



## THE BOARD OF BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Dick Fosbury, Chairman \* Angenie McCleary, Vice-Chair \* Jacob Greenberg, Commissioner

April 8, 2021

Representative Mike Simpson  
Washington, DC Office  
2084 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

To Whom it May Concern:

The Board of Blaine County Commissioners would like to express support for the University of Idaho Regent's request to FY2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Community Project Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) to help support University of Idaho's Rinker Rock Creek Ranch (RRCR). The RRCR is an incredibly unique asset and resource in Blaine County, the entire State of Idaho, and not across western states. The RRCR provides the opportunity for co-existence of working landscapes, recreation, and conservation which creates an environment with potential conflict, but also a laboratory for learning and teaching.

The research taking place at RRCR is demonstration of practices that accommodate multiple interests in shared landscapes and is critical to the health of rangelands and the people using them. By investing in educating and training future land stewards, livestock producers, and rangeland ecologists at RRCR, we help create a workforce that is well-equipped to handle current and future natural resource challenges specific to western rangelands.

As Blaine County Commissioners, we share a stake in the success of the RRCR collaborative project. The proposed activities that would be supported by the FIPSE address an important need in Idaho which would improve access to and quality of postsecondary education in the state by establishing a research and training center focused on creating management solutions for multiple-use rangelands. Investments to support research and education infrastructure to facilitate demonstrations at RRCR across multiple jurisdictions would accommodate the critical exchange of ideas and testing of innovative practices that integrate conservation and sustainable ranching, thereby providing healthy landscapes for future generations.

We applaud the intent to integrate collaborative research and management with postsecondary education and training and believe the activities at RRCR will greatly assist in the evaluation and informed decisions for management of sagebrush steppe. We sincerely hope the RRCR will be supported. We hope you will give this worthy request serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Dick Fosbury  
Chairman

Angenie McCleary  
Vice-Chairman

Jacob Greenberg  
Commissioner



## SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 7, 2021

### COMMISSION

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Secretary

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Commissioner

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Commissioner

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Administrator

To Whom it May Concern:

I write to communicate strong support for the University of Idaho's Rinker Rock Creek Ranch (RRCR) and the Regents' funding request to the FY2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Community Project Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). I encourage the maximum award possible as the benefits of the RRCR are broad and needs on the Ranch are many.

Our agency has donated our time in-kind as a member of the Advisory Board for several years and I currently serve as the Chair. We do this because the research and teaching and the work we are doing there as a collaborative group have significant potential to contribute to the body of knowledge on managed rangelands and the natural environment. The research underway and planned centers on practices accommodating multiple interests in shared landscapes. This is critical to the health of rangelands and the people using them. By investing in educating and training future land stewards, livestock producers, and rangeland ecologists at RRCR, we help create a workforce that is well-equipped to handle current and future natural resource challenges specific to western rangelands.

Beyond the present and future value of the research and training, RRCR also serves as a laboratory to mitigate conflicts between the interests of working landscapes, recreation, and conservation. As a member of the RRCR Advisory Board, our agency shares a stake in the success of this highly collaborative project. The Commission focuses on voluntary conservation activities that balance the needs of people and natural resources, as does RRCR.

While a wide variety of nongovernmental organizations, state, and federal agencies are enthusiastic participants in the Advisory Board, the Legislature has demonstrated support for RRCR as well, annually appropriating a modest amount of funds for operations. Due to the RRCR's undeveloped nature, it is both blank slate and lacking in vitally important infrastructure.

The proposed activities to be supported by the FIPSE address important needs and challenges across Idaho. An award of funding will improve access to and the quality of postsecondary education by establishing a research and training center focused on creating management solutions for multiple-use rangelands. Investments to support research and education infrastructure to facilitate demonstrations at RRCR across multiple jurisdictions will lead to the critical exchange of ideas and testing of innovative practices that integrate conservation and sustainable ranching, thereby providing healthy landscapes for future generations.

We appreciate FIPSE's intent to integrate collaborative research and management with postsecondary education and training. If funded, RRCR will greatly assist in informing decisions for management of sagebrush steppe.

Sincerely,

TERI A. MURRISON, Administrator

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1939

*Conservation the Idaho Way: sowing seeds of Stewardship*





April 8, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept this letter of intent for the University of Idaho Regent's request to FY2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Community Project Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) to help support University of Idaho's Rinker Rock Creek Ranch (RRCR). The RRCR is an incredibly unique asset not only in Idaho but also across western states. The RRCR exists at the intersection of working landscapes, recreation, and conservation which creates an environment with potential conflict, but also a laboratory for learning and teaching. The research taking place at RRCR is demonstration of practices that accommodate multiple interests in shared landscapes and is critical to the health of rangelands and the people using them. By investing in educating and training future land stewards, livestock producers, and rangeland ecologists at RRCR, we help create a workforce that is well-equipped to handle current and future natural resource challenges specific to western rangelands.

As a member of the RRCR Advisory Board, we share a stake in the success of the RRCR collaborative project. The proposed activities that would be supported by the FIPSE address an important need in Idaho which would improve access to and quality of postsecondary education in the state by establishing a research and training center focused on creating management solutions for multiple-use rangelands. Investments to support research and education infrastructure to facilitate demonstrations at RRCR across multiple jurisdictions would accommodate the critical exchange of ideas and testing of innovative practices that integrate conservation and sustainable ranching, thereby providing healthy landscapes for future generations.

We applaud the intent to integrate collaborative research and management with postsecondary education and training and believe the activities at RRCR will greatly assist in the evaluation and informed decisions for management of sagebrush steppe. We sincerely hope the RRCR will be supported.

Sincerely,

Curtis Elke  
State Conservationist  
Idaho NRCS  
[curtis.elke@usda.gov](mailto:curtis.elke@usda.gov)  
208-378-5701

**USDA/NRCS**

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To Whom it May Concern:

As Idaho State Director for The Nature Conservancy, I write with full support for the University of Idaho Regent's request to FY2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Community Project Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) to help support University of Idaho's Rinker Rock Creek Ranch. The Ranch is an incredibly unique asset not only in Idaho but in the entire Western Region. The Rinker Rock Creek Ranch exists at the intersection of working landscapes, recreation, and conservation and thus, is an ideal laboratory for learning and teaching. The research taking place at Rinker Rock Creek is a demonstration of practices that accommodate multiple interests in shared landscapes and is critical to the health of rangelands and the people using them. By investing in educating and in training future land stewards, livestock producers, and rangeland ecologists, the program is helping to create a workforce that is well-equipped to handle current and future natural resource challenges specific to western rangelands.

As a member of the Rinker Rock Creek Ranch Advisory Board and a partner in protecting this unique ecosystem and learning lab, The Nature Conservancy shares a stake in the success of this collaborative project. The proposed activities that would be supported by the FIPSE address important needs in which will improve access to and quality of postsecondary education in Idaho by establishing a research and training center focused on creating management solutions for multiple-use rangelands. Investments to support research and education infrastructure to facilitate demonstrations across multiple jurisdictions would accommodate the critical exchange of ideas and testing of innovative practices that integrate conservation and sustainable ranching, thereby providing healthy landscapes for future generations.

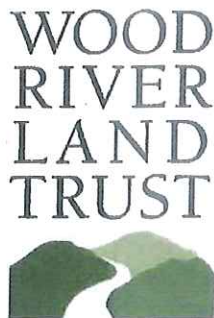
I am so impressed by this collaborative research and management approach to postsecondary education and training and I believe the activities at Rinker Rock Creek Ranch will greatly assist in the evaluation and informed decisions for management of sagebrush steppe. I hope you will support the Rinker Rock Creek Ranch request.

Sincerely,



Mark Menlove  
State Director





April 7, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support for the University of Idaho Regent's request to FY2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Community Project Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) to help support University of Idaho's Rinker Rock Creek Ranch (RRCR).

The RRCR is an incredibly unique asset not only in Idaho but also across western states. The RRCR exists at the intersection of working landscapes, recreation, and conservation which creates an environment with potential conflict, but also a laboratory for learning and teaching. The research taking place at RRCR is demonstration of practices that accommodate multiple interests in shared landscapes and is critical to the health of rangelands and the people using them. By investing in educating and training future land stewards, livestock producers, and rangeland ecologists at RRCR, we help create a workforce that is well-equipped to handle current and future natural resource challenges specific to western rangelands.

As a member of the RRCR Advisory Board, we share a stake in the success of the RRCR collaborative project. The proposed activities that would be supported by the FIPSE address an important need in Idaho which would improve access to and quality of postsecondary education in the state by establishing a research and training center focused on creating management solutions for multiple-use rangelands. Investments to support research and education infrastructure to facilitate demonstrations at RRCR across multiple jurisdictions would accommodate the critical exchange of ideas and testing of innovative practices that integrate conservation and sustainable ranching, thereby providing healthy landscapes for future generations.

We applaud the intent to integrate collaborative research and management with postsecondary education and training and believe the activities at RRCR will greatly assist in the evaluation and informed decisions for management of sagebrush steppe. We sincerely hope the RRCR will be supported.

Sincerely,

Amy Trujillo  
Deputy Director

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WoodRiverLandTrust.org  
Federal ID: 82-0474191