</i>
Supports:	Camping <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trails <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Project Cost	\$ 81,146
Project Location	Camptender & Sulphur Creek Trails; Salmon-Challis National Forest; Frank Church-River of NO Return Wilderness		

Briefly describe the overall project concept:

Common Name of Project:	Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Trail Restoration
Description:	<p>Public lands in Idaho have long been popular, and more than 79% of Idahoans participate in outdoor recreation. There often tends to be overcrowding at popular recreation sites, but Idaho is home to the largest contiguous wilderness areas in the United States: the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. Trails in the Frank are ripe for visitation, but many of the 2,616 miles of trail in the Frank have not been maintained in years, making access extremely difficult.</p> <p>SBFC has identified a 20-mile loop trail in the southwest corner of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness that is a prime opportunity for restoration. Restoring these two trails would unlock a loop that skirts around Sulphur Creek, Dagger Creek, Boundary Creek, and the Middle Fork of the Salmon. This would be a premiere Wilderness hiking and horse-packing loop and would certainly excite recreationists.</p>

Priority Merit and Scope Questions

1. Describe how this project:

a. Improves under-utilized outdoor recreation resources. (15 points)

Public lands in Idaho have long been popular, and more than 79% of Idahoans participate in outdoor recreation. There often tends to be overcrowding at popular recreation sites, but Idaho is home to the largest contiguous wilderness areas in the United States: the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. Trails in the Frank are ripe for visitation, but many of the 2,616 miles of trail in the Frank have not been maintained in years, making access extremely difficult.

SBFC has identified a 20 mile loop trail in the southwest corner of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness that is a prime opportunity for restoration. Restoring these two trails would unlock a loop that skirts around Sulphur Creek, Dagger Creek, Boundary Creek, and the Middle Fork of the Salmon. This would be a premiere Wilderness hiking and horsepacking loop and would certainly excite recreationists.

b. Enhances recreation access. (15 points)

This loop is one of the closest trail access points into the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness for people who live in the Treasure Valley. Wilderness trips are a unique and sought-after type of recreational experience. Our work to restore this route will increase these primitive and unconfined opportunities for a large number of citizens in Idaho.

c. Increases revenue and potential revenue estimates. (15 points)

Opening a premiere backpacking wilderness loop in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness would be wonderful publicity for Idaho. We would promote this loop to various outdoor recreation and travel publications/social media accounts through press releases, social posts, and blog articles. The potential for an economic boost to Idaho as a whole and the small communities surrounding the wilderness trailheads is great (the trail access points are in Valley County and Custer County). Hikers, backpackers, horse riders, and other trail users would stop in these communities for gas, supplies, food, etc.

d. Improves long-term outdoor recreation sustainability. (15 points)

Idaho has a plethora of non-motorized trails, but public focus is often narrowed to a small group of popular routes. These trails are at risk of being “loved to death,” particularly on summer weekends. The state needs to prioritize opening a greater number of non-motorized trail loops, thus increasing the carrying capacity of outdoor recreation opportunities in the state. The Camptender/Sulphur Creek loop project will be one such trail, providing a premiere backcountry experience and distributing the crowds.

2. Describe the current outdoor recreation access deficiencies and how they may be corrected with the development of this project. Explain why this project is needed. (8 points)

Some of Idaho’s backcountry trails that are well maintained see a large amount of use. Places like the Sawtooth National Recreation Area have become quite popular and crowded, reducing the opportunity for solitude and a true Wilderness experience. Our project aims to increase the supply of possible Wilderness experiences by opening up existing trails that are currently impassable. As more people move to this state and discover hiking, backpacking and the like, the more supply of well-maintained trails we’ll need. This project produces a large dollar-for-dollar benefit in this regard.

3. Project Urgency. Describe the urgency of this project due to potential resource damage or other impacts that may cause an opportunity to be lost if no action is taken. If this project is not funded, what effects will it have? (8 points)

If we are not able to clear and maintain this route soon, it will become more and more difficult to ever reopen it. There are large walls of brush that need to be cut out of the trail. The longer we wait, the tougher these brush walls are to remove. SBFC has cut out

thousands of downed logs from this loop already, but there are still a few thousand more to cut. It's been many years since these trails have been passable, and if we go too much longer we may never get them back and they will be reclaimed by the flora of the forest.

4. Justify the need and demand for the project. Describe the current use in the area and the potential use expected with this project. (8 points)

The current use is minimal. That is a direct result of the fact that these trails have not been useable for many years. When guests stay at the Sulphur Creek Lodge and ask about area hikes, lodge staff does not even suggest that they try to hike these trails right out their doorstep. But it does not have to stay that way! There is a large demand for hiking in this state. Trails are the number one most desired form of recreation facility in Idaho, based on a 2022 recreation [survey done by Idaho Parks and Rec](#). If the route is maintained, the potential future use is significant. You could see dozens of people hiking this route each week during the summer months. People will use the trail for day hiking, overnight backpacking, and horseback packing.

5. Describe the provisions for ongoing maintenance and operation of the project (who will be responsible for the maintenance and operation and what is the estimated annual budget to do so)? (8 points)

These lands are managed by the Salmon-Challis National Forest. SBFC works closely with the forest every season. Ultimately the trails are the responsibility of the National Forest, but SBFC is an established nonprofit partner of the Forest Service and we take an extremely proactive approach. Once the route is restored the annual maintenance costs are not extremely high, just \$5,000-\$10,000 would be required, as opposed to the approx. \$100,000 total cost of restoring the trail, of which we have already spent \$50,000. We believe that between SBFC and the Salmon-Challis National Forest, the annual maintenance of the trail will be reasonable.

6. Describe planning, construction methods and schedule. The scope of work description should line up with budget items in project spreadsheet. (8 points)

This is not a construction project. It is a maintenance/restoration project of an existing trail. The work required is as follows:

It will take approximately 3-4 eight-day hitches of work in the backcountry completed by crews comprised of staff trail crew leaders and volunteers. Crew size runs from 5-13 depending on the specific work being performed on the hitch.

Work will consist of lopping and cutting back overgrown brush, cutting fallen logs and trees out of the trail corridor, repairing trail tread where needed, digging drains to reroute water, etc. We do this work using traditional human-powered tools like crosscut saws because we are working in federally designated wilderness where mechanized tool use is prohibited.

Project Elements

- 1. Please provide a location map (where does this project reside within Idaho), site map, and a general description of the area.**

General description: The Sulphur Creek/Camptender loop lies in the SW corner of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. There are three different main access points: One access point is approximately 1.5 hours drive east of Cascade, Idaho. The other two access points are 40-60 minutes drive north of Banner Creek Summit off of Highway 21 between Boise and Stanley. Map of trail attached.

- 2. Is there (or will there be) a use fee at this location? If yes, justify the need to charge and specify the amount. How will the fee be collected?**

No, there are currently no fees associated with accessing these trails and lands.

- 3. If applicable, describe how you announced this project to the public in a way to collect public comment. Attach proof that the public had a reasonable public comment period.**

We have not solicited comments from the public since we did not hear about this funding until a week before proposals were due. People are almost always very supportive of our work to restore and reopen trails that already exist and are open to everyone. If we have more time, we would be more than happy to seek public comment.

- 4. Does this project require any necessary environmental permits or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation? If yes, describe:**

No- This project aims to restore existing system trails. No environmental studies are required.

- 5. Ownership. Describe the land ownership of the property where the project is located.**

United States Forest Service (within the Salmon-Challis National Forest)

- 6. If available, provide a concept design plan.**

Funding Note:

- 1. The money is appropriated with IDPR under its Capital Development program budget for FY 2024.*
- 2. The winning state agency(s) must demonstrate how they will have sufficient appropriation to spend the funds. There is no mechanism available to IDPR to "transfer" our appropriation. It will be up to the winning agency(s) to address their budget.*
- 3. If reimbursement, prior written approval to transfer funds from capital outlay to the T&B classification is required.*

BUDGET

Project Name: Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Trail Restoration

Project Components	Total Cost	Source of Funding		Amount Approved
		MATCH	GRANT	
Project Leaders	\$24,500	\$5,000	\$19,500	
Volunteer Food	\$3,000		\$3,000	
Pack Support (horse-packers to haul food, gear, tools, etc.)	\$3,000		\$3,000	
Tools/Fuel	\$1,800		\$1,800	
Project Management	\$7,500	\$2,500	\$5,000	
Volunteer In-Kind	\$32,652	\$32,652		
SBFC Overhead	\$8,694		\$8,694	
TOTALS	\$81,146	\$40,062	\$40,994	
% of TOTAL	100%	49.4%	50.6%	%

Budget Notes: Volunteer in-kind comes from public citizens volunteering their time working on this trail restoration project. The current federal volunteer rate value is \$31.80 per hour. We expect to have at least 16 volunteers working 8-hour days for 8-day hitches. That is where the \$32,652 comes from.

The rest of the SBFC match is cash match raised from business donations and donations from private citizens.

Disclaimer and signature

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

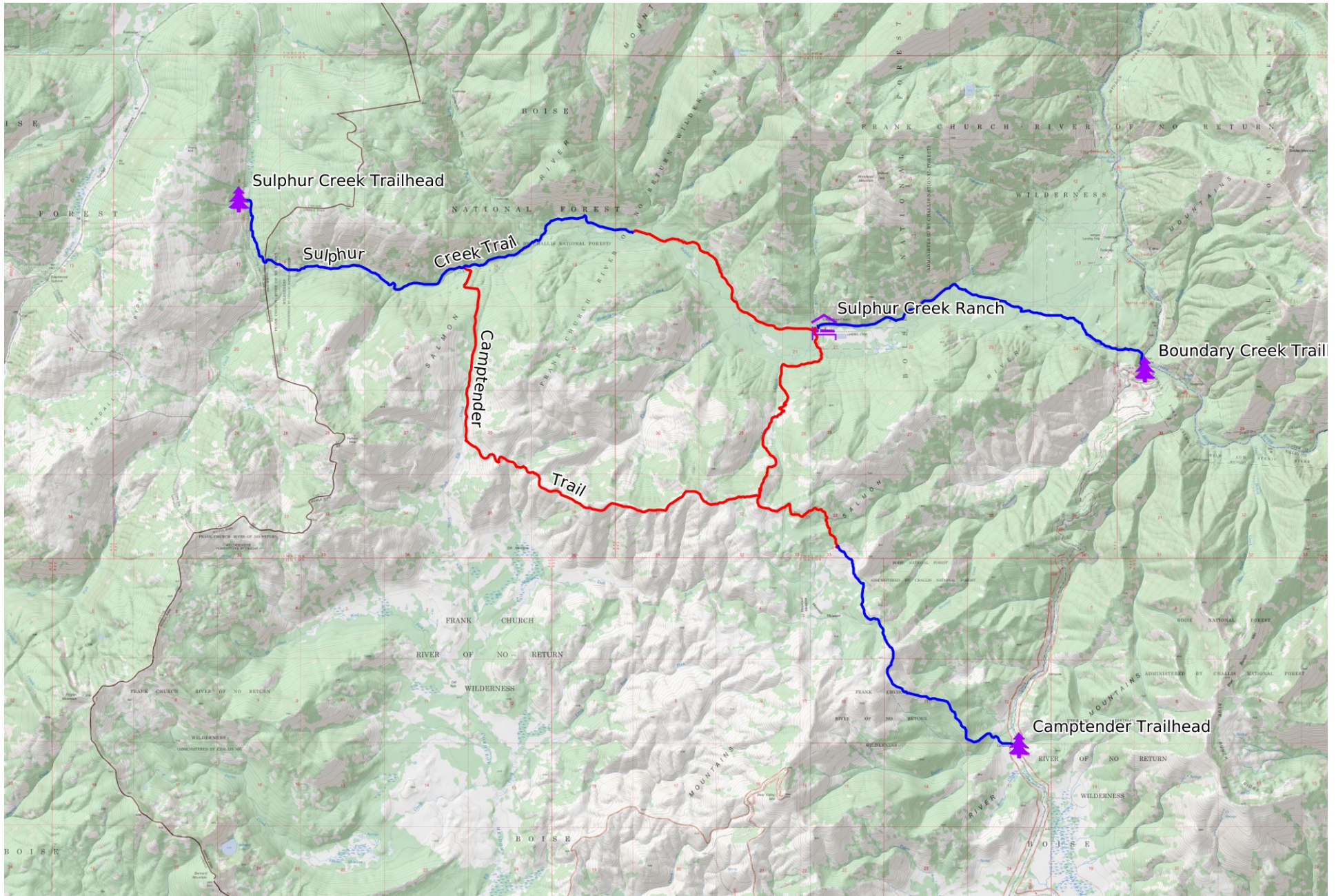
It is hereby mutually agreed and understood that the use of these funds will be for the purposes stated in this document only and are subject to the terms of the Grant Agreement for this project, as signed by the authorized individuals.

Signature:

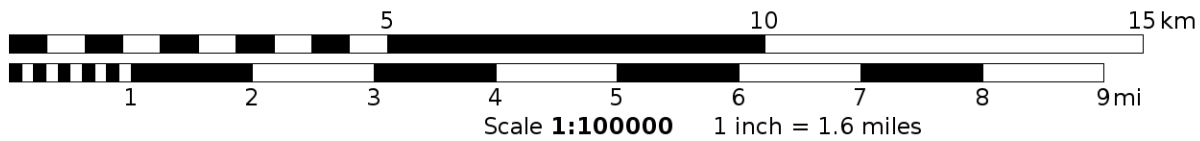
Ryan Ghelfi

Date:

11/2/2023



Mercator Projection
 WGS84
 UTM Zone 11T
 CALTOPO



MN
 12.8°

Dear Idaho Outdoor Recreation Fund Advisory Council,

I am writing to you in support of the Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation's grant application/proposal to maintain and reopen the Sulphur Creek and Campender Trails in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

This project would provide access to a backcountry hiking and horseback riding loop that has not been enjoyable or accessible for many years. Idahoans deserve access to their public lands and wilderness areas, and re-opening these trails will provide huge benefit to our population of recreationists.

As the Idaho Horse Council Trails Committee Chairman, the Idaho Horse Council supports this project because Equestrians support and use the trail systems SBFC works towards improving.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Waugh', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dan Waugh

Idaho Horse Council Trails Committee Chairman

10/30/2023

Before:



Camptender Trail Work- SBFC 2023 Season

After:



Before:



After:

