



C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

May 19, 2010

Frank Guzman, Forest Supervisor
Salmon-Challis National Forest
1206 S. Challis St.
Salmon, ID 83467

Dear Frank,

Idahoans have always appreciated our great outdoors and enjoy access to Idaho's wilderness areas. Idaho Public Television (IPTV) has had a meaningful relationship with the U.S. Forest Service through agreements, which have allowed programs like *Outdoor Idaho* to successfully produce shows of mutual benefit to Idahoans and to your agency.

I am troubled and extremely disappointed with the decision to prohibit IPTV from filming the Student Conservation Association Program in the Salmon-Challis National Forest's Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. As I have stated before, IPTV has been filming in wilderness areas all over Idaho for more than three decades and this situation is no different.

The reason the Forest Service has given for denying IPTV's request to film raises troubling questions. The claim that IPTV is a commercial entity is patently absurd and defies common sense. IPTV is owned by the State of Idaho and is an agency of the State Board of Education. IPTV is a non-commercial entity. It is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission as a non-commercial television broadcaster. In addition, IPTV's fund raising entity, the Friends of Idaho Public Television, Inc., is governed by the rules of the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

I strongly encourage you to reconsider this ill-advised decision and grant IPTV permission to film the Student Conservation Association Program in the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.L. Butch Otter".

CLO/dk

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho