



October 31, 2023

Matt Halitsky
State Historic Preservation Office
210 Main Street
Boise ID 83702-7264

Brad Little
Governor

Susan E. Buxton
Interim Director

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Phone (208) 334-4199

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Dear Mr. Halitsky,

The state has an application through the Recreational Trail Program (RTP) that we wish to seek consultation. Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation (IDPR) is the pass-through agency for these Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) funds. As the designated state pass through agency for this program, we are writing on behalf of FHWA to initiate consultation to satisfy the environmental requirements for historical or cultural resources. IDPR seeks guidance on the following project:

The project lies in the Little Sand Creek Watershed (LSCW) in Sandpoint, Idaho on City of Sandpoint-owned property. The LSCW already has around 15 miles of existing public recreational trails, which are used primarily by mountain bikers. The current project is to reroute around 1 mile of existing, user-created trail lying within a utility corridor, characterized by steep, eroding sections that send lots of sediment into LSC, with a more sustainable, properly designed, professionally built trail in the forest that will provide users with a safer, more enjoyable experience, while also protecting water quality in the LSC and its seasonal tributaries. The project involves 1.76 miles of new trail construction. The trail was fully designed and flagged in summer 2023 by the International Mountain Biking Association Trail Solutions team. We plan to begin construction on the rerouted trail as early as May 1st, 2024, planning for a two-month build window, completing construction in July 2024.

Project location is 3.5 miles northwest of downtown Sandpoint in the Little Sand Creek Watershed east of Schweitzer Mountain Road. 48°20'17.6"N 116°35'38.3"W.

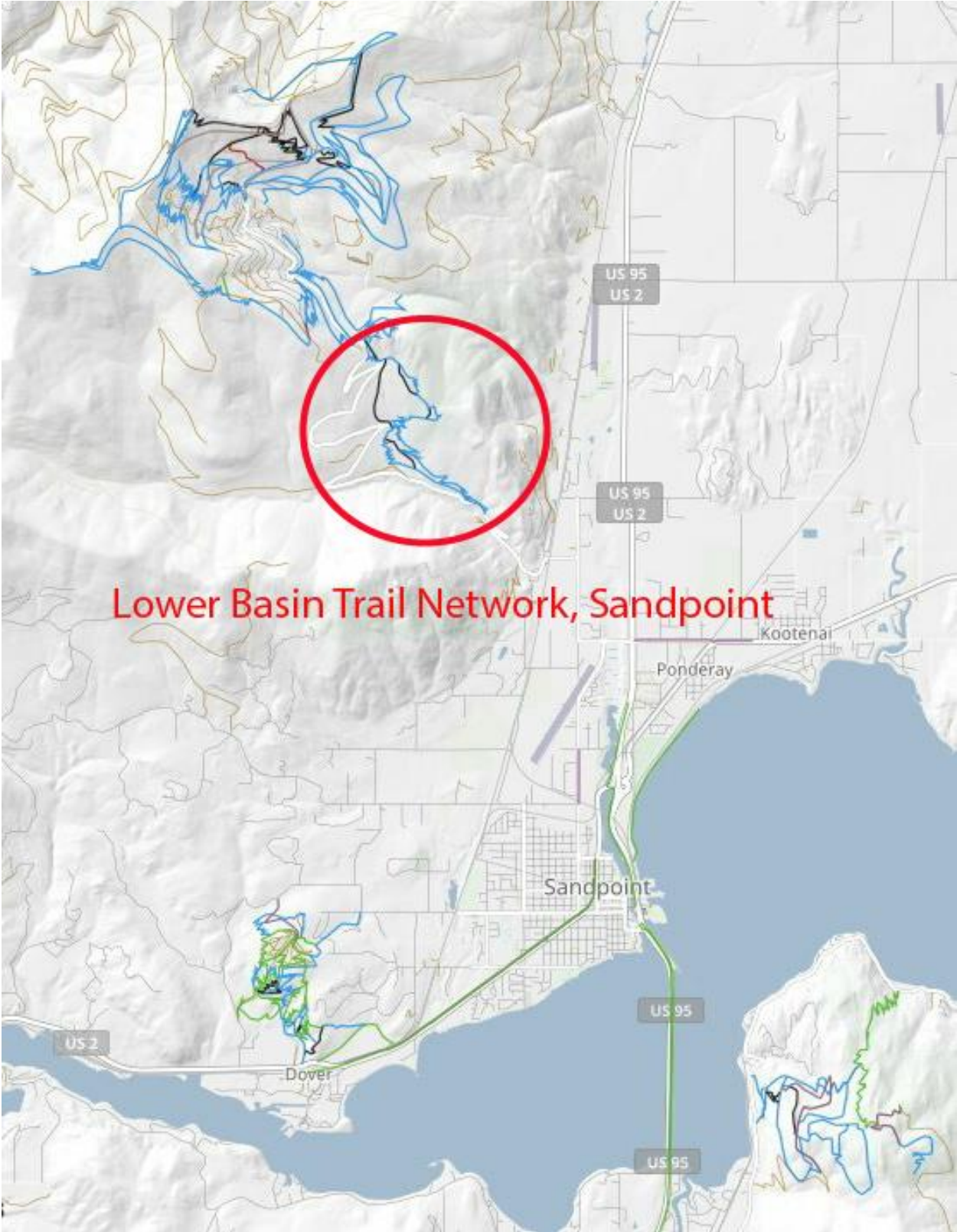
I have attached a location map and maps showing the proposed trail alignments, including the already flagged trail for construction in 2024 and the existing, user-created trail within utility corridors that will subsequently be decommissioned. If this information is not detailed enough to make your recommendation, please contact me so I can collect additional information from the applicant.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me at (208)514-2431 or kathy.muir@idpr.idaho.gov. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Kathy Muir
State & Federal Grant Manager

Project location: Lower Basin of the Little Sand Creek Watershed, 3.5 miles NW of Sandpoint, Idaho (circled in red)



Planned 2024 trail construction and decommissioning:

- Black lines (Segments 402, 201, and 104) are flagged and fully designed, ready for construction. Segment 402 is on private property and will construction will be completed by 3rd party not associated with this request.
- Red lines with x's in them are schedule for subsequent decommissioning
- Solid blue lines are existing trails. (Segment 105 was built in summer 2023)

