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# Idaho congressmen reach Hells Canyon compromise

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BOISE (UPI) — Three Idaho Republican congressmen say they have reached a compromise with the U.S. Forest Service over a management plan for the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area.

The government agency has submitted a revised management plan for the area, outlining its proposals in a memorandum to the state's congressmen late last week, the lawmakers said.

The new plan, which followed months of discussions, "appears to satisfy most of the delegation's demands," said a joint statement issued by Sens. James McClure and Steve Symms and Rep. Larry Craig.

Most importantly, the congressmen said, the Forest Service has at least temporarily reversed its position on power-boat use on the upper Snake River, which lies within the recreation area along the Oregon-

Idaho border.

Contrary to its original proposals — which drew flak from power-boaters — the Forest Service's revised plan for the next two years places no numerical restrictions on day use by commercial or recreational power boats, the congressmen said.

Also, the lawmakers said the Forest Service has scrapped a proposal that called for power-boat operators to undergo certification tests, and the maximum size of a power-boating party has been increased from 25 to 30.

McClure said the lengthy dispute over use of the river arose only because the Forest Service "tried to make a conflict between power-boaters and float-boaters where there is none."

"The revised plan recognizes that there is no serious conflict now and

there is no need for artificial restrictions," said Idaho's senior senator.

"The new management plan is a positive step to protect jobs in a local area and the ability of Idahoans to enjoy the recreational values of the Hells Canyon Recreational Area," Craig said.

However, the congressmen cited some potential "snags" in the Forest Service's latest management plan.

They said they objected to a provision in which the agency will conduct a two-year study of the area before making its repeal of the numerical restriction permanent.

The lawmakers also said the plan is vague on the issue of constructing new campsites for power boaters, and they noted Agriculture Secretary John Block still must approve the new document before it can take force.