

# **ICE AGE FLOODS INSTITUTE**

## **SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ICE AGE FLOODS NATIONAL GEOLOGIC TRAIL**

With respect to the objectives and provisions of enabling legislation, the following position statement has been adopted by the Institute's Board of Directors, which includes representatives of the four states of the region.

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**The Board of Directors of the Ice Age Floods Institute wholeheartedly supports the concepts and the recommendation presented in the National Park Service report titled *Ice Age Floods Study of Alternatives and Environmental Assessment; Following the Pathways of the Glacial Lake Missoula Floods*.**

The Board explicitly supports the recommended Management Alternative 3, which would develop an Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail as a public-private partnership coordinated by the National Park Service, and would accomplish this without the taking of private property or restriction of private land use. Legislation that is based on these principles should be enacted into law to appropriately recognize a remarkable part of the nation's natural heritage and begin development of the Trail.

The Institute was organized in 1994 as a private, nonprofit, all-volunteer organization to promote public awareness and understanding of the truly extraordinary but little-known Ice Age Floods. Following the course set by the original interagency Ice Age Floods Task Force, the Institute has consistently maintained that the primary way to fulfill this objective would be through a coordinated, region-wide system of routes and interpretive installations that would present and explain the floods and their effects. The *Study of Alternatives* has confirmed the validity of that approach and has shown how it could be most effectively implemented.

The Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail would reveal a fascinating story that extends across parts of Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. Regional, national, and international travelers would have the opportunity to discover how immensely powerful cataclysmic floods had a profound effect in shaping distinctive landscapes and in defining ways of life, from the flanks of the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. With a remarkably small investment of federal funds, the Trail can be expected to generate significant economic benefit, through increased tourism, in a vast and largely rural region.

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The full report of the *Ice Age Floods Study of Alternatives* is on-line at:  
<http://www.nps.gov/iceagefloods>

More information about the Ice Age Floods Institute is available at:  
<http://www.iceagefloodsinstitute.org>