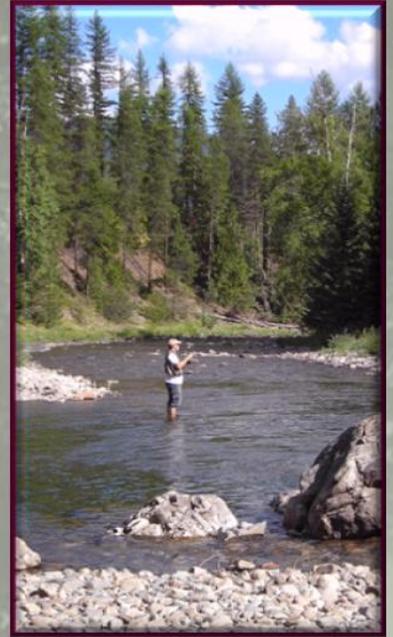




# Idaho Forest Action Plan

## Part Two: Resource Strategy



### Priority Landscape Areas, Goals, Strategies & Implementation

September 2015  
Revision





***Forest Action Plan (2010) Principal Authors / Project Co-Leaders:***

- ***David Stephenson*** – Idaho Department of Lands Urban Interface/Planning Program Manager (co-lead)
- ***Steve Kimball*** – Idaho Department of Lands/ US Forest Service National Fire Plan Coordinator (co-lead)

***Forest Action Plan (2015 Revision) Project Leads***

- ***David Stephenson*** – Idaho Department of Lands Urban Interface/Planning Program Manager
- ***Mary Fritz*** – Idaho Department of Lands Forest Stewardship Program Manager

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## Addendum 1—Report on Accomplishments 2008-2015

This standalone document highlights accomplishments based on the strategies within this Plan, summarizes statewide, multi-state, and Priority Landscape Area projects, and links these to the National Priorities listed in the 2008 Farm Bill. IDL began implementing FAP strategies as the plan was developed, and is the reason the Accomplishment Report covers project work starting in 2008.

# Acknowledgments

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## Members of the Core Strategy Team:

- Ara Andrea – Idaho Department of Lands, NRCS State Technical Committee
- Bob Helmer – Idaho Department of Lands
- Bob Unnasch – The Nature Conservancy
- Chris Schnepf – University of Idaho Extension
- Craig Foss – Idaho Department of Lands
- Craig Glazer – Idaho Panhandle National Forest/USFS Region 1
- Cyndi Lane – Clearwater National Forest
- Dana Coelho – Western Forestry Leadership Coalition
- David Stephenson – Idaho Department of Lands (Project Co-Lead)
- Ed Warner – Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Forest Legacy Program Specialist
- Frank Gariglio – Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Greg Servheen—Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Jeff Handel – Idaho Parks and Recreation
- Jill Cobb – Idaho Panhandle National Forests
- Kirk David—University of Idaho Extension/ID Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee
- Kurt Mettler – Coeur d’Alene Tribe
- Mary Fritz – Idaho Department of Lands
- Mike Bowman – Idaho Resource Conservation and Development Councils
- Mike DeArmond – USDI Bureau of Land Management
- Serena Carlson – Intermountain Forest Association
- Sharon LaBrecque – Sawtooth National Forest
- Steve Kimball – USDA Forest Service/Idaho Department of Lands (Project Co-Lead)

*A complete list of Stakeholders and Contributors—who met to provide guidance, and/or assisted with comments, suggestions, review and other useful information at various stage—is in Appendix C.*

Special thanks to the IDL GIS Staff, Ed DeYoung, Andrew Mock and Meghan Lonneker, for their knowledge and assistance; to Jill Cobb for taking and interpreting copious and highly technical notes from a dozen stakeholder meetings around the state; and to Tera King of Northwest Management, Inc. for her help with editing and consolidating / incorporating reviewer comments.

## **Idaho Lands Resources Coordinating Council Members and Staff:**

- Lisa Ailport – Idaho Chapter, American Planning Association
- Patti Best—Idaho Power Energy Efficiency
- Randy Brooks—University of Idaho Extension
- Glen Burkhardt—Bureau of Land Management (Fire)
- Eileen Clegg—Association of Idaho Cities
- Susan Cleverly—Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security
- Robert Cope—Idaho Association of Counties (Emeritus)
- G. Kirk David—Idaho Forest Owners Association
- Gina Davis—Idaho Department of Lands
- John DeGroot—Nez Perce Tribe
- Dan Dinning—Idaho Association of Counties
- Margie Ewing-Costa-- USDA Forest Service – State and Private Forestry
- Craig Foss—Idaho Department of Lands
- Mary Fritz—Idaho Department of Lands
- Janet Funk—Idaho Tree Farms
- Frank Gariglio—National Resources Conservation Service
- Craig Glazier—Idaho Department of Lands/US Forest Service
- Tyre Hofeltz—Idaho Department of Lands
- Ken Knoch (Vice-Chair)—City of Ammon Parks and Forestry
- Mark Larson—State Fire Marshal (Emeritus)
- Tim Maguire—Ecosystem Sciences Foundation
- Kurt Mettler—Coeur d’Alene Tribe
- Robyn Miller (Chair)—The Nature Conservancy
- Bob Reggear—Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association
- Knute Sandahl—State Fire Marshal
- Gregg Servheen—Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- David Stephenson—Idaho Department of Lands (Forest Action Plan Lead)
- James Tucker—US Forest Service, National Forest System Fire Management
- Janet Valle—USDA Forest Service – State and Private Forestry
- Mike Wolcott—Association of Consulting Foresters

# Introduction

## Background and Purpose

*“[US Department of Agriculture] Secretary Vilsack is asking us to expand our mission and adapt a more “all lands” approach to addressing restoration. Through our State and Private Forestry programs, we have the responsibility to provide support and assistance to State and private lands, but we need to expand our efforts to ensure that we are using all of the USDA and other federal programs to address restoration issues across broader landscapes. Forest and grassland health, wildfire, water quality, and wildlife connectivity are issues that have never stopped at the boundaries of the National Forest System. We now have the support to better address these issues across the landscape—landscapes that are large enough to make a difference.” – Tom Tidwell, USDA Forest Service Chief.*

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service provides funding and other support to states for programs to improve the health, productivity, benefits and extent of state, private and urban forests. The programs this funding supports—including Forest Health, State Fire Assistance, Volunteer Fire Assistance, Forest Stewardship, Urban and Community Forestry, Conservation Education and Forest Legacy—are referred to as State and Private Forestry (S&PF) Programs. The 2008 Farm Bill and a “redesign” of State and Private Forestry programs require that each state develop a State Assessment of Forest Resources and a Forest Resource Strategy—collectively called the State Forest Action Plan (FAP)—across all ownerships as a requisite for receiving federal funding. The primary purpose is development of a plan that will guide State and Private Forestry investments in Idaho to ensure that federal resources focus on landscape areas with the greatest opportunity to address shared priorities and achieve measurable outcomes.

A parallel purpose is to help landowners and land managers in Idaho better recognize and support opportunities where working together and leveraging limited resources can address multiple critical issues of statewide importance in the areas where doing so will have the greatest impact. Stakeholders can use it to support requests and proposals for resources necessary to implement the strategies and to develop local and statewide collaborative frameworks for implementation.

***It is important to recognize that the Idaho Forest Action Plan does not replace existing strategic or management plans for any agency, organization or individual, nor do they imply any lands not included in a Priority Landscape Area (PLA) or the listed strategies are unimportant. They contain large-scale strategies not intended to identify all the issues or actions any land manager may feel are most important on the lands they manage. Rather, they identify opportunities for willing partners to align their plans, leverage resources, and work together within the PLAs and per the strategies as a way to gain the greatest value from limited resources in areas that contain multiple high-priority issues of statewide importance.***

## Forest Action Plan: Resource Assessment

The Forest Action Plan Resource Assessment is a geospatial analysis of forest conditions and trends in Idaho. The Idaho Resource Assessment identifies seven main issues affecting Idaho forestlands (threats and potential benefits). Threats to forests include forest health decline, uncharacteristic wildfire, development pressure and recreation in undesignated areas. Potential benefits include sustainable wood-based forest resource markets, water quality & quantity, air quality, and wildlife habitat and biodiversity. Statewide data and local knowledge identified areas in Idaho where these threats and benefits pointed to the highest need for investment and work. These areas of multiple high priority concerns and potential benefits are designated as Priority Landscape Areas (PLAs) and include urban, rural, and wildland urban-interface (WUI) lands.

Note that the assessment utilized the best available *statewide* data. Because the assessment is statewide in scale, it does not identify every area in which an issue may exist. Local geospatial data may present a different characterization of the issues.

A full Idaho FAP Resource Assessment report—including detailed descriptions of each issue, data used, data considered but not used and why, models used for each issue, issue maps, a description of the final methodology and assessment maps, and the maps developed for each of the sub-issues and issues—can be found on the Idaho FAP website at <http://www.idl.idaho.gov/forestry/forest-action/index.html>.

Stakeholders can also use the individual issue maps from the assessment to identify where these are highest priority, and to inform and support specific strategies, resources or actions necessary to address them.

## **Idaho Forest Action Plan: Resource Strategy**

The Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP) Resource Strategy is a long-term, comprehensive, coordinated strategy for investing state, federal, and leveraged partner resources. It addresses the issues and priority landscape areas identified in the Resource Assessment. FAP is statewide in scope. It is not a site-specific plan.

The Idaho Forest Action Plan will help provide focus to landowners, agencies, collaborative groups, and partnership efforts in identifying projects and activities to reduce threats to, and increase the benefits from Idaho's forestlands. From "Main Street to mountaintop," focusing work in the highest priority areas allows leveraging of funds and coordination across ownerships as a highly effective way to address the most critical forest resource issues in Idaho at a scale where significant, positive changes can be realized.

## **Process**

Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) led the effort to develop a comprehensive resource assessment and accompanying Forest Action Plan through a collaborative process involving representatives from federal and state agencies, counties, non-governmental organizations, State and Private Forestry (S&PF) program advisory groups, tribes, interest groups, and private citizens. Three primary teams crafted the assessment and plan: a broad stakeholder group (Stakeholders) and two smaller core teams (Core Teams) made up of a cross section of the Stakeholders—one which helped with the assessment and the other with the Strategies.

The Core Teams collected and analyzed data, interviewed managers and landowners, and brought together information to develop the draft and final Forest Action Plan. The Stakeholders helped steer the process, reviewed the work of the Core Teams, and provided comments, suggestions, and guidance throughout the process. Development of the FAP involved several video-conference meetings with agency and partner personnel from Priority Landscape Areas. During these meetings, the Core Strategy Team shared information from the assessment and asked local representatives to further characterize the issues and conditions of the area and share plans and strategies they felt were the most important for these areas. This team then synthesized the information and, working with the Stakeholders, developed a cohesive ten-year Forest Action Plan for Idaho.

It is imperative to recognize that the FAP is an iterative document and a dynamic process. Resources and priorities evolve as new information becomes available and conditions in Idaho's forests change. This document will be updated periodically to reflect adjustments and remain relevant and useful, and full Forest Action Plan updates, including the assessment and strategy development, will be completed at ten-year intervals.

## Summary of changes in the May 2012 revision

- The State Assessment of Forest Resources and the Statewide Forest Resource Strategy are now collectively called the Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP). This name change is reflected throughout both documents.
- The Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council (ILRCC)—an advisory group representing all Idaho S&PF program areas—replaces the three program specific advisory groups. Discussion is found on page 26 and in Appendix F: 126-128
- The Idaho Forest Action Plan replaces the Forest Legacy Program’s original Assessment of Need—last updated in 2007. This change is discussed on pages 14-15, and in Appendix G: 129-132. The 13 Priority Landscape Areas identified in this Forest Action Plan replace the original six Legacy Areas from the Idaho’s September 2002 Assessment of Need. A comparison of Legacy eligible areas between the original Assessment of Need and the Forest Action Plan Priority Landscape Areas is included on pages 133-134.
- Additional definitions added to the glossary (appendix A)

## Summary of changes in the September 2015 revision

- The Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council reviewed the Forest Action Plan and suggested additions and modifications that are incorporated herein. The Council also guided creation of the Report on Accomplishments (see last bullet below)
- The National Cohesive Wildfire Strategy is incorporated into this revision as an integral component of the Forest Action Plan. See pages 31 and Appendix H on page 135.
- A Sage-Steppe Special Landscape Area (SLA) has been added to reflect increasingly important issues in this ecosystem, especially juniper encroachment and invasion of non-native annual grasses that increase wildfire risk and threaten habitat for more than 350 species of plants and animals. One key species, the greater sage-grouse, is in danger of being listed as ‘threatened’ under the Endangered Species Act. Introduction of the SLA starts on page 18, and further information and management strategies begin on page 103.
- Added an addendum 1 to FAP called the **Report on Accomplishments 2008-2015**. This standalone document highlights accomplishments based on the strategies within this Plan, summarizes statewide, multi-state, and Priority Landscape Area projects, and links these to the National Priorities listed in the 2008 Farm Bill. IDL began implementing FAP strategies before the plan was finalized, and is the reason the Accomplishment Report covers project work starting in 2008.

# Chapter 1 – State and Private Forestry Programs

## Introduction

Idaho's state and private forests are served by a suite of programs that foster stewardship and sustainability. Encompassing nearly a quarter of the vast landscape of Idaho's forests, state and private lands provide public benefits such as clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, and a majority of the state's wood supply.

The State and Private Forestry (S&PF) organization of the U.S. Forest Service provides funding and other assistance to states to help ensure that forest landowners have the best technical, educational, and financial assistance available to help them achieve their objectives in an environmentally-beneficial manner. Federal investment leverages the capacity of state forestry agencies and their partners to manage state and private lands that produce ecological, social and economic benefits for all of us. S&PF reaches across the boundaries of national forests to states, tribes, communities and non-industrial private landowners. As US Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack stated in his vision of the Forest Service, "The threats facing our forests don't recognize property boundaries. So, in developing a shared vision around forests, we must also be willing to look across property boundaries. In other words, we must operate at a landscape-scale by taking an "all-lands approach."



Regardless of ownership, forests across the country are experiencing significant challenges to ecosystem health: tree mortality is on the rise due to insects, disease and invasive pests; wildfires continue to increase in size and intensity; ecosystems struggle to adapt to climate change disturbances; and forests are being permanently converted to non-forest uses at a rate of 1 million acres per year. People are also impacted as wood-based local economies suffer, declining forest health impacts recreation and tourism, and the benefits forests provide to society are eroded. In this modern era, there is also a feeling some people are becoming increasingly disconnected to forests. The strategy addresses both the ecological and social issues surrounding forestry.

Conceived in 2007, "Redesign" is a new approach within S&PF that is improving the ability to identify the greatest threats to forest sustainability and accomplish meaningful change in high priority areas and across all lands. The USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters are applying progressive, competitive strategies to a portion of the S&PF allocation. This approach helps address current forestry opportunities and challenges on-the-ground while demonstrating the value of a public investment in state and private landscapes.

The 2008 Farm Bill codified the main components of Redesign into law by amending the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act. The three national Priorities—Conserve Working Forest Landscapes, Protect Forests from Harm, and Enhance Public Benefits From Trees and Forests—are now set in law as national priorities, and the Statewide Assessments and Strategies are required and central for S&PF program delivery at the state level.<sup>1</sup>

In Idaho, IDL is the agency that administers the S&PF programs. These include Forest Stewardship, Forest Health, Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Legacy, Conservation Education, State Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance. This document fulfills the requirements of the 2008 Farm Bill and will guide these programs for the next ten years. A short description of each S&PF program in Idaho follows.

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<sup>1</sup> USDA Forest Service. 2010. "State and Private Forestry Redesign". Washington, D.C. Available online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/redesign/index.shtml>.

## State and Private Forestry Programs

### ***Forest Stewardship Program***

The purpose of the Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) is to promote the long-term stewardship of nonindustrial private forestlands by assisting landowners in more actively managing their forest and related resources. In Idaho, the IDL administers this program collaboratively with state and private partners. The Idaho FSP provides assistance to owners of forests where good stewardship, including agroforestry applications, will enhance and sustain the long-term productivity of multiple forest resources. Special attention will be given to landowners in the early stages of managing their land using multi-resource stewardship principles. The program provides landowners with the professional planning and technical assistance they need to keep their land in a productive and healthy condition. The Idaho FSP promotes forest landowner participation in the development of Landowner Forest Stewardship Plans (LFSPs). IDL foresters assist landowners develop these management plans; an important first step in practicing sound silviculture. Within Idaho's FSP, IDL, in cooperation with other state partners, delivers multiple in-the field educational sessions for landowners and land managers, focusing on issues, problems and opportunities, and the appropriate stewardship activities to address these. The planning assistance offered through the Idaho FSP also provides landowners with enhanced access to other USDA funding assistance, conservation programs, and forest certification programs.

Using a ten-year planning horizon based on Idaho's Forest Action Plan, Idaho FSP relies on the Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee (IFSAC)<sup>2</sup> to act in an advisory capacity to assist in proper delivery of assistance and educational programs. This committee serves as an important advisory group for all service forestry efforts, including the Idaho Forest Legacy Program.

### ***Forest Health Program***

The Idaho Department of Lands Forest Health program (FHP) provides technical assistance to State forest managers, to approximately 30,000 NIPF owners who own 2 million acres of forestland, and to the Forest Industry, who own 1 million acres of commercial forestlands. The Forest Health program helps protect and preserve forest resources and watersheds from forest insect and disease pests while enhancing the production and stability of forests, forest industry, and forest recreation values, and contributes to the supply of wood and wood products on a local, state, regional and national basis. When outbreaks occur, FHP will lead control efforts as needed and as appropriate. Whenever possible, IDL will work cooperatively with private forest owners, state and federal partners.

To achieve these mandates, the principal activities of the FHP program are prevention, detection, evaluation, control, and, as necessary, eradication of forest insect and disease pests. Assistance may be technical, educational and/or financial. The program works across landscapes, from rural to urban forest settings. Forest health is key to maintaining forests that are resilient to fire and changes in climate, that protect and enhance wildlife habitat, provide economic benefits, and that contribute to human health. The Forest Action Plan identifies current forest health threats and will guide FHP efforts for the next ten years. The program will also remain flexible in order to respond to new insect and disease outbreaks as they occur.

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<sup>2</sup> IFSAC was sunsetted in November, 2011. The Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council (ILRCC)—initiated in January, 2012—will assume advisory responsibilities for all of Idaho's State and Private Forestry Programs. See page 25 and the white paper in Appendix F on page 124 for Information on the ILRCC.

## ***Urban & Community Forestry Program***

Urban forests are dynamic ecosystems that provide needed environmental services by cleaning air and water, controlling stormwater and conserving energy. These ecosystems add form, structure, beauty and breathing room to urban design, reduce noise, separate incompatible uses, provide places to recreate, strengthen social cohesion, leverage community revitalization, and add tremendous economic value to our communities. The rate of Idaho's urban population growth is among the top five states in the nation, signaling an increase in the impact that comes with this growth, and the opportunity to address these issues in part by preserving, enhancing and managing tree canopy.

The Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCF) focuses on the stewardship of urban natural resources and provides technical, educational, and financial assistance to local governments, organizations and others to maximize the value, function and health of the urban forest ecosystem. Through these efforts, the program encourages and promotes the creation of healthier, more livable and economically vibrant urban environments across Idaho.

Using a ten-year planning horizon based on Idaho's Forest Action Plan, the UCF Program relies on the Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council (ICFAC)<sup>3</sup> to act in an advisory capacity to assist in proper delivery of assistance and educational programs. This committee serves as the principle advisory group for urban and community forestry efforts.

## ***Conservation Education Program***

The Conservation Education (CE) program helps people of all ages understand and appreciate Idaho's natural resources and learn how to conserve those resources for future generations. Through structured educational experiences and activities targeting a range of age groups and populations, Conservation Education enables people to realize how natural resources and ecosystems affect each other and how resources can be used wisely.

Through the CE program, people develop the critical thinking skills they need to understand the complexities of ecological problems. Conservation Education also encourages people to act on their own to conserve natural resources and use them in a responsible manner by making informed decisions.

## ***State Fire Assistance (including the National Fire Plan)***

The state of Idaho has 12,592,000 acres of state and private land that qualify for protection under the State Fire Assistance (SFA) Program of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act. Of these, 7,127,000 acres receive protection by either State or federal agencies. Idaho Department of Lands uses State Fire Assistance funds to hire, train, and equip interagency firefighters, a resource that can be ordered and used by any state, federal, or local unit.

Idaho developed a formal structure and strategy to implement the National Fire Plan (NFP) component of SFA Program in 2001. The Idaho NFP Strategy emphasizes interagency working groups at the state and county levels. The statewide program is led by a National Fire Plan Coordinator jointly funded by the Forest Service and Idaho Department of Lands.

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<sup>3</sup> ICFAC was sunsetted in November, 2011. The Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council (ILRCC)—initiated in January, 2012—will assume advisory responsibilities for all of Idaho's State and Private Forestry Programs. See page 25 and the white paper in Appendix F on page 124 for Information on the ILRCC.

The Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group (ISFPWG)<sup>4</sup> is a multi-agency collaborative body charged to assist counties with their County Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) and projects, disseminate information, and oversee and prioritize grant assistance programs. Their focus is on improved prevention, reducing hazardous fuels, restoring fire-adapted ecosystems and promoting community assistance.

County Wildfire Working Groups (CWWG) are composed of county emergency managers and local, state, and federal fire managers. All 44 counties in Idaho have CWPPs and most have received and implemented National Fire Plan grants. National Fire Plan grants are established for projects that emphasize fire prevention and education, hazardous fuels reduction, assistance to firefighters, and woody biomass utilization.

SFA activities will focus in areas identified in both the FAP and CWPPs as high priority, further guided by strategies within this document.

### ***Volunteer Fire Assistance (including the National Fire Plan)***

Funding through the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Program supports fire management training and equipment for Volunteer Fire Departments throughout Idaho. The Fire Departments receiving funding service a community or other population areas of less than 10,000 people.

Priority is given to fire management training. With safety being the number one priority in fighting wildland fire, personnel require adequate training in not only structure, but also in wildland fire control techniques. Funds are also used to equip fire districts with priority personal protective safety equipment and gear. FAP will guide VFA investments for the next ten years.

### ***Forest Legacy Program (May 2012 revision)***

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP)—a federal program in partnership with states—supports state efforts to protect environmentally important forestlands. The Idaho FLP provides federal funding to purchase conservation easements on private lands that might otherwise be developed and converted to non-forest uses. FLP is a voluntary program designed to protect forests and the economic and ecological benefits they provide. For those landowners wishing to participate in the program, FLP may provide funding and tools to assure their forestland will remain a working forest in perpetuity. FLP conservation easements are legally binding agreements that transfer a negotiated set of property rights from the landowner to the State of Idaho without removing that property from private ownership. In general, Idaho's FLP conservation easements restrict development and mineral extraction, require sustainable forestry practices, and protect other values such as water, cultural resources, and fish and wildlife habitat.

### **Idaho Forest Action Plan replaces original Forest Legacy Program's Assessment of Need**

The Idaho Forest Legacy Program completed a Forest Legacy Assessment of Need (AON) in 2002 (updated in 2007). The AON, a requirement for states participating in the Forest Legacy Program, is a detailed analysis of the issues pertinent to the Forest Legacy program and prioritizes areas within the state for FLP funding. The Idaho State Assessment of Forest Resources (SAFR)—a comprehensive review of the threats and benefits that affect Idaho forests—identified priority areas for forest conservation and management. FAP addresses the criteria necessary to update and replace the original AON,

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<sup>4</sup> ISFPWG was sunsetted in October 2011. The Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council (ILRCC)—initiated in January, 2012—will assume advisory responsibilities for all of Idaho's State and Private Forestry Programs. See page 25 and the white paper in Appendix F on page 124 for Information on the ILRCC. In 2014, a new Community Fire Program Manager was created and filled to work with Counties and manage SFA fire grants.

including incorporating comments and input from many organizations, agencies, and members of the public.

Beginning in 2012, Idaho's Forest Legacy Program, with oversight from the Lands Resource Coordinating Council (ILRCC)<sup>5</sup> will use this Forest Action Plan (as revised) as the Idaho's FLP AON to guide implementation of the program. A Forest Legacy subcommittee of ILRCC consisting of ILRCC members, agency representatives and other interested parties, will perform evaluation and scoring of project applications. Appendix G (page 129) provides additional information detailing Idaho's Forest Legacy Program including goals and objectives, project eligibility criteria, project evaluation and prioritization and a comparison of prior and current Forest Legacy eligible areas.

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<sup>5</sup> The ILRCC is advisory group integrating all State and Private Forestry programs and replaces the three program specific advisory groups. See page 25 and the white paper in Appendix F on page 124 for Information on the ILRCC.

# Chapter 2 – The Idaho Forest Action Plan and Priority Landscape Areas

## Introduction

Developed collaboratively with many different agencies and organizations, Idaho's Forest Action Plan (FAP) Resource Assessment is a key element in the redesign of the USDA Forest Service's State and Private Forestry Branch; a requirement within the 2008 Farm Bill for states receiving funding through the US Forest Service for S&PF programs. Its purpose is to ensure that federal and state resources focus on landscape areas with the greatest opportunity to address shared priorities and achieve measurable outcomes.

The assessment provides a geospatial analysis of conditions and trends for all forested lands in Idaho. It delineates rural and urban forest areas that are the highest priority for projects and investments administered through S&PF programs.

A broad group of stakeholders identified threats to and benefits from forest resources, and these form the foundation of the analysis. It is important to recognize that because the scale is large and the purpose of the assessment is to capture the areas of highest *relative* priority statewide, it may not identify some locally significant areas for various issues.

This Forest Action Plan Strategy document provides broad strategies to protect, restore and enhance forest resources in priority landscapes by addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

## Key Issues (Threats and Benefits) Identified in SAFR

The issues identified in the SAFR are shown in diagram form on page 23. More detailed information on the data used, data considered but not used, and the models used for each issue, sub-issue, and the overall assessment are described in the document titled *Idaho Forest Action Plan: Resource Assessment* available online at <http://www.idl.idaho.gov/forestry/forest-action/index.html>.

### Issue: Relative Threats to Forest Health

Forests and urban tree canopies face many different kinds of threats. The purpose of analyzing this issue is to identify the most significant statewide biological threats. These include forest insects and diseases that result in tree mortality, noxious terrestrial weed species that can compromise the health and composition of forest stands, and climate change, which may modify current ranges of forest species, adding additional stresses to forests. Not only do stresses from these factors damage forests, they have an ecological, social and economic impact as well. They affect markets, recreation, and wildlife habitat and can exacerbate uncharacteristic wildfire. The critical areas identified for this issue represent where these problems currently exist or are likely to exist in the near future and where management activities can minimize threats. Other issues within the assessment address areas where forests and tree canopy can help mitigate the causes of some of these threats.

### **Issue: Relative Threat to Communities and Ecosystems from Uncharacteristic Wildland Fire**

Uncharacteristic wildland fire is defined as an increase in wildfire size, severity, and resistance to control compared to that which occurred prior to European settlement. The threat of uncharacteristic wildfires has increased due to changes in climate, additional mortality from insects and disease, the effect of increasing human population (ignition sources and more development at risk), and fuel accumulation from decades of aggressive fire suppression. The purpose of this issue is to identify communities and ecosystems at the greatest risk from this threat.<sup>6</sup>

### **Issue: Relative Potential Loss of or Damage to Canopy from Development Pressure, and Recreation in Undesignated Areas**

The intent of this issue is to identify areas at greatest risk of conversion from forestland to other uses, specifically development. Often, forested areas are highly desirable for home sites or new subdivisions. With this conversion comes a loss of productive forests, increased wildfire risk to property as more homes are “in the woods,” and pressure to reduce or eliminate management on adjacent lands. Also important are those areas that may be converted from one housing density to a significantly higher density as this may also lead to loss of canopy and the benefits it provides.

This issue also identifies those areas where pressure from off highway vehicle (OHV) use in undesignated areas can lead to degradation of forested areas. Such use has increased erosion, user conflicts, spread of invasive species, damage to cultural sites, disturbance to wildlife, destruction of wildlife habitat, and risks to public safety. Along with fire and fuels, invasive species, and loss of open space, this issue is one of the USDA Forest Service’s “four threats” and is a critical issue on state, industrial and private lands.

While OHV use in undesignated areas is a threat, it should be emphasized that forests provide recreational value for many uses, including OHVs. Managing the areas where impact or potential impact on forests is greatest, creating and maintaining designated OHV use areas and providing education to OHV users will help alleviate this threat.

### **Issue: Relative Potential Benefit to Sustainable Forest-Based Wood Products Markets**

The purpose of this issue is to identify the forested areas most beneficial to existing and planned mills and biomass-utilization facilities. In many areas of the state, communities are economically and culturally dependent upon forestlands. The benefits and products of forestlands include timber, biomass, recreation, hunting and fishing, and ecosystem services. When markets and mills shut down, incentives to manage forests are significantly diminished, leading to an increase in forest insect and disease infestations, fire risk, and a decline in overall forest health.

Identified in the assessment are those areas within established distances from existing mills and existing or planned biomass utilization facilities—both within and outside of the state—where treatments can help support the wood products industry.

### **Issue: Relative Potential Benefit to Water Quality and Quantity from Forests and Canopy**

The purpose of this issue is to identify the areas where forests can have the greatest benefit for water quality and quantity. Rural forests and urban tree canopy offer tremendous value toward good water quality, aquifer recharge, stormwater mitigation and erosion control. Water is one of the most critical resources in the West, critically important for fish, wildlife, and humans. Forest canopy shades and cools streams, which is important for healthy fish habitat. Leaves of trees intercept rainfall, lowering the erosive impact of rain on soil. Roots systems help break up

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<sup>6</sup> The term “uncharacteristic wildland fire” is used in Idaho Roadless Area Conservation Final Environmental Impact Statement (2008) and is from a definition in the Forest Service Cohesive Strategy for Protecting People and Sustaining Resources in a Fire-Adapted Ecosystem (2000).

compacted ground while stabilizing soil, which leads to greater groundwater recharge, reduced runoff and associated contaminant loads from snowmelt and rainwater, and less erosion. This issue focuses forest management efforts in the areas in greatest need of improved water quality and quantity in both rural and urban environments.

### **Issue: Relative Potential Benefit to Air Quality from Forests and Canopy**

The purpose of this issue is to identify the areas where an increase in and management of forests and tree canopy can have the greatest benefit to air quality. Forests have both a positive and negative impact on air quality. Wildfires, especially large uncharacteristic ones, contribute a great deal of particulates (from smoke) and carbon into the air. Communities within the airshed of these fires suffer reduced air quality and commensurate health impacts. Forest canopy also absorbs and filters particulates, green house gases and pollutants out of the air, improving air quality. Trees sequester carbon and release oxygen, which is important for mitigating climate change and for human and animal health. Since temperature is a catalyst for production of volatile organic compounds (VOC)—the components of smog—the cooling effect of tree canopy in urban areas can lower VOC production. By also cooling buildings and lowering energy use, urban tree canopy can also reduce energy consumption. When this energy is produced from fossil fuels, less consumption means less production and a corresponding reduction of emissions at the source.

### **Issue: Relative Potential Benefit to Wildlife and Biodiversity**

This issue identifies the areas of greatest conservation value for wildlife habitat and plant and animal biodiversity, and where management can enhance these values. This issue highlights areas where forests play a key role in wildlife critical habitat and range; threatened, endangered, and rare fish and wildlife habitat; and ecologically important plant communities. Within the context of the Idaho Forest Action Plan, projects proposed within areas of overall high priority should consider activities that will enhance the habitat of the plant, fish, and wildlife species listed within those areas.

## **Development of Priority Landscape Areas**

Once the final resource assessment map was completed, the Core Team looked at the areas of very high, high, and moderately high priority subwatersheds with respect to geographic, ecological, and social issues as well as other considerations. From this process, they identified Priority Landscape Areas (PLAs) as a way to break the state into smaller, local areas where strategies would most effectively address identified threats and potential benefits and provide a framework for multiple complimentary efforts. See maps on pages 21-22.

## **Sage-Steppe Special Landscape Area**

Sage-Steppe is the most widespread ecosystem type in the United States, covering 111 million acres of the arid Intermountain West. It supports abundant wildlife and other economically important natural resources. In Idaho, it covers an area across southern Idaho from the Snake River Plain to the Nevada border. Vegetation is comprised primarily of grasses and low-lying shrubs, such as sagebrush.

Sage-Steppe is also one of the most imperiled ecosystems in the United States. 150 years of fire exclusion and domestic livestock grazing have dramatically altered this landscape, including significant expansion of native juniper into this ecosystem. Since the late 1800s, occurrence of western juniper in these areas has grown ten-fold, crowding out sagebrush and native grasses that cannot survive under a closed canopy. The result is fragmented and degraded native wildlife habitat for species such as the greater sage-grouse, currently in danger of being listed as ‘threatened’ under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Wildfires fueled by juniper burn at greater intensities, decreasing understory vegetation, increasing soil erosion, and facilitating spread of invasive plants such as cheatgrass and medusahead rye. These non-native annual plants further alter the fire regime as they create a continuous fuel bed in which repeated wildfires cause wholesale loss of the sagebrush component in the landscape. In some areas, fire occurrence has gone from once every 60 to 100 years, to once every 3 to 5 years. On the positive side, management to restore native ecosystems provides opportunities for forest-based markets utilizing the biomass removed during treatments, protects and preserves key habitat for more than 350 species of plants and wildlife, and increases the value of the area for grazing livestock.

Stakeholders guiding development of Idaho's initial Forest Action Plan made a conscious decision early on to include only areas where conditions supported the growth of trees and forests, defined as receiving more than 10" of rainfall per year (an amount felt necessary to support growth of commercial forests). This was not a consensus decision; many stakeholders felt land management issues in these areas, especially as they affect wildfires, warranted inclusion in FAP.

Since completion of the initial FAP these issues have gained greater attention, and the restoration of Sage-Steppe areas to reduce wildfire risk is now a national priority. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewel issued a Secretarial Order in early 2015 calling for a "a comprehensive, science-based strategy to address the more frequent and intense wildfires that are damaging vital sagebrush landscapes and productive rangelands, particularly in the Great Basin region of Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Oregon and California." The order builds on the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (see page 31) as a roadmap for achieving an "all lands—all hands" approach to addressing wildfire prevention, suppression and restoration efforts, including post-fire rehabilitation.

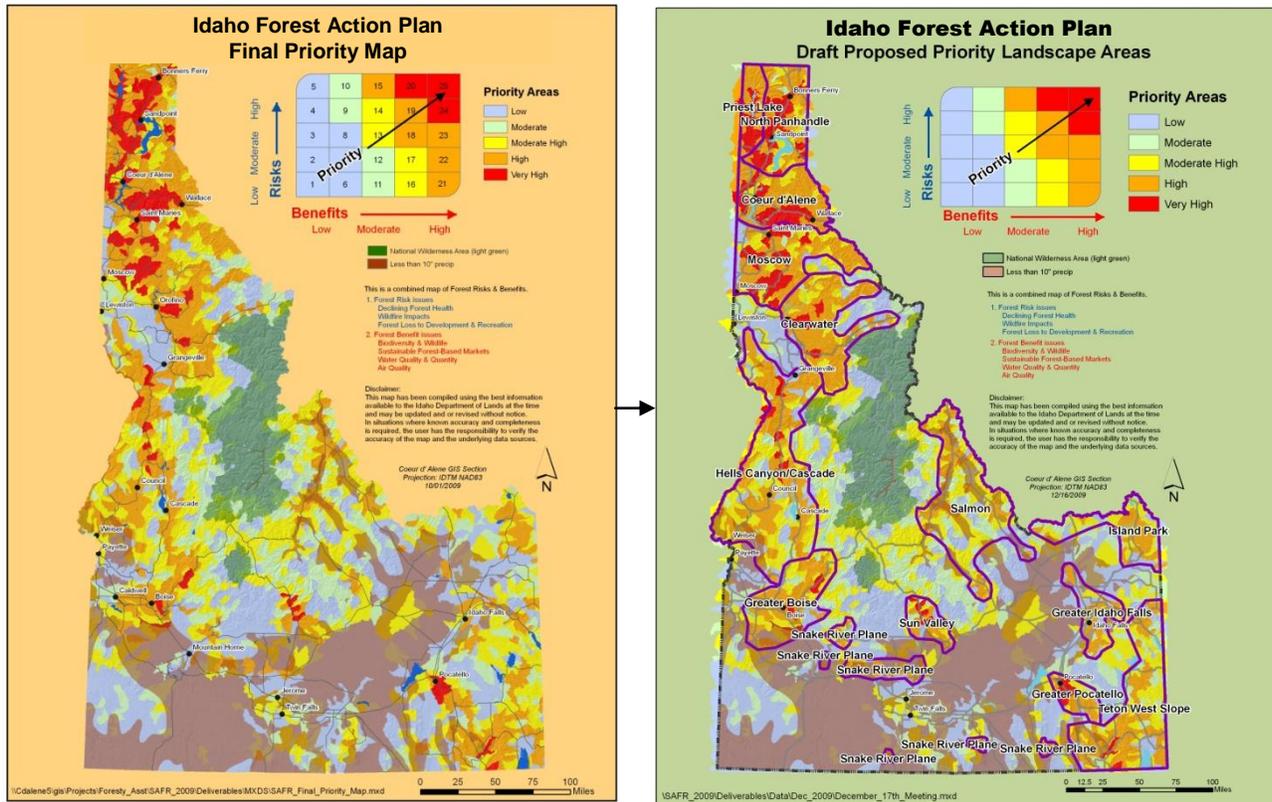
The Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council (ILRCC) guides implementation, revisions and updates of Idaho's Forest Action Plan. After extensive discussion during their summer 2015 meeting, Council members voted to include Idaho's Sage-Steppe areas in the 2015 FAP Revision for the following reasons.

- Statewide wildfire strategies are an important component of Idaho's FAP. One of three former advisory groups the ILRCC replaces is the Idaho Fire Plan Working Group (see Appendix F, page 126), and addressing wildfire risks in this area was a key focus of that group's work. Additionally, the Cohesive Strategy—now integrated into FAP—specifically identifies the need for non-forest rangeland restoration to reduce the conditions that favor uncharacteristically large, severe and costly wildfires. IDL has already received US Forest Service funding for a Cohesive Strategy project in this area.
- While the primary intent of FAP is to guide State and Private Forestry investments in Idaho, a parallel purpose is to identify and support partnership strategies that address multiple critical issues of statewide importance in areas where doing so will have the greatest impact.
- Several existing PLAs share boundaries with the sage-steppe SLA, and coordination and communication across these boundaries may lead to larger-scale projects or additional funding opportunities to address common management concerns.
- Improving the resilience and defensibility of the sagebrush-steppe, where many wildfires may start, will reduce the likelihood of spread into the timber communities in surrounding PLAs. Pinyon and juniper invasion in high elevation sage-steppe also increases wildfire intensity and spread, which could lead to impacts on adjacent timber communities.
- Secretary Jewell's announcement of a Comprehensive Rangeland Fire Strategy to Restore & Protect Sagebrush Lands highlights the national focus on the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem and the shift in resources toward this landscape. The failure to address imminent threats to the sagebrush ecosystem, primarily invasive species and wildfire leading to annual grassland

conversion, could lead to an even greater emphasis and funding shift to these areas as we move from prevention and suppression to restoration and rehabilitation.

Because this area is unique relative to the other lands included in this plan, and was not included in the initial Resource Assessment, the Sage-Steppe is designated as a Special Landscape Area (SLA) rather than a Priority Landscape Area. The boundaries include the greater sage-grouse habitat designated as “core” and “important,” and adjacent areas with significant departure from historic fire condition regimes and with very high populations of invasive annual grasses. By including these lands, the intent is not to divert resources from management activities within PLAs. Rather, it is to support management in the Sage-Steppe SLA by forest and land management agencies and organizations—including the USDA Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Department of Lands and other state agencies, and the Governor’s Alternative for the Management of Greater Sage-Grouse—as part of a comprehensive natural resource management strategy for Idaho.

# Priority Landscape Areas



First iteration of Priority Landscape Areas drawn from the Final FAP Assessment Map

After further refining, the PLAs were finalized as shown in the map on the following page. The key issues from the assessment causing these areas to rank high relative to others were identified for each PLA. A series of meetings held around the state engaged local land management partners and stakeholders to identify further the key issues and strategies for addressing them. These issues and strategies are listed in Chapter 5.

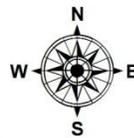
# Idaho Forest Action Plan Priority Landscape Areas

The Forest Resource Assessment utilized a geospatial analysis to identify subwatersheds where multiple Forest Action Plan Issues ranked moderate to very high priority.

From this process, Priority Landscape Areas, or PLAs, were identified as a way to break the state into smaller, local areas where strategies would most effectively address identified threats and potential benefits, and provide a framework for multiple complimentary efforts.

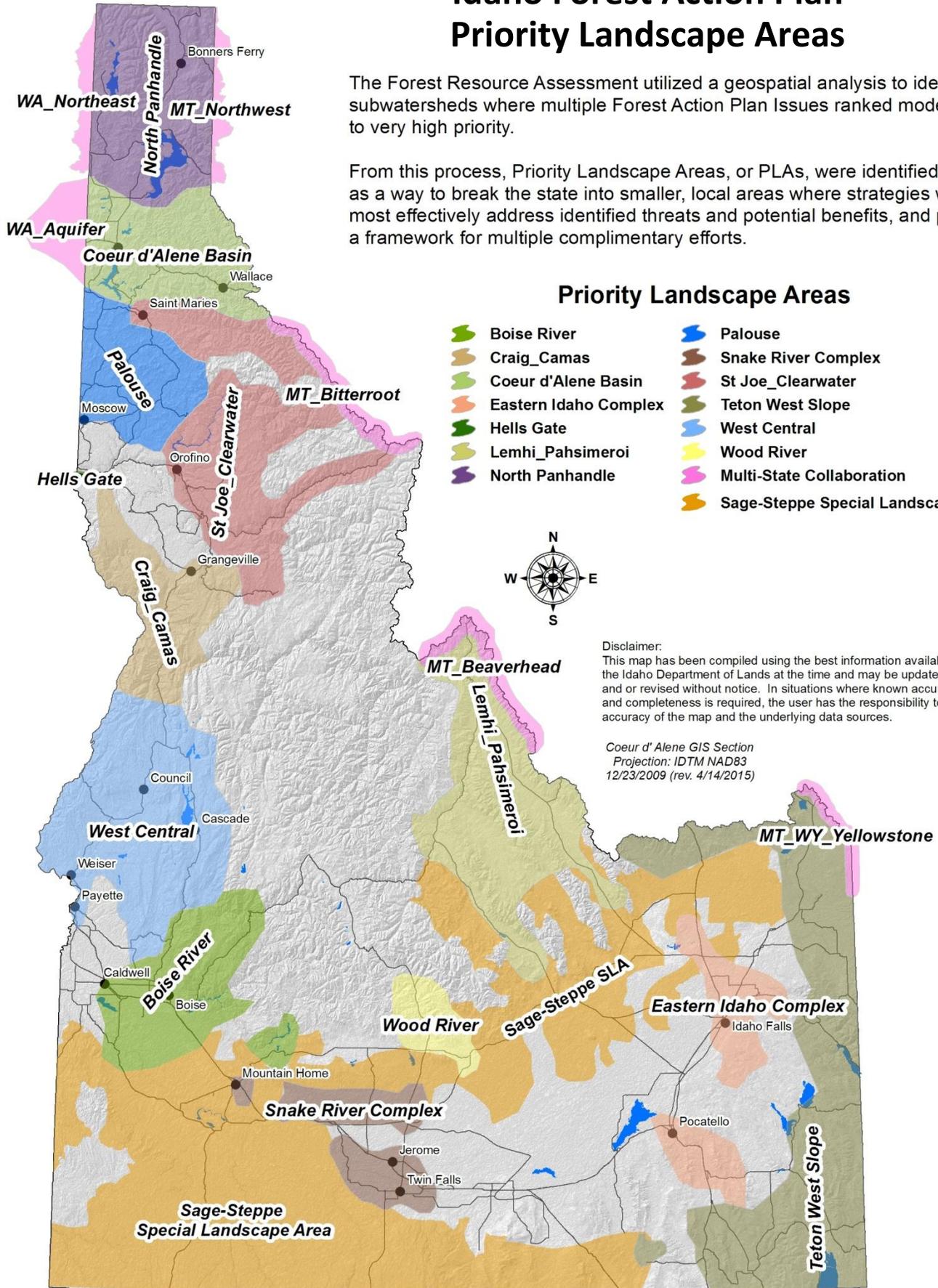
## Priority Landscape Areas

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  Boise River           |  Palouse                            |
|  Craig_Camas           |  Snake River Complex                |
|  Coeur d'Alene Basin   |  St Joe_Clearwater                  |
|  Eastern Idaho Complex |  Teton West Slope                   |
|  Hells Gate            |  West Central                       |
|  Lemhi_Pahsimeroi      |  Wood River                         |
|  North Panhandle       |  Multi-State Collaboration          |
|   |  Sage-Steppe Special Landscape Area |

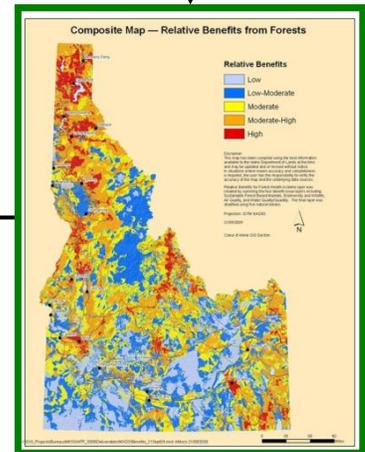
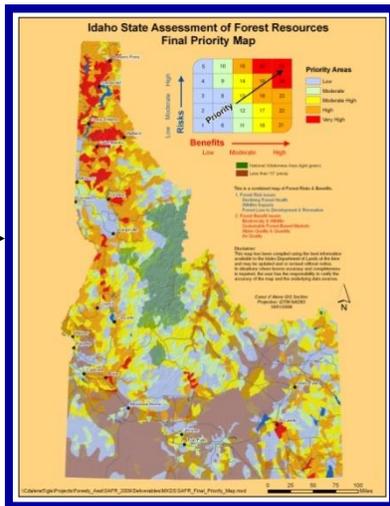
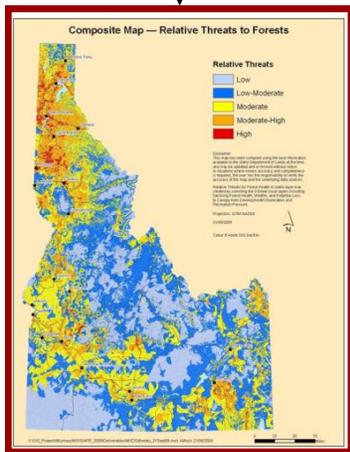
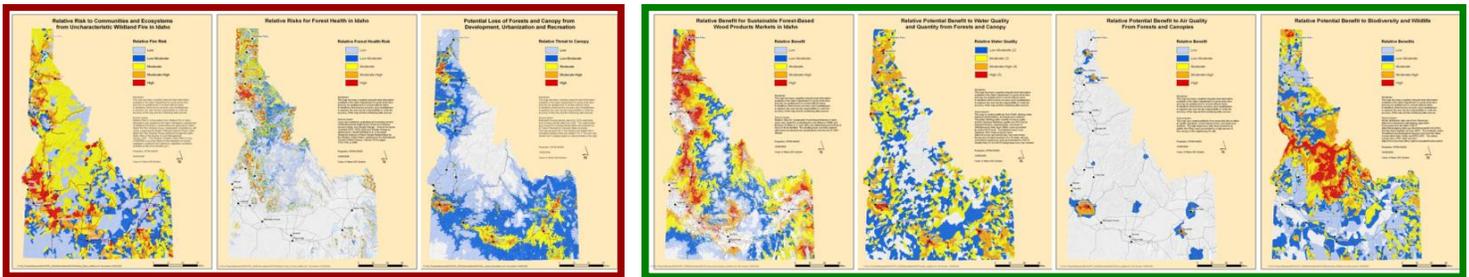
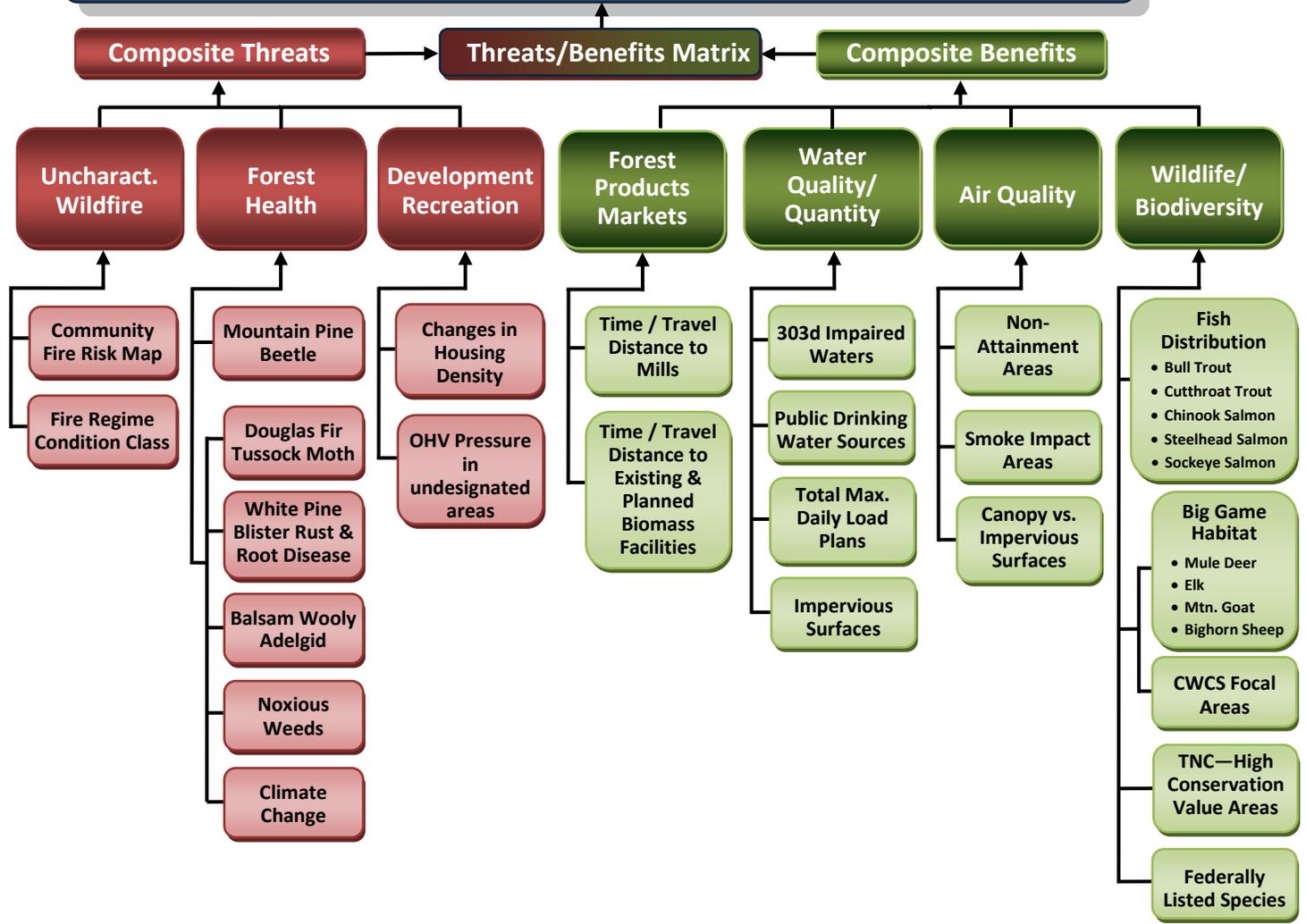


Disclaimer:  
This map has been compiled using the best information available to the Idaho Department of Lands at the time and may be updated and or revised without notice. In situations where known accuracy and completeness is required, the user has the responsibility to verify the accuracy of the map and the underlying data sources.

Coeur d'Alene GIS Section  
Projection: IDTM NAD83  
12/23/2009 (rev. 4/14/2015)



# Idaho Forest Action Plan—Priority Areas



# Chapter 3 – Implementation of Strategies

## Introduction

The information within this document provides a long-term, comprehensive, coordinated approach for investing state, federal, and leveraged partner resources to address landscape priorities. The completion of this document marks not an end, but a beginning as Stakeholders and partners work together to implement these strategies across all ownerships.

IDL will continue to work with the Stakeholders and Core Team members to prioritize strategies statewide and within each Priority Landscape Area (PLA). This allows for a “work down the list” approach for selecting prospective projects to implement and/or identify project-specific funding opportunities. Throughout the life of this plan, additional collaborative work will be conducted to further refine strategies and address the issues and needs identified in the PLAs.

Where there are potential conflicts between goals and strategies, projects developed from the strategies should be balanced as appropriate for the site: e.g. defensible space/fire risk planning versus preservation of wildlife habitat and tree canopy; or the need to balance the economic benefits of the forest for mills and biomass facilities with sustainable forests. Otherwise, success toward one goal could be a detriment to another; a benefit could become a threat.

## Use of the Idaho Forest Action Plan by the Idaho Department of Lands

State Forest Action Plans are integral to State and Private Forestry (S&PF) Redesign and required by states as an amendment to the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA) as enacted in the 2008 Farm Bill. That is, as a condition of future Federal funding for S&PF programs, completion and utilization of these documents is required.

The Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP) will guide all future S&PF program work. This document serves as an integrated 10-year plan for the IDL programs described in Chapter 1. FAP as revised includes the Legacy Assessment of Need (AON) and will be used to further identify opportunities and priorities for acquiring easements.

The Idaho Forest Action Plan allows investment and leveraging of state, federal, and other partner resources to achieve meaningful outcomes on a landscape scale by focusing work on identified critical issues within the highest priority areas.

Each S&PF program will consult FAP, the Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council (ILRCC) and associated sub-committees, and program partners on programmatic decisions that result in the most beneficial, on-the-ground impact to Idaho’s urban and rural forestlands. FAP will be the key prioritization tool used by S&PF programs to implement projects that address national priorities, target program objectives, and result in meaningful outcomes. Wherever possible, efforts will address the identified issues through an integrated approach utilizing the suite of S&PF programs.

To ensure their effective use, the Idaho S&PF programs will utilize the FAP when:

- ✦ Applying for competitive grant projects
- ✦ Determining priorities for use of Consolidated Payment Grant dollars
- ✦ Collaborating with ILRCC and other partners to implement strategies
- ✦ Working with adjacent state forestry agencies to develop projects that address mutual priorities
- ✦ Developing integrated program action plans

Idaho’s S&PF Programs will develop a process to engage ILRCC and other stakeholders to review and adjust FAP as forest conditions and management objectives change. This review will serve as an

opportunity for the stakeholders to continue 1) incorporating new and relevant data, and filling data gaps within the Resource Assessment, 2) incorporating additional stakeholder input, 3) identifying and improving statewide strategies, and 4) developing annual implementation and action plans. ILRCC and other stakeholders and partners can also serve as conduits for the S&PF programs' assistance with the competitive grant process.

Idaho's FAP emphasizes collaborative work and incorporates input of partners and organizations at the state level and locally across the state. While it is a central objective of FAP development that these strategies be constructively used by agencies, organizations, individual landowners, and land management entities, it is recognized that the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is the only entity obligated to use these tools.

## **Use of the Idaho Forest Action Plan by Stakeholders and Collaborative Groups**

The Idaho Forest Action Plan is a tool for leveraging forest health improvement and other projects on national forest lands and other federal ownerships. FAP helps identify and prioritize projects for work on Idaho's forestlands. The USDA Forest Service is a principal partner in the development and implementation of FAP and contributes by working with the various partners to develop strong and feasible ten-year strategies that accomplish multiple goals across all ownerships. Projects on national forest lands that align with the goals and strategies of FAP should receive stronger support from partners and publics during both National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning and implementation. Broader support for Forest Service projects will result in increased on-the-ground activities and promote a landscape scale or "all lands" approach to management of forest resources.

Idaho's S&PF programs will maintain contact with stakeholders and work collaboratively to identify projects and generate ideas on marketing and dissemination of FAP. Together, they will identify additional organizations that can work collaboratively to implement cross-boundary projects and most effectively enhance forest benefits and mitigate forest threats across the landscape.

The Idaho Forest Action Plan can and should to serve as a springboard toward a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to forest management that addresses critical forest issues. Potential strategies to accomplish this include:

- ✦ Development of a FAP Implementation Working Group to oversee and guide implementation of the FAP, to update and refine strategies over time, and to facilitate development of and communication with local coordinating groups within each PLA. Determining how this group will be structured and how best to integrate S&PF Advisory Groups into this framework will be important elements of this strategy. The subsequent creation of the Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council (ILRCC) achieves this goal.
- ✦ Development of a local framework for collaboration, planning, and implementation of projects based on the FAP within each PLA. These local groups would identify partners, potential funding sources, and other resources necessary to develop and implement projects.

### **Annual Action Plan and Annual Review of the FAP**

Once developed, the FAP Implementation Working Group will lead development of an Annual Action Plan. This plan will include priority strategies and actions, stakeholder involvement, resources needed, S&PF programs used, budgets, timelines and other details for completion.

The responsibilities of the Idaho Forest Action Plan Implementation Working Group may include:

- An annual report of accomplishments
- An annual review/update of Strategy
- A five-year revision of FAP

- Identifying of the highest priority strategies and timelines for implementation
- Identifying the role of partners & collaborative groups
- Developing the annual statewide action plan
- Identifying resources to invest (ways to fund priority strategies/actions—Include partner/stakeholder involvement/leverage)
- How best to address State and Private Forestry National Priorities, Program objectives and performance measures
- Monitoring and adjusting the Strategy (review with stakeholders—statewide and for priority areas); incorporating new information and filling gaps.
- As mentioned in Chapter 6, as part of FAP revision, convene a group of Stakeholders to look at causal factors and stressors to Idaho Forests and identify long-term strategies to address these. These broader factors include changes in climate, demographics, economics, and social values. The group would look at strategies to be “out in front” on these factors and recommend strategies that stakeholders can incorporate jointly or separately to address these over time.

### ***Update: March 2012***

#### **Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council (ILRCC)**

In late 2011, the three program-specific groups advisory to the Idaho Department of Lands<sup>7</sup> were dissolved, and the ILRCC created as a single State and Private Forestry (S&PF) advisory group, integrating all S&PF programs and focusing on addressing the critical issues identified in the Idaho Forest Action Plan. The ILRCC will serve as the FAP Implementation Working Group as described above. This change was per the recommendation of an Oversight Group comprised of 2-3 members of each of the three advisory groups and IDL staff, and implements a key strategy in this document.

Prior to making this change, IDL consulted with and received approval from USDA Forest Service S&PF leadership in Regions 1 and 4 and the Washington Office. ILRCC will meet legal requirements outlined in the Cooperative Forestry Act, the most current Farm Bill, and State and Private Forestry Program requirements. This structure will help Idaho achieve the principles of S&PF Redesign, addressing Idaho’s most critical forestry related issues through an integrated suite of S&PF programs at a scale where significant, positive changes are realized. A white paper describing the genesis of the IRLCC and its function is located in Appendix F on page 126.

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<sup>7</sup> Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council, Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee, and Idaho National Fire Plan Working Group

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## Chapter 4 – Goals and Strategies for Idaho

The Core Strategy Team analyzed each issue identified in the FAP Resource Assessment and developed overall goals and strategies that would effectively reduce threats and/or protect, conserve and enhance the benefits of Idaho’s forests. Below is a list of these goals and beneath each, strategies to help achieve them. Strategies are categorized by type—Treatments, Partnerships, etc., as a way to more easily understand and characterize their purpose. Pulling from this list, Chapter 5 describes the most important goals and strategies identified for each Priority Landscape Area in additional detail as they relate specifically to those areas and the underlying issues. The table on page 30 indicates the issues each goal and strategy addresses.

### Goals and Strategies

#### ***Goal 1: Idaho's Forests are diverse and resilient to climatic changes and other natural and unique stresses***

**Inventory & Analysis** – Assess and Monitor conditions of forest systems on a landscape scale for sustainability and resilience

**Treatments** – Design and implement stand treatments on a landscape scale to increase and maintain vegetation diversity and resiliency over time (urban and rural)

**Managed Fire** – Use prescribed fire and managed wildfire where appropriate to maintain the form and function of fire-adapted forest ecosystems

**Partnerships** – Develop and engage collaborative groups and partnerships for landscape scale forest health improvement, restoration and stewardship

**Education** – Provide education leading to understanding and support of forest health goals and strategies

#### ***Goal 2: The ecosystem benefits that Idaho forests provide are identified, maintained and enhanced***

**Inventory & Analysis** – Conduct inventory, assessment and monitoring to identify and establish base lines for and measure progress toward forest ecosystem services

**Planning** – Identify actions that maximize ecosystem services from forests

**Treatments** – Actively manage forests for goods and ecosystem services

**Education** – Provide education leading to understanding and support of ecosystem services

**Access** – Maintain and enhance public access and recreation opportunities

**Goal 3: *Forestlands with the highest benefits are identified, protected and enhanced***

**Inventory & Analysis** – Identify the highest priority forest areas for habitat, forest productivity and management, biodiversity, ecosystem benefits, access, and other benefits

**Forest Conservation Incentives** – Use conservation actions to effectively protect and enhance high priority forestlands

**Goal 4: *Forest ecosystems are resilient to human activities (development, recreation, forest practices, noxious weeds, etc)***

**Inventory and Analysis** – Develop systems for early detection, rapid response and enforcement capacity for early and effective action to minimize adverse impacts to forest ecosystems

**Treatments** – Implement urban and rural forest practices to mitigate adverse impacts to forest systems and monitor/adapt

**Education** – Provide education for target audiences leading to understanding and support of forest ecosystem goals (developers, OHV operators, planners, landowners, loggers, realtors, recreationists, others)

**Regulation/Policy** – Develop land use best management practices (BMPs), which may include rules, ordinances, and/or laws to protect and enhance forests and their ecosystem services and products

**Goal 5: *Forest-based wood products markets are economically vibrant and sustainable***

**Inventory and Analysis** – Conduct inventory and assessment to support energy and market development in local communities

**Treatments** – Use a balanced and sustainable approach in forest management to support both market demand and healthy forests

**Marketing** – Develop diverse markets, labor and product lines (Idaho brand) to ensure competitiveness and resiliency to global markets

**Goal 6: *Idaho has an integrated framework for implementing the Idaho Forest Action Plan, which guides project development and legislative/policy actions. The framework will promote cohesive management of Idaho's urban and rural forests.***

**Inventory & Analysis** – Improve information, identify and fill data gaps, and explore/develop new tools and strategies for assessing conditions and implementing projects

**Partnerships** – Use a state working group to steer and guide implementation of the overall Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP). Use local groups and partnerships to develop and implement strategies for individual Priority Areas. The statewide team and local groups will work together to develop and implement annual plans and to update the FAP.

The table below indicates how the goals and strategies from the previous two pages—and their descriptions—correlate to the threats and benefits issues. For example, implementing actions based on the Managed Fire strategy listed under goal 1 will help address forest health, wildfire, wildlife/biodiversity and water quality & quantity issues

Goals and Strategies	ISSUES ADDRESSED							
	Threats			Benefits				Connecting People to Forests
	Forest Health	Wildfire	Development/ Recreation Pressure	Wildlife/ Biodiversity	Water Quality & Quantity	Air Quality	Sustainable Wood Products Markets	
<b>Goal 1: Idaho's Forests are diverse and resilient to climatic changes and other natural and unique</b>								
Inventory & Analysis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Treatments	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Managed Fire	✓	✓		✓	✓			
Partnerships	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Education	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Goal 2: The ecosystem benefits that Idaho forests provide are identified, maintained and enhanced</b>								
Inventory & Analysis	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Planning	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Treatments	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Education	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Access			✓	✓				✓
<b>Goal 3: Forestlands with the highest benefits are identified, protected and enhanced</b>								
Inventory & Analysis	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Forest Conservation Incentives			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Goal 4: Forest ecosystems are resilient to human activities</b>								
Inventory & Analysis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Treatments	✓	✓	✓					
Education	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Regulation/Policy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>Goal 5: Forest-based wood products markets are economically vibrant and sustainable</b>								
Treatments	✓	✓		✓			✓	
Inventory & Analysis	✓	✓					✓	
Marketing	✓						✓	✓
<b>Goal 6: Idaho has an integrated framework for implementing the Idaho Forest Action Plan</b>								
Inventory & Analysis		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Partnerships	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## COHESIVE STRATEGY

In 2009, Congress passed the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Act (FLAME Act), which directs the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) to develop a comprehensive national cohesive wildland fire management strategy to address wildland fire management across all lands in the United States.

The National Strategy recognizes and accepts fire as a natural process necessary for the maintenance of many ecosystems, and strives to reduce conflicts between fire-prone landscapes and people. By simultaneously considering the role of fire in the landscape, the ability of humans to plan for and adapt to living with fire, and the need to be prepared to respond to fire when it occurs, the Cohesive Strategy takes a holistic approach to the future of wildland fire management.

The Wildland Fire Leadership Council adopted the following vision for the next century<sup>8</sup>:

***To safely and effectively extinguish fire, when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and as a Nation, live with wildland fire.***

The three national goals identified as necessary to achieving the vision are:

**Restore and maintain landscapes:** Landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire related disturbances in accordance with management objectives.

**Fire-adapted communities:** Human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property.

**Wildfire response:** All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.

The challenges for fire management are formidable and growing more complex. To combat escalating risks posed by wildfire, thorough understanding of resource needs and opportunities by all is required. Additionally, the efficient and effective allocation and use of finite resources is essential. Continued collaboration among stakeholders remains a key to success.

Each of three major regions of the country—the Northeast, Southeast, and West—has identified a portfolio of strategies and activities that address social and environmental values, risks, and investments, and will document progress and accomplishments. This information will illustrate the total multi-jurisdictional effort in meeting stated goals.

In the west, the intergovernmental Wildland Fire Leadership Council directed this effort in collaboration with Federal, state, local and tribal governments and non-governmental partners and public stakeholders.

The Western Region's diverse landscapes include the Great Plains, Rocky Mountains, desert southwest, Pacific coast and islands, and Alaska's arctic tundra. Steep terrain, access limitations, changing climate conditions, invasive species, and extended drought challenge wildland fire managers in the west. Stressors such as drought increase forest susceptibility to infestations of insects, pathogens, and disease. In some areas of the West, these stressors have left millions of acres of dead, standing trees. Add to this a century of widespread fire exclusion and a decrease in active forest management, resulting in a buildup of surface fuels and forests overstocked with trees and ladder fuels. From 2008 through

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<sup>8</sup> The guiding principles and core values for wildland fire management embodied within the Cohesive Strategy are listed in Appendix H on page 133.

2012, the West averaged more than 23,000 reported wildfires each year, burning an average of 4,666,030 acres per year.

Conversely, some non-forested areas have experienced an increase in fire frequency, contributing to increases in invasive species, further altering fire regimes and increasing other ecosystem impacts. The forest and rangeland health problems in the West are widespread and increasing, affecting wildlife habitat, water quality and quantity and long-term soil productivity, while providing conditions for uncharacteristically large, severe, and costly wildfires, with increasing threats to human life and property. Large areas of western grasslands and fire-adapted forests are in need of restoration.

Large blocks of publicly owned land comprise more than half the West's total land area. Fires that start on public lands and move onto private land, threatening communities, are a major problem, compounded by finite fire protection resources. Vast expanses of the West have less than one fire station per 100 square miles, extending response times in rural areas often characterized by federal ownership, steep slopes, beetle-killed trees, and poor road access.

In addition to community protection, western stakeholders identified as an important regional value protecting the "middle ground" from extreme wildfire events—those areas between communities and the more distant wildlands. The West needs large landscape-scale changes in vegetative structure and fuel loadings to significantly alter wildfire behavior, reduce wildfire losses, ensure firefighter and public safety, and improve landscape resiliency. Active management of public and private lands, including harvesting and thinning operations, are critical to reduce hazardous fuels in and around communities and in the middle ground.

The Cohesive Strategy is incorporated into this document as an important addition toward addressing Idaho Forest Action Plan goals. Focusing on the three main tenets—resilient landscapes, resilient communities and strengthened response—addresses not only wildland fire management, but also improves the health, resilience and overall benefits of Idaho Forests. All actions that we take as land managers will directly affect these directives. Cohesive strategy is truly an "all hands/all lands" approach to natural resource management.

# Chapter 5 – Priority Landscape Areas and Forest

## Introduction

This chapter discusses the specific goals and strategies listed on in Chapter 4 (pages 28-29) that best address the key issues in each Priority Landscape Area (PLA). ***Referring back to this list will help understand the strategies identified in each PLA.***

## Incorporation of comments

The original draft of this document was e-mailed to over 150 individuals and groups for comments, along with a request to forward to any others who may wish to review it. Comment forms and instructions on how to provide comments were included, and the comment period was open for the first two full weeks in May 2010. The draft and comment forms with instructions were also posted on the Idaho Department of Lands website. Approximately 50 sets of comments were received, and the Core Strategy Team provided guidance on whether and how best to incorporate these into this final draft.

In addition to general comments on the overall document, reviewers were asked to provide specific suggestions regarding strategies within the Priority Landscape Areas with which they were most familiar. This included additional information about listed strategies, additional strategies not already included, and rating the relative priority of the strategies within a PLA<sup>9</sup>. Of those submitting comments, less than half rated the strategies. As might be expected, these tended to reflect the professional interest of the reviewers. Several noted that they felt all were important and had difficulty rating any as less than high.

For this reason, strategies are not listed in any order of priority. However, within each PLA, strategies given a high or medium rating by more than ¾ of those rating each PLA are identified with a pair of asterisks.

The Core Strategy Team also considered all suggested new strategies from reviewers. Some of these were incorporated into existing strategies, and others added as new ones. New strategies not included in the original draft are marked with an “N.” *Note that those so marked were not rated by reviewers.* Some suggested new strategies were not added—the Core Strategy Team felt they were either too specific (an action rather than a strategy), not a relevant *forest resource* strategy, or were already incorporated by reference in other plans, such as the Idaho Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy.

## Goals and Strategies identified for each PLA

Each of the PLA sections that follow begins with a map of the area it covers and identifies state, federal and private ownership. Following this is a series of PLA maps—each showing the top three priority areas for each of the seven issues discussed in chapter 2 and a final composite priority map for all issues. This provides a visual representation of where each of these issues are most critical within the PLA. Supplementing these maps is a brief list of the key issues and sub issues within the PLA and their location.

Next are the top strategies identified for that PLA through a series of meetings held around the state (covering each PLA), from interviews with stakeholders, comments submitted during a comment period, and from existing plans. Goals and Strategies may be grouped when they address related issues or sub-issues within a Priority Landscape Area. For example, a strategy that lists both “Goal 1 and 5: Partnerships and Treatments” means those strategies (partnerships and treatments) under each of the

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<sup>9</sup> Reviewers were also asked to distribute high, medium and low rankings equally among the strategies within each PLA.

two goals address related issues or sub-issues within the PLA. A description of how they apply within the PLA provides additional context. Also identified for each strategy are a list of the State & Private Forestry (S&PF) programs that may be involved, and a list of the potential stakeholders and resources to consider when developing projects. Note that all acronyms used within each PLA section are identified after the strategies. Also provided is a list of at least some of the existing plans and resource groups within each PLA to consider when developing projects.

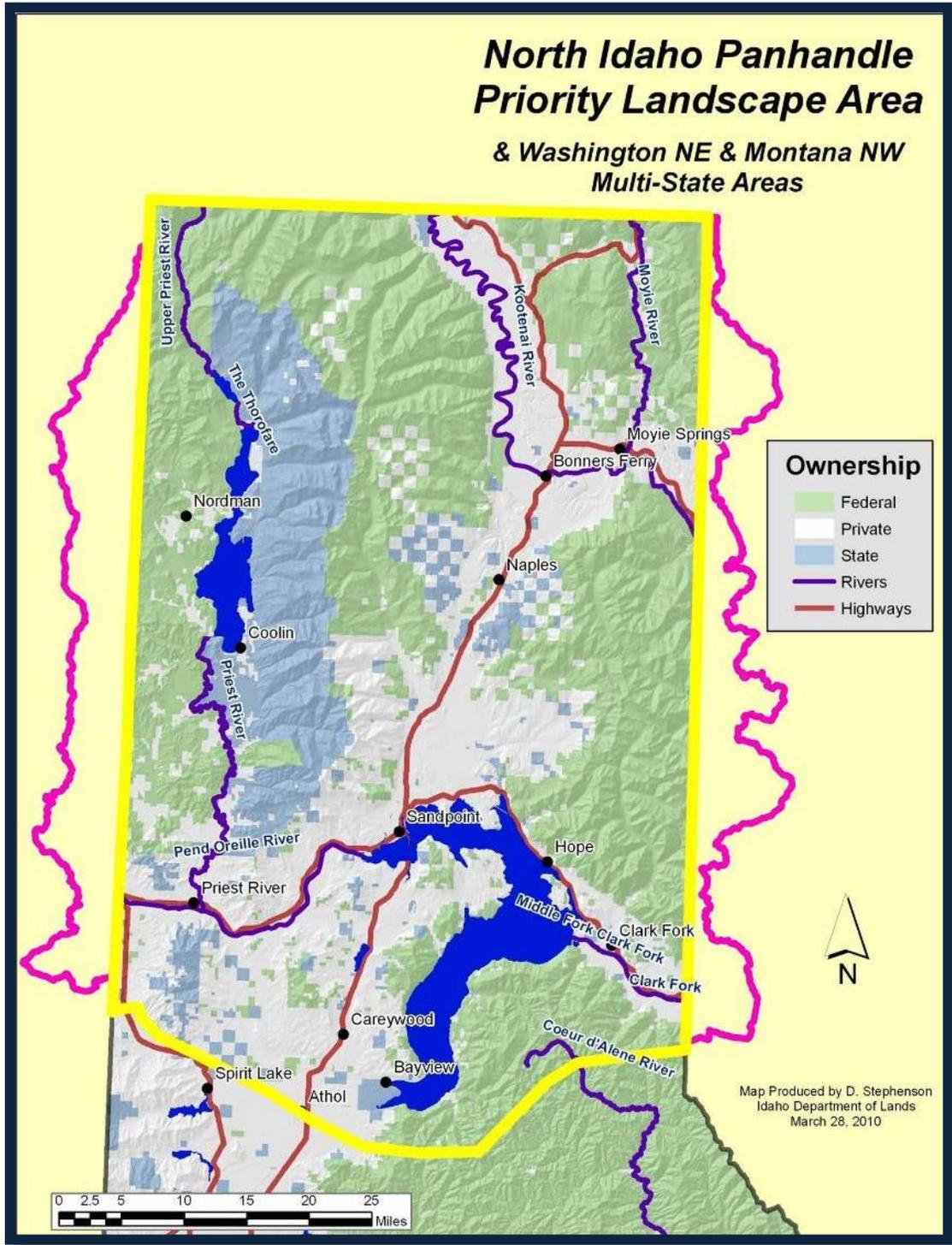
Each Priority Landscape Area section can be used on its own using the Goals and Strategies listed in Chapter 4 as a key.

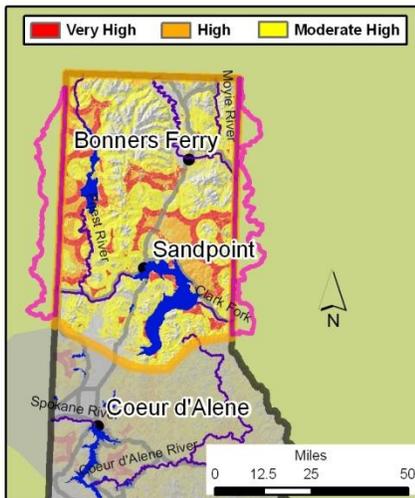
The following table summarizes which goals and strategies are found within each PLA. Those which are checked best address the underlying high priority issues and other characteristics of the PLA.

		Priority Landscape Areas													
Goals	Strategies	North Idaho Panhandle	Coeur d'Alene Basin	Palouse / Hell's Gate	St. Joe-Clearwater	Craig-Camas	West Central	Boise River	Wood River	Snake River Complex	Eastern Idaho Complex	Teton West Slope	Lemhi-Pahsimeroi	Statewide	
1	Inventory & Analysis						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
	Treatments	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Managed Fire											✓	✓	✓	
	Partnerships	✓	✓		✓									✓	
	Education	✓	✓					✓		✓				✓	
2	Inventory & Analysis	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Planning	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓			✓			
	Treatments	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Education	✓	✓					✓			✓			✓	
	Access	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
3	Inventory & Analysis						✓		✓	✓					
	Forest Conservation Incentives	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
4	Inventory & Analysis				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
	Treatments	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Education	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	
	Regulation/Policy		✓											✓	
5	Inventory & Analysis	✓	✓		✓										
	Treatments	✓	✓					✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Marketing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
6	Inventory & Analysis													✓	
	Partnerships													✓	

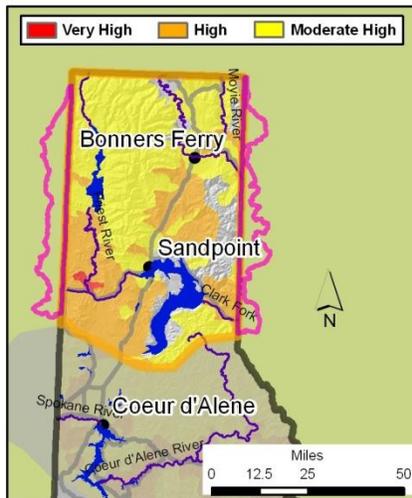
## North Idaho Panhandle Priority Landscape Areas including NW Montana and NE Washington

This PLA includes Lightning Creek, Pack River, and the Clark Fork River. The Primary population centers include Bonners Ferry, Priest River, and Sandpoint. Major mountain ranges include the Idaho Selkirk, Purcell and Cabinet Mountains.

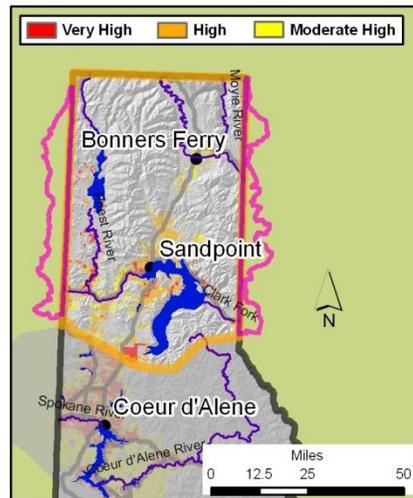




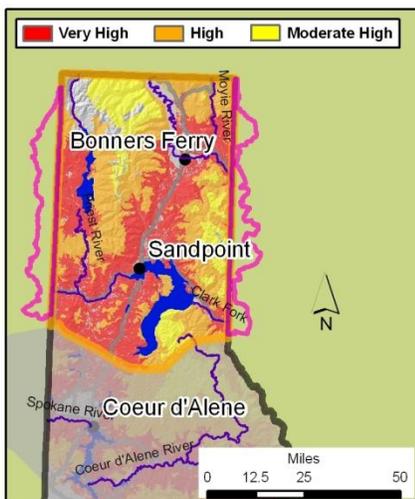
**Forest Health**



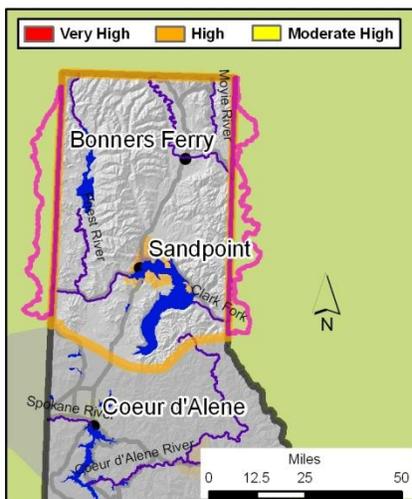
**Uncharacteristic Wildfire**



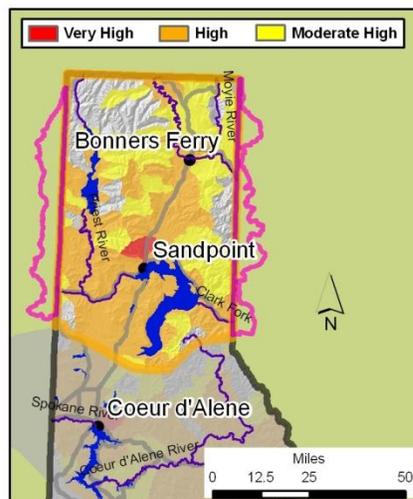
**Development/Recreation Pressure**



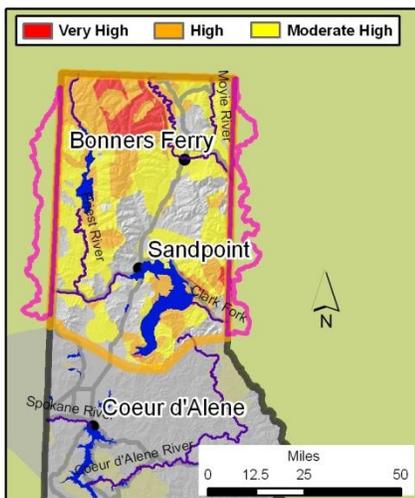
**Forest-base Wood Products Markets**



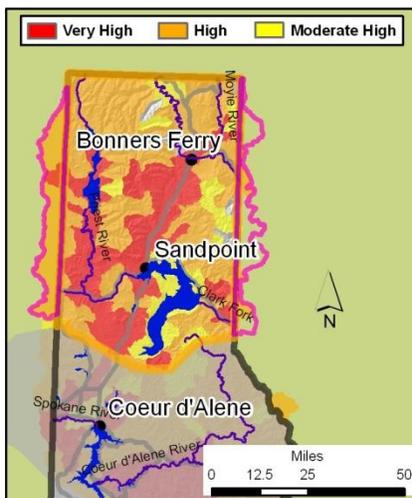
**Air Quality**



**Water Quality/Quantity**



**Wildlife/Biodiversity**



**FINAL MAP -- ALL ISSUES**

**North Idaho Panhandle  
Priority Landscape Area  
& NW Montana and  
NE Washington**

## Summary of Threats and Benefits

Several forest resource issues were identified by the Resource Assessment process. The following is a summary of the key threats and benefits in the North Idaho Panhandle PLA.

### **Potential Threats to Forest Resources:**

- Pockets of high and moderate-high **forest health threats**
  - Mountain pine beetle threat especially north of Lake Pend Oreille, southwest of Bonners Ferry, and in the Priest Lake watershed.
  - White pine blister rust and root disease a high threat throughout
  - Balsam woolly adelgid is a threat around Priest Lake, Lake Pend Oreille, and Bonners Ferry
  - Potential issues due to climate change throughout

### **Potential Benefits to Forest Resources**

- Substantial areas of high and very-high relative potential benefit for **sustainable forest-based markets**, especially west of Priest Lake and along major transportation corridors.
- High potential benefit from **air quality** from forests and canopy in and around Sandpoint
- Very high potential benefit to **water quality and quantity** in Sandpoint municipal watershed. The Bonners Ferry municipal watershed is also critical.
- Pockets of high and very-high potential **benefit to biodiversity and wildlife**, especially for big game, endangered species, and overall ecosystem richness. Many T&E species are found within this PLA.

## Priority Strategies for the North Idaho Panhandle PLA & adjacent Multi-State Areas

Based on the results of the Resource Assessment and stakeholder input, the following is a list of the key strategies to protect and improve forest resources in the North Idaho Panhandle PLA.

### **North Idaho Panhandle & Multi-State Areas Key Strategies include:**

**\*\* Goal 1 and 5: Partnerships, Inventory & Analysis and Treatments** – Assess, design and implement stand treatments on a landscape scale and provide a continued supply of wood material for existing and new markets. Treatments should address root disease, mountain pine beetle, and balsam woolly adelgid as key forest health issues.

Use existing partnerships and collaborative groups including Priest Community Forest Connection, Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative, North Idaho Renewable Energy Coalition, and the Clark Fork Management Committee to accomplish strategy. Each of these groups provides stewardship in a subarea of the North Idaho Panhandle Priority Area. It is important that these groups remain viable and supported.

S&PF Programs: Urban Forestry, Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, Bonner County, Boundary County, BLM, Collaborative groups, IDL, IFA, IFSAC, industrial forest owners, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, local governments, MDNRC, NRCS, PLRC&D, private landowners, WDNR, USFS, and others

**\*\* Goal 1: Treatments** – The Bonner and Boundary County CWWGs are actively implementing their CWPPS. Of special consideration are hazardous fuel reduction and preparation work for WUI areas in the Sandpoint area and municipal watersheds in Bonners Ferry and Sandpoint. Key WUI areas include: Schweitzer, Hoodoo Valley, Moyie Springs, Black Mountain, Sagle, and Blacktail per CWPPS. Support local fire department training and capacity.

S&PF Programs: State Fire Assistance, Volunteer Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, Bonner and Boundary County CWWGs, ISFPWG, PLRC&D, private landowners

## North Idaho Panhandle & Multi-State Areas Key Strategies include:

**Goal 1: Education** – Root disease is a critical and growing problem in the Idaho Panhandle. Educational and demonstration efforts targeted to private landowners should be developed and implemented.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: Boundary and Bonner Counties, BLM, Coeur d’Alene Tribe, IDL, IDPR, IFPC, IFOA, IFA, IFSAC, industrial forest owners, MDNRC, native plant societies, private landowners, UI Extension, USFS, WDNR, and others

**Goal 3: Forest Conservation Incentives** – A number of areas in this PLA have been identified as high value for conservation. Of highest priority are activities that would conserve wildlife linkages across the valley at McArthur Lake and Boundary Creek, and critical habitat areas for Endangered Species Act recovery and habitat conservation for caribou, grizzly bear, burbot, sturgeon, etc., including the Kootenai River Valley and the surrounding canyons of Bane Creek and Fleming Creek (in Boundary County), and the Cabinet-Yaak grizzly recover zones in both Boundary and Bonner Counties.

S&PF Programs: Forest Legacy

Stakeholders: Bonner and Boundary Counties, BLM, Clark Fork-Pend Oreille Conservancy, IDFG, IDL, IFSAC, Inland Northwest Land Trust, Kootenai and Kalispel Tribes of Idaho, NRCS, Panhandle Backcountry Horsemen, PLRC&D, private landowners, Trust for Public Lands, TNC, USFS, Vital Ground Foundation, and others

**Goal 2: Inventory & Analysis** – Assess ecosystem benefits of community forests to understand and incorporate into existing plans the economic and environmental value of canopy. Of special consideration is air quality in the Sandpoint area and municipal watersheds in Bonners Ferry, Hope/East Hope, and Sandpoint.

S&PF Programs: Urban Forestry, Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: Bonner County, Boundary County, BLM, Cities (Sandpoint & Bonners Ferry), ICFAC, IDFG, IDL, IFSAC, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, KVRI, NRCS, PLRC&D, private landowners, UI, USFS, and others

**\*\* Goal 5: Marketing** – Support the strategies of the North Idaho Renewable Energy Committee and State biomass and forest products groups to increase wood product markets, infrastructure, and ability of landowners to remove material for these markets.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, Bonner County, Bonner County Economic Development Corporation, Boundary County, BLM, IDL, IFOA, IFA, IFSAC, Kootenai Tribe, KVRI, NRCS, PLRC&D, Priest River Forestry Connection, private landowners, USFS, and others

**N Goal 2: Treatments** – Support fisheries restoration of species and habitats in Trestle Creek, Pack River, Priest River, Lake Pend Oreille, Pend Oreille River, East River, Priest Lake, and other areas with designated bull trout, white sturgeon, and/or burbot habitat.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, Bonner and Boundary Counties, BLM, IDFG, IDPR, IFSAC, Kootenai Tribe, PLRC&D, Private Landowners and USFS

**N Goal 2 and 4: Planning, Education and Access** – Develop strategies to limit development and protect working forests. There are areas where loss of canopy and working forests to development is a significant threat. Work with county commissioners and local planners to develop strategies for controlling growth to protect urban and rural forests and ecosystem services.

Utilize partnerships to develop and implement an education plan to resolve conflicts between motorized recreation and wildlife and biodiversity, spread of noxious weeds, and forest health benefits. Develop, maintain and improve public access and infrastructure for OHV use.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship, Forest Health, Urban Forestry, Forest Legacy

Stakeholders: Bonner and Boundary County, cities, private landowners, land trusts, IDFG, USFS, BLM, IFPC, recreation user groups, Panhandle Lakes RC&D, conservation organizations, UI Extension

## North Idaho Panhandle & Multi-State Areas Key Strategies include:

**N Goals 1, 2 & 4: Treatments** – Manage urban tree canopy in communities to increase community forest health. Utilize resilient species adapted for the site conditions and predicted changes in climate and which use resource wisely. Focus on increasing canopy over impervious surfaces and near buildings for energy conservation.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Urban and Community Forestry

Stakeholders: IDL, Cities, ICFAC, PLRC&D, USFS, Utilities

\*\* – Strategies where at least 75% of those rating strategies for this PLA rated them as High or Moderate Priority  
N – Identifies new strategies that were not included in the first draft of this document

### Acronyms Used:

ALC – Associated Logging Contractors	ISFPWG – Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group
BLM – Bureau of Land Management	KVRI – Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative
CWPPs – County Wildfire Protection Plans	MDNRC – Montana Dept of Natural Resources and Conservation
CWWGs – County Wildfire Working Groups	NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Service
ICFAC – Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council	PLRC&D – Panhandle Lakes Resource Conservation and Development Council
IDFG – Idaho Dept of Fish and Game	T&E – Federally listed threatened and endangered species
IDL – Idaho Dept. of Lands	TNC – The Nature Conservancy
IDPR – Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation	UI – University of Idaho
IFA – Intermountain Forest Association	USFS – US Forest Service,
IFOA – Idaho Forest Owners Association	WDNR – Washington Dept of Natural Resources
IFPC – Idaho Forest Products Commission	WUI – Wildland-Urban Interface
IFSAC – Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee	

## North Idaho Panhandle PLA Existing Plans and Resource Groups

### Existing Plans

Lake Pend Oreille Bull Trout Conservation Strategy • Native Salmonid Restoration Plan • Kootenai River White Sturgeon Recovery Plan • USFWS Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan • Weed Management Area (WMA) Management Plan • Kootenai Sub basin Plan (BPA) • Idaho Panhandle National Forest Plan • Kootenai National Forest Plan • Caribou Recovery Plan • Bull Trout Recovery Plan • Sandpoint Urban Forest Plan • Idaho Fish and Game and Delta Restoration Plan • The Clark Fork Management Plan • Canada lynx Conservation Strategy and Assessment • Caribou Populations Recovery Action Plan for the South Purcells and South Selkirks Mountains • Caribou Habitat Modeling for the South Selkirk Ecosystem

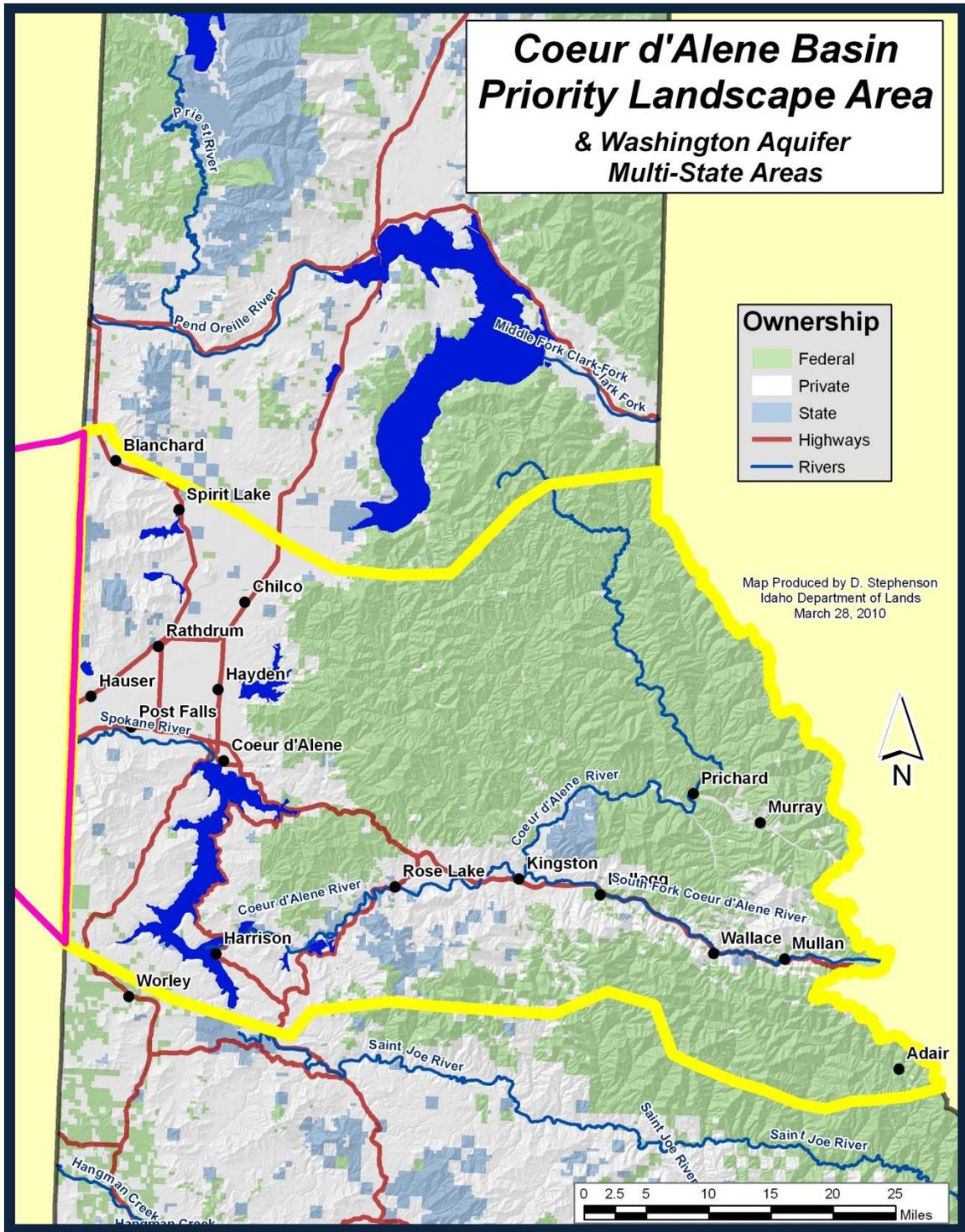
### Resource Groups

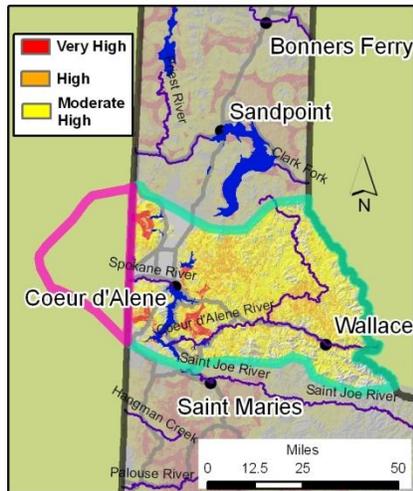
Panhandle Lakes Resource Conservation and Development Council • Clark Fork Management Committee • Grizzly Bear Subcommittee—Boundary • Smith WMA Management Committee • Selkirk/Cabinet – Yaak IGBC Subcommittee • Pend Oreille Basin Commission • Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative (KVRI) partners • Kootenai Tribe • North Idaho Renewable Energy Coalition (NIREC) • Tri-State Water Quality Council • Panhandle Area Council • Watershed Advisory Groups • Ponderay Water Watchers • Priest Community Forest Connection • Winter Knights • Scotchman Peaks Group • Salmon Recovery Funding Board • County CWPP Committees • Sandpoint Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society • Panhandle Backcountry Horsemen • Selkirk Conservation Alliance • Priest Lake Sportsmen • Boundary County Sportsmen • Soil and Water Conservation Districts

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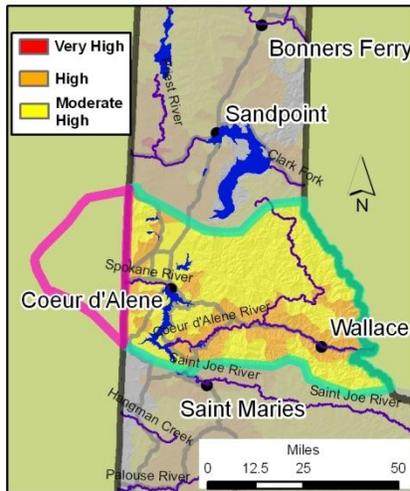
## Coeur d'Alene Basin Priority Landscape Areas including Washington Aquifer

The Coeur d'Alene Basin PLA extends from the southern shore of Lake Pend Oreille to the ridgeline of the Coeur d'Alene Mountains south of Interstate 90. It includes all of Lake Coeur d'Alene, the Silver Valley, and the Coeur d'Alene and Spokane Rivers in Idaho. The primary population centers include Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls, Hayden, Rathdrum and Kellogg. Forests in this PLA are heavily influenced by the urban population of Spokane, Washington.

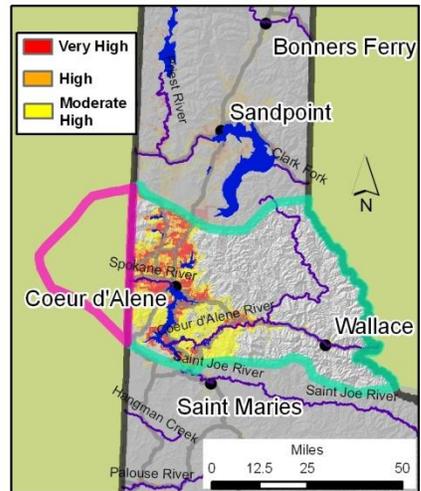




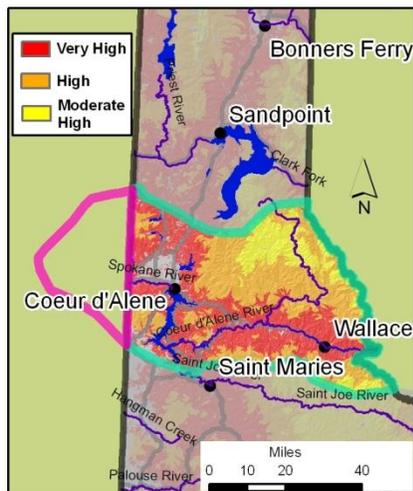
**Forest Health**



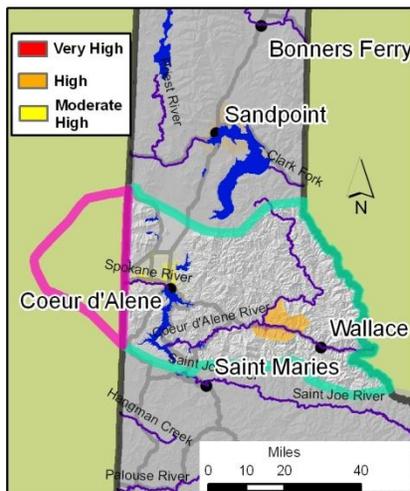
**Uncharacteristic Wildfire**



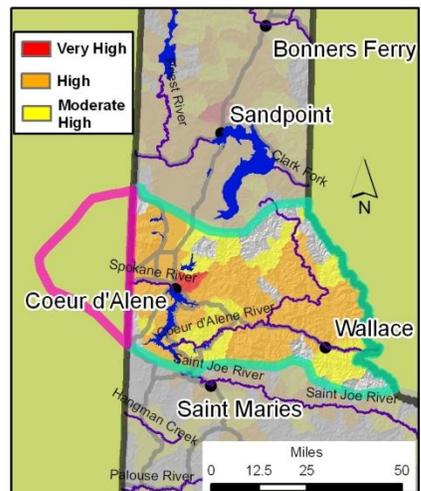
**Development/Recreation Pressure**



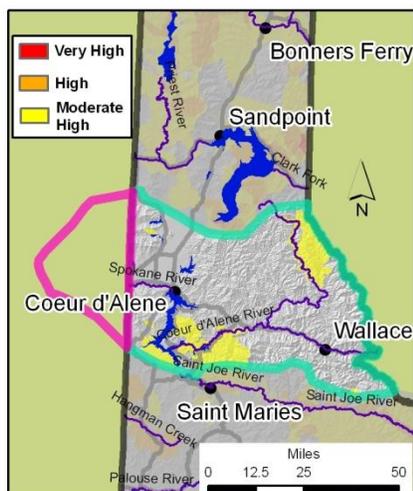
**Forest-base Wood Products Markets**



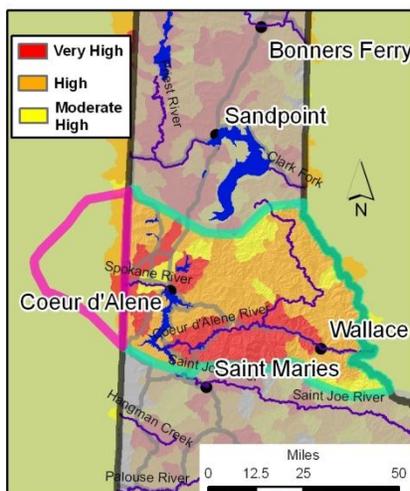
**Air Quality**



**Water Quality/Quantity**



**Wildlife/Biodiversity**



**FINAL MAP -- ALL ISSUES**

**Coeur d'Alene Basin  
Priority Landscape Area  
and Washington Aquifer**

## Summary of Threats and Benefits

Several forest resource issues were identified by the Resource Assessment process. The following is a summary of the key threats and benefits in the Coeur d'Alene Basin PLA.

### Potential Threats to Forest Resources:

- Substantial areas of high and very high risk from **forest health** threats
  - Mountain pine beetle, especially around Lake Coeur d'Alene and the southern Selkirk range
  - White pine blister rust and root disease is a very critical issues throughout
  - Balsam wooly adelgid north of I-90
  - Potential issues due to climate change throughout
- Substantial areas with moderate-high risk to **uncharacteristic wildfire** (extensive WUI). High risk throughout the Silver Valley, between Hayden and Coeur d'Alene lakes, and west of Highway 95.
- Substantial areas of high and moderate-high potential **loss of forests/canopy from development**, especially around Lake Coeur d'Alene, eastern Silver Valley, and the eastern portion of this Priority Area.

### Potential Benefits to Forest Resources:

- Substantial areas of high and very-high relative benefit for **sustainable forest-based markets**, especially in the Silver Valley, around Lake Coeur d'Alene, and north of the metro areas
- Moderate-high to high potential **benefit from air quality** from forests and canopy in the Silver Valley and the Rathdrum Prairie
- Substantial areas of high potential benefit to **water quality/quantity** from forests and canopy with very high potential benefit just north of Lake Coeur d'Alene
- Shared concerns with Washington.

## Priority Strategies for the Coeur d'Alene Basin PLA and Washington Aquifer Multi-State Area

Based on the results of the Resource Assessment and stakeholder input, the following is a list of the key strategies to protect and improve forest resources in the Coeur d'Alene Basin PLA and adjacent multi-state area.

### **Coeur d'Alene Basin & Washington Aquifer Key Strategies include:**

**\*\* Goal 1 and 5: Partnerships, Inventory & Analysis and Treatments** –Assess, design and implement stand treatments on a landscape scale and provide a continued supply of wood material for existing and new markets. Treatments should address protection of the Rathdrum Prairie-Spokane Valley Aquifer and I-90 Corridor municipal Watersheds.

Use existing partnerships and collaborative groups including Coeur d'Alene Forestry Coalition, Shoshone County Forest Health Collaborative, and Community Canopy to accomplish this strategy. Each of these groups provide stewardship in a subarea of the Coeur d'Alene Basin PLA.

Manage urban tree canopy in communities to increase urban forest health. Utilize resilient species adapted for the site conditions and predicted changes in climate. Focus on increasing canopy over impervious surfaces and near buildings for energy conservation and for treated wastewater applications.

Treatments should also address root disease, white pine blister rust, and mountain pine beetle – the most critical forest health issues in this PLA.

S&PF Programs: Urban Forestry, Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, and State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, CDA Forest Coalition, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Community Canopy, CAMP, ICFAC, IDEQ, IDL, IFSAC, industrial forest owners, Kootenai County, Municipal governments, NRCS, PLRC&D, private landowners, SCC, SVEDC, USFS, utilities, WDNR, and others

## Coeur d'Alene Basin & Washington Aquifer Key Strategies include:

**\*\* Goal 1: Partnerships** – Continue development of a new Shoshone County Forest Health Collaborative (SCC) focused on forest ecosystem health, wildfire protection, and the development of wood-based products markets. Shoshone County is interested in developing a sustainable combined heat and power biomass plant that utilizes feed stock provided through forest resource health treatments, improves air quality (reduced slash pile burning), and promotes economic development through development of green fiber based businesses. It is important that this group remains viable and supported.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, CDA Forest Coalition, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, IDL, IDPR, municipal governments, NRCS, PLRC&D, private landowners, SCC, SVEDC, USFS, and others

**\*\* Goal 1: Education and Treatments** – CWWGs continue to plan and implement CWPP priorities including hazardous fuel reduction and preparation work in WUI areas, especially in the areas around the greater Coeur d'Alene urban area, the communities along I-90, State Highways 53 and 41, Rathdrum Mountain, St. Maries, and State Highway 95 including Farragut State Park and Spirit Lake. Promote Fire Smart, Firewise, PLT, and the IFPC programs and support hazard fuel reduction projects to reduce the threat of wildfire. Support local fire departments.

S&PF Programs: State Fire Assistance, Volunteer Fire Assistance, Forest Health, Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, CDA Forestry Coalition, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Kootenai County, IDL, IDFG, IDPR, IFPC, IFSAC, ISFPWG, PAC, private landowners, PLT, Shoshone County, USFS, UI Extension, and others

**\*\* Goal 2 & 4: Planning and Regulation/Policy** – Utilize bioregional land use planning to protect working forests and ecosystem services from development, fragmentation, and degradation. Encourage development growth in areas of less impact to ecosystems. Key areas include the I-90 corridor, around Lake Coeur d'Alene, and the Highway 95 corridor.

S&PF Programs: Urban Forestry, Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance, Forest Legacy

Stakeholders: BLM, BSCI, CDA Forest Coalition, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Community Canopy, ICFAC, IDFG, IDL, IDPR, IFA, IFSAC, Kootenai County, land trusts, local governments, NRCS, PLRC&D, private landowners, Shoshone County, SCC, SVEDC, USFS, WDNR, and others

**Goal 1: Education** – Root disease is a critical and growing problem in the Idaho Panhandle. Educational and demonstration efforts targeted to private landowners should be developed and implemented to address this forest health issue.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: BLM, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, IDL, IDPR, IFOA, IFPC, IFA, IFSAC, Kootenai County, private landowners, industrial forest owners, Shoshone County, SCC, SVEDC, USFS, UI Extension, and others

**Goal 2: Treatments** – Support the SCC in designing and implementing large-scale treatments across ownerships. Support the SCC's proposal for Federal Landscape Restoration Act (FLRA) funds for large-scale treatments of the Shoshone County I90 Corridor WUI. Use canopy analysis information to maximize ecosystem benefits in developed and developing areas.

S&PF Programs: Urban Forestry, Forest Health, Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, Avista, BLM, CDA Forest Coalition, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Community Canopy, IDL, IFSAC, industrial landowners, Kootenai County, local governments, NRCS, PLRC&D, private landowners, SCC, SVEDC, USFS, WDNR, and others

**N Goal 5: Markets** – Create opportunities to build and sustain forest markets. Provide opportunities and enhance biomass market infrastructure.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Kootenai County, local governments, IDL, IDPR, IFOA, IFA, IFSAC, industrial landowners, PLRC&D, private Landowners, Shoshone County, USFS

## Coeur d'Alene Basin & Washington Aquifer Key Strategies include:

**N Goal 2 and 4: Planning, Education and Access** – Develop strategies to limit development and protect working forests. There are areas where loss of canopy and working forests to development is a significant threat. Work with county commissioners and local planners to develop strategies for managing or directing growth to protect urban and rural forests and ecosystem services.

Utilize partnerships to develop and implement an education plan to resolve conflicts between motorized recreation and wildlife and biodiversity, spread of noxious weeds, and forest health benefits. Develop, maintain and improve public access and infrastructure for OHV use.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship, Forest Health, Urban Forestry, Forest Legacy

Stakeholders: BLM, cities, conservation organizations, ICFAC, IDFG, IFPC, IFSAC, Kootenai and Shoshone Counties, land trusts, Panhandle Lakes RC&D, private landowners, recreation user groups, USFS, UI Extension, and others

\*\* – Strategies where at least 75% of those rating strategies for this PLA rated them as High or Moderate Priority  
N – Identifies new strategies that were not included in the first draft of this document

### Acronyms Used:

ALC – Associated Logging Contractors	IFOA – Idaho Forest Owners Association
BLM – Bureau of Land Management	IFPC – Idaho Forest Products Commission
BSCI – Building Sustainable Communities Initiative	IFSAC – Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee
CAMP – Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan	NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Service
CDA – Coeur d'Alene	PAC – Panhandle Area Council
CWPPs – County Wildfire Protection Plans	PLRC&D – Panhandle Lakes Resource Conservation and Development Council
CWWGs – County Wildfire Working Groups	PLT – Project Learning Tree
ICFAC – Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council	SCC – Shoshone County Forest Health Collaborative
IDEQ – Idaho Dept of Environmental Quality	SVEDC – Silver Valley Economic Development Corp.
IDFG – Idaho Dept of Fish and Game	TNC – The Nature Conservancy
IDL – Idaho Dept. of Lands	UI – University of Idaho
IDPR – Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation	USFS – US Forest Service
ISFPWG – Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group	WDNR – Washington Dept of Natural Resources
IFA – Intermountain Forest Association	WUI – Wildland-Urban Interface

## Coeur d'Alene Basin PLA Existing Plans and Resource Groups

### Existing Plans

Urban Forestry Plans (Coeur d'Alene, Hayden Lake, Post Falls and Silver Valley cities) • Heyburn State Park • North Fork of Coeur d'Alene River Recreational Plan • County Wildfire Protection Plans • Various Coeur d'Alene Tribal Management Plans • County Comprehensive Plans (Shoshone and Kootenai) • Idaho Panhandle National Forest Plan • Community Canopy • Superfund • IDWR • IDEQ • Rathdrum Prairie Spokane Valley Aquifer Assessment • Rathdrum Prairie Spokane Valley Aquifer Canopy Analysis

### Resource Groups

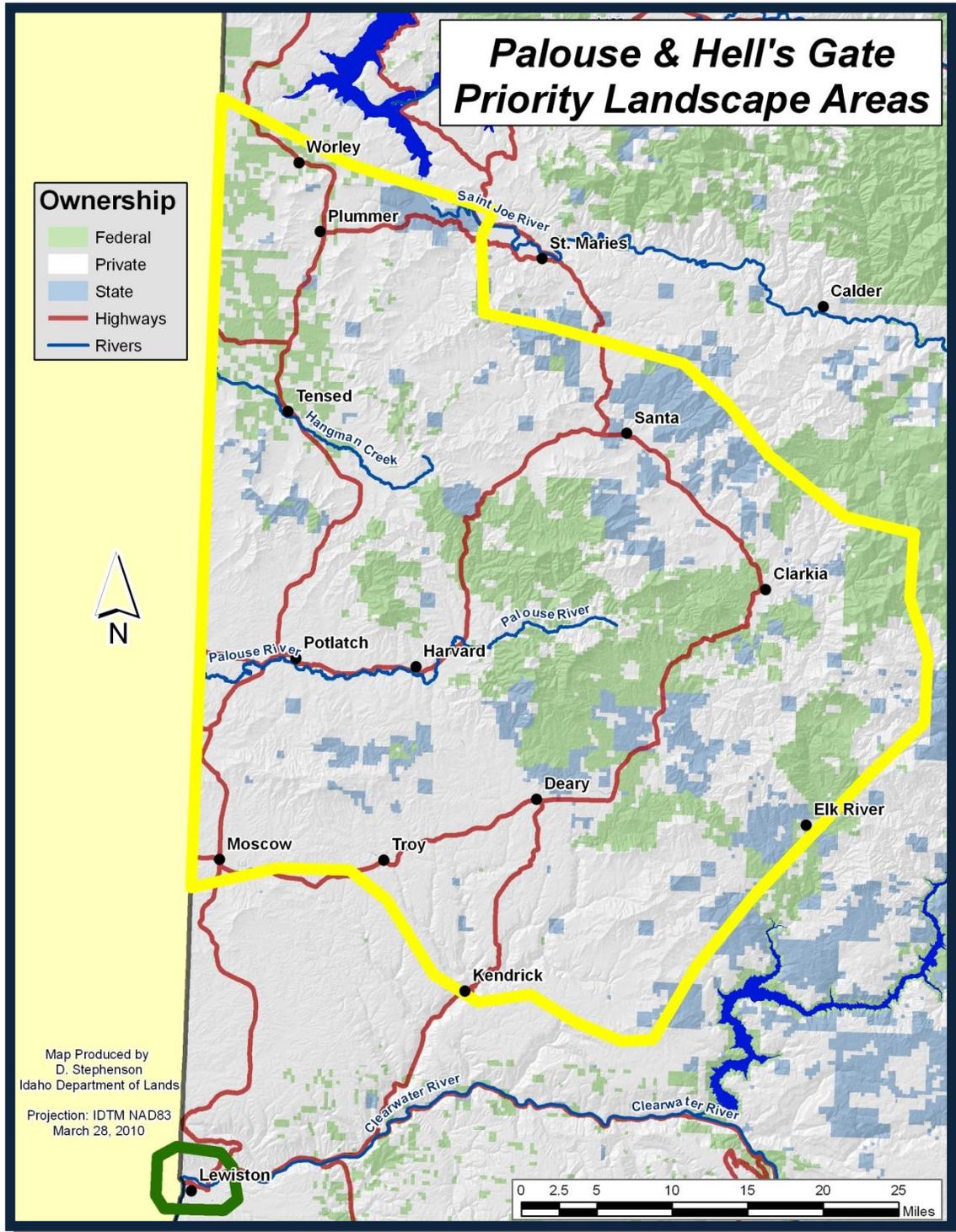
Panhandle Lakes Resource Conservation and Development Council • Coeur d'Alene Chamber Natural Resources Committee • Coeur d'Alene Forestry Coalition • Shoshone County Forest Health Collaborative • Friends of Rathdrum Mountain • NIREC • Panhandle Area Council • Watershed Advisory Groups • Spokane Valley Rathdrum Mountain Aquifer Atlas Group • County CWWGs • Coeur d'Alene Sports Coalition • Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization • Panhandle Backcountry Horsemen • CWPPs • Watershed Advisory Groups • Soil and Water Conservation Districts

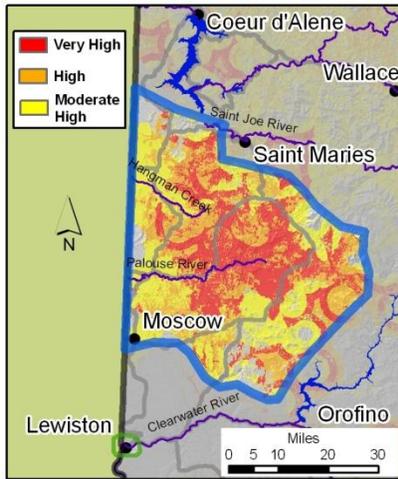
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## Palouse and Hells Gate Priority Landscape Areas

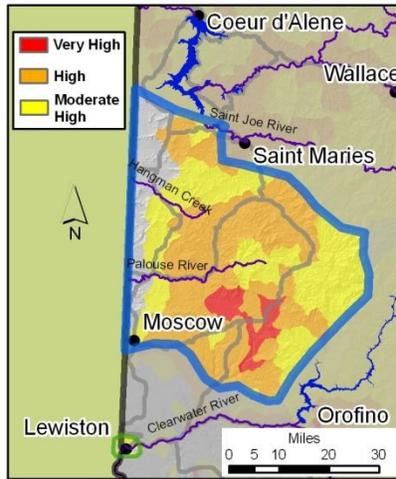
The Palouse PLA extends from the southern shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene in the north to the city of Moscow to the south and from the Washington state line east to Elk River. It includes the Palouse River, Hangman Creek, and the western part of the St. Joe River. Moscow is the largest city in this area.

The Hell's Gate PLA includes the urbanized area within and around Lewiston.

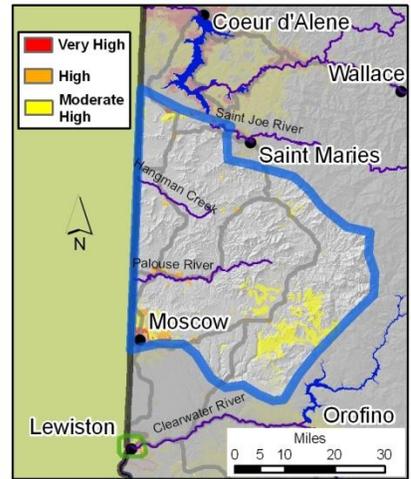




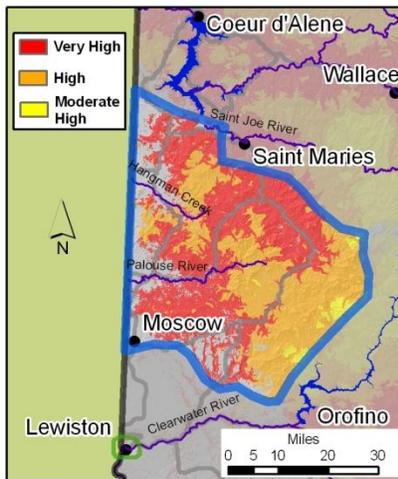
**Forest Health**



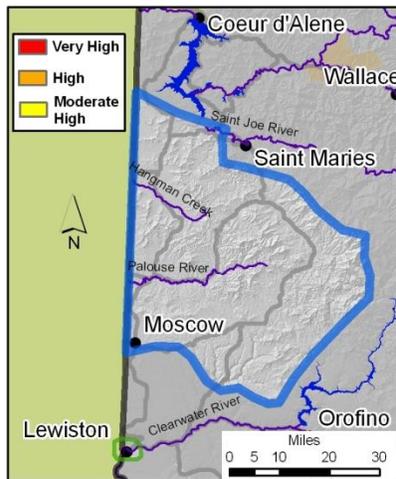
**Uncharacteristic Wildfire**



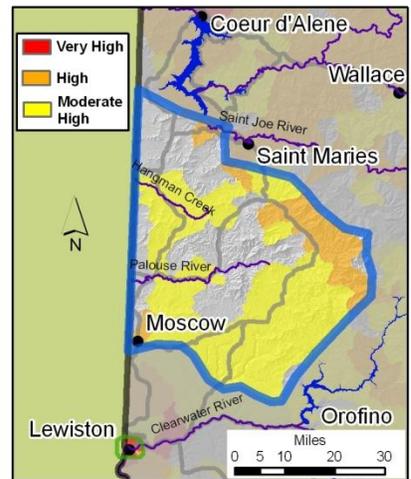
**Development/Recreation Pressure**



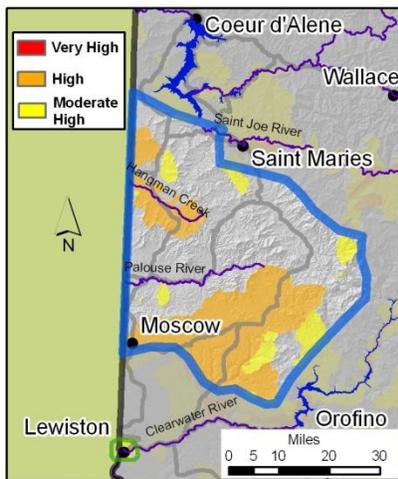
**Forest-base Wood Products Markets**



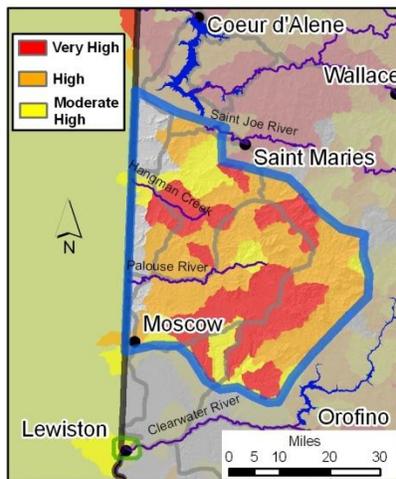
**Air Quality**



**Water Quality/Quantity**



**Wildlife/Biodiversity**



**FINAL MAP -- ALL ISSUES**

**Palouse & Hell's Gate  
Priority Landscape Areas**

## Summary of Threats and Benefits

Several forest resource issues were identified by the Resource Assessment process. The following is a summary of the key threats and benefits in the Palouse PLA.

### Potential Threats to Forest Resources:

- Substantial areas with high to very high risk for **forest health threats**
  - Mountain pine beetle and other bark beetles are a significant threat throughout
  - White pine blister rust spread and root disease are significant issues in the northern portion of this Priority Area
  - Douglas Fir Tussock moth infestation is an issue throughout
  - Potential issues due to climate change exist throughout
- Substantial areas with moderate-high risk to **uncharacteristic wildfire**, particularly in the area around Kendrick, Bovill, Deary and Troy
- High potential risk to loss of forests from **development** around Moscow and St. Maries

### Potential Benefits to Forest Resources:

- Substantial areas of high and very-high relative benefit for **sustainable forest-based markets**
- Pockets of high potential benefit to **water quality/quantity** from forests and canopy near Moscow and along the St. Joe and St. Maries Rivers
- Substantial areas of high and moderate-high potential benefit to **biodiversity and wildlife**, especially along Hangman Creek and in southeast Latah County

## Priority Strategies for the Palouse and Hells Gate PLAs

Based on the results of the Resource Assessment and stakeholder input, the following is a list of the key strategies to protect and improve forest resources in the Palouse and Hells Gate PLAs.

### Palouse and Hell's Gate Key Strategies include:

**\*\* Goal 1: Treatments** – Implement stand treatments on landscape scales to restore white pine; reduce impact from mountain pine beetle, root disease, and Douglas-fir tussock moth; increase fire resiliency; and mitigate invasive weeds. Focus on very high priority areas in final FAP Resource Assessment map.

S&PF Programs: State Fire Assistance, Forest Health, Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, Benewah County, BLM, Clearwater RC&D, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, IDFG, IDL, IDPR, IFSAC, industrial/private landowners, Latah County, Nez Perce County, Nez Perce Tribe, PLRC&D, USFS

**\*\* Goal 1: Treatments** – CWWGs continue to plan and implement CWPP priorities including hazardous fuel reduction and preparation work in WUI areas, especially in the areas around Moscow Mountain, Kendrick, Bovill, Deary, and Troy. Support local fire departments.

S&PF Programs: State Fire Assistance, Volunteer Fire Assistance, Forest Health, Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, Benewah County, BLM, Clearwater RC&D, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, IDL, IFSAC, ISFPWG, Latah and Nez Perce Counties, PLRC&D, Private Landowners, USFS

**Goal 2: Inventory & Analysis and Treatments** – Assess canopy benefits in Moscow and Lewiston to establish baseline data and model future benefits with increases in canopy percentage to help improve air and water quality, reduce stormwater and conserve energy in these areas. Develop and support community forest management programs. Canopy goals determined in assessment are used to support increases in canopy to improve water quality and other urban issues.

S&PF Programs: Urban Forestry, Forest Health, Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: Avista, Cities of Lewiston and Moscow, Clearwater RC&D, highway districts, IDEQ, Latah and Nez Perce Counties, PCEI, PLRC&D, UI extension, and others

## Palouse and Hell's Gate Key Strategies include:

**Goal 2: Treatments** – Support fisheries restoration of species and habitats in Hangman Creek and the Palouse, Potlatch and Clearwater Rivers

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, Benewah County, BLM, Clearwater RC&D, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, IDFG, IDPR, IFSAC, Latah and Nez Perce Counties, Nez Perce Tribe, PLRC&D, private Landowners, USFS

**\*\* Goal 5: Markets** – Create opportunities to build and sustain forest markets. Provide opportunities and enhance biomass market infrastructure.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, Benewah County, BLM, CEDA, Clearwater RC&D, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, IDL, IDPR, IFOA, IFA, IFSAC, industrial landowners, Latah County, Nez Perce County, PLRC&D, private Landowners, Nez Perce Tribe, USFS

**Goal 3: Forest Conservation Incentives** – Provide conservation easement or acquisition opportunities to protect large cedar groves on Moscow Mountain

S&PF Programs: Forest Legacy

Stakeholders: Coeur d'Alene Tribe, IFSAC, Latah County, Moscow Mountain Cedar Grove Steering Committee Palouse Land Trust, private Landowners, RMEF, TNC,

**Goal 2: Access** – Expand recreational trail opportunities (non-motorized and OHV), especially at river and fishing access sites, abandoned railroads, Moscow Mountain, and along highway right-of-ways

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: Clearwater RC&D, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, IDFG, IDPR, IFSAC, Latah County, Nez Perce Tribe, Moscow Area Mountain Bike Association, PCEI, PLRC&D, Moscow Mountain Cedar Grove Steering Committee, Palouse Land Trust, Private Landowners, RMEF, TNC, USFS

**N Goals 1, 2 & 4: Treatments** – Manage urban tree canopy in communities—especially St. Maries, Moscow and Lewiston—to increase community forest health. Utilize resilient species adapted for the site conditions and predicted changes in climate and which use resource wisely. Focus on increasing canopy over impervious surfaces and near buildings for energy conservation.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Urban Forestry

Stakeholders: Cities, Clearwater RC&D, ICFAC, PLRC&D, USFS, Utilities

**\*\* –** Strategies where at least 75% of those rating strategies for this PLA rated them as High or Moderate Priority  
**N –** Identifies new strategies that were not included in the first draft of this document

### Acronyms Used:

ALC – Associated Logging Contractors	IFSAC – Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee
BLM – Bureau of Land Management	ISFPWG – Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group
CEDA – Clearwater Economic Development Assoc.	NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Service
CWPPs – County Wildfire Protection Plans	OHV – Off Highway Vehicle
CWWGs – County Wildfire Working Groups	PCEI – Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute
ICFAC – Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council	PLRC&D – Panhandle Lakes Resource Conservation and Development Council
IDFG – Idaho Dept of Fish and Game	RC&D – Resource Conservation and Development Council
IDL – Idaho Dept. of Lands	RMEF – Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
IDPR – Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation	TNC – The Nature Conservancy
IFA – Intermountain Forest Association	UI – University of Idaho
IFOA – Idaho Forest Owners Association	USFS – US Forest Service
IFPC – Idaho Forest Products Commission	WUI – Wildland-Urban Interface

## Palouse and Hell's Gate PLA Existing Plans and Resource Groups

### Existing Plans

Palouse Cooperative Weed Plan • Urban Forestry Plans (Moscow, Lewiston, Orofino) • Fire Safe in Benewah County • Clearwater National Forest Plan • County CWPPs • Benewah County Resource Plan • Benewah Soil and Water Conservation District Plans • St. Joe National Forest Natural Resource Plan • Potlatch River Watershed Management Plan • Latah SWCD Resource Conservation Plan • Potlatch River Sub-Basin Assessment

### Resource Groups

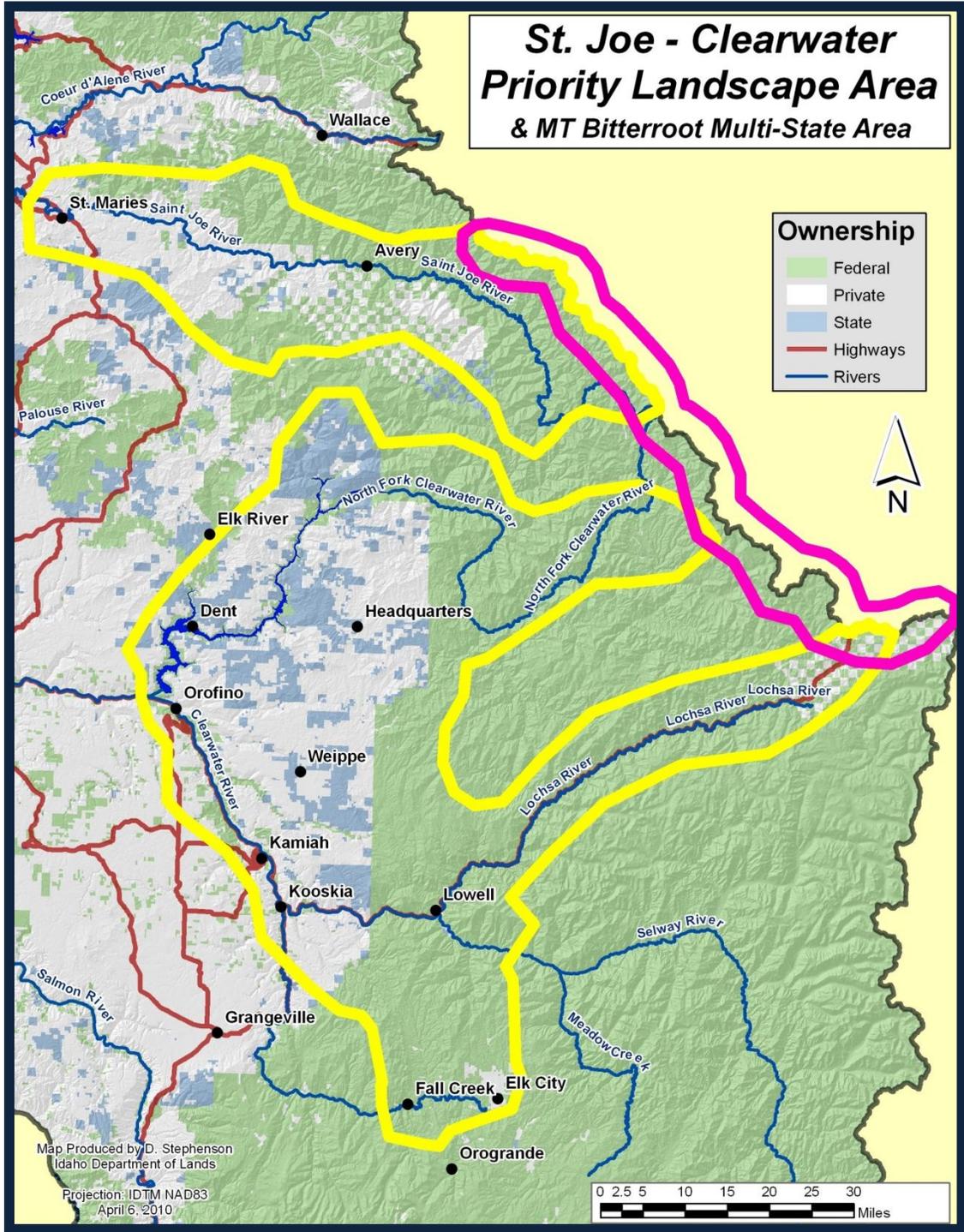
Waters of the West at the University of Idaho • Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee • Clearwater Basin Collaborative • Clearwater Economic Development Association • Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute • Friends of Moscow Mountain • Latah Trail Foundation • Moscow Area Mountain Bike Association • Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Council • Moscow Mountain Cedar Grove Steering Committee • Waters of the West • County CWWGs • Watershed Advisory Groups • Soil and Water Conservation Districts

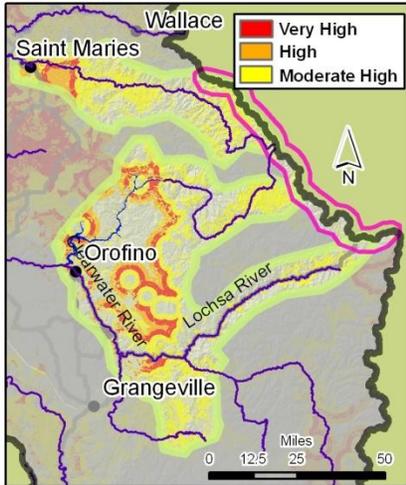
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## St. Joe Clearwater Priority Landscape Area including Montana Bitterroot

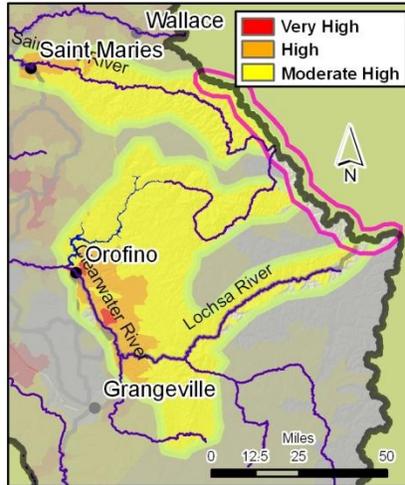
The St. Joe Clearwater PLA extends from Orofino and St. Maries in the west to the Montana border on the east and encompasses the St. Joe River valley, the Clearwater River valley paralleling US Highway 12, the Lochsa River valley, and a portion of the South Fork of the Clearwater. The Dworshak Dam Reservoir is contained within this area as is the State-owned Floodwood Forest. The primary population centers include St. Maries, Orofino and Kamiah.

The Bitterroot Corridor includes the interface area along the Idaho and Montana border.

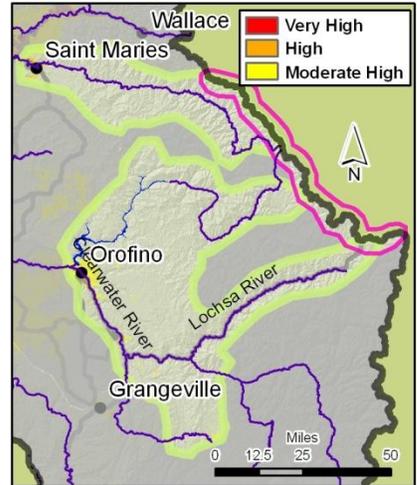




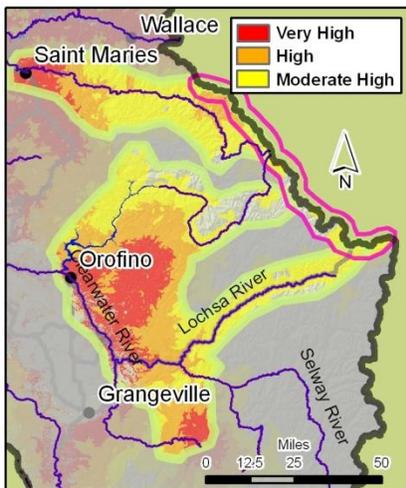
**Forest Health**



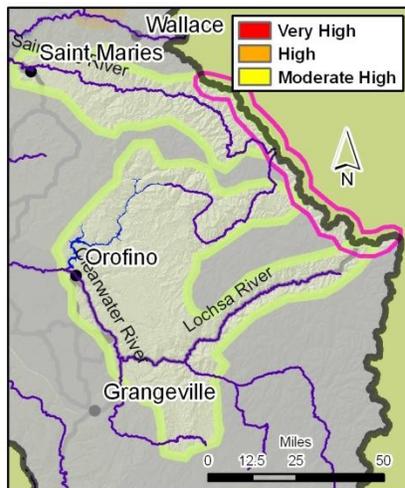
**Uncharacteristic Wildfire**



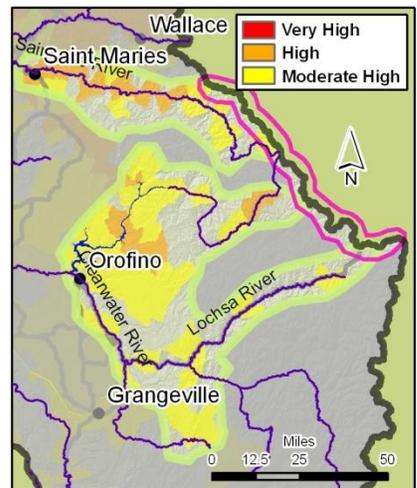
**Development/Recreation Pressure**



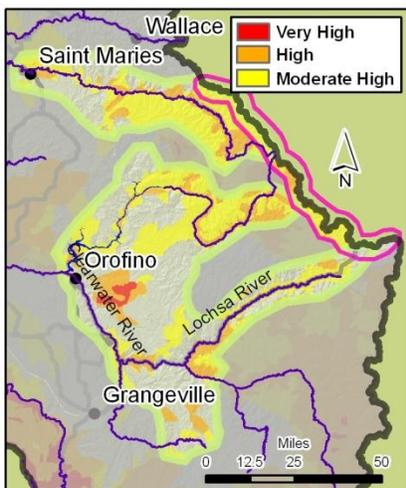
**Forest-base Wood Products Markets**



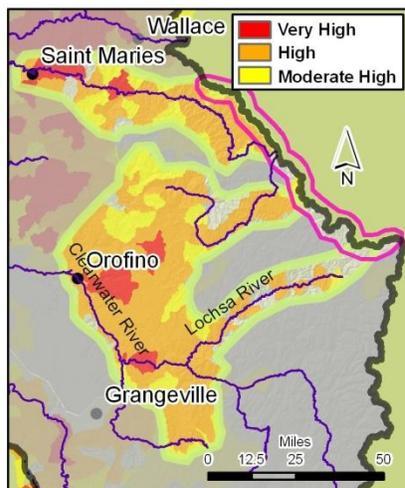
**Air Quality**



**Water Quality/Quantity**



**Wildlife/Biodiversity**



**FINAL MAP -- ALL ISSUES**

**St. Joe - Clearwater  
Priority Landscape Area  
& Montana Bitterroot**

## Summary of Threats and Benefits

Several forest resource issues were identified by the Resource Assessment process. The following is a summary of the key threats and benefits in the St. Joe - Clearwater and Montana Bitterroot PLA.

### Potential Threats to Forest Resources:

- Pockets of areas with high and very-high risk of **forest health threats**, primarily mountain pine beetle, white pine blister rust, and root disease. Pine engraver is also an issue.
- Some areas with high to very high risk of **uncharacteristic wildfire**, especially in the western portions of the Priority Area south of Orofino along US Highway 12
- Pockets of moderate-high to high risk of canopy loss from **development and recreation pressure** around St. Maries, Orofino and Kamiah

### Potential Benefits to Forest Resources:

- Substantial areas of high and very-high relative benefit for **sustainable forest-based markets** in the central and eastern portions
- Pockets of moderate high to high potential benefit to **water quality and quantity**
- Pockets of high and very-high potential benefit to **biodiversity and wildlife** east of Orofino and along the major rivers, especially fish habitat along the Clearwater and Lochsa Rivers

## Priority Strategies for the St. Joe - Clearwater PLA & Montana Bitterroot Multi-State Area

Based on the results of the Resource Assessment and stakeholder input, the following is a list of the key strategies to protect and improve forest resources in the St. Joe Clearwater PLA and Montana Bitterroot Multi-state Area.

### St. Joe Clearwater & Montana Bitterroot Key Strategies include:

**\*\* Goal 1 & 5: Treatments, Inventory & Analysis and Partnerships** – Support the Clearwater Basin Collaborative (CBC) and the Shoshone County Forest Health Collaborative (SCC) in assessing, designing and implementing large-scale treatments across ownerships. Support the CBC’s proposal for Federal Landscape Restoration Act (FLRA) funds for large-scale treatments in Clear Creek.

Support restoration projects to protect forests from wildfire, insects and disease, noxious weeds, and to re-establish landscape resiliency, diversity of age and species, and other healthy functions. Plant western white pine, ponderosa pine, and western larch where appropriate to restore ecosystems. Priority areas for fuels treatments include Dworshak Reservoir and south of Orofino and Kamiah; the St. Joe River Valley including Calder and Avery. Manage forests within these communities to improve forest health.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship, Forest Health, State Fire Assistance, Urban Forestry

Stakeholders: ALC, Army Corps of Engineers, BLM, Cities (Orofino, Kamiah and St. Maries), Clearwater RC&D, CEDA, CBC, Coeur d’Alene Tribe, Counties (Clearwater, Benewah, Idaho, Shoshone), Framing our Community, ICFAC, IDFG, IDPR, IFSAC, NRCS, Nez Perce Tribe, Potlatch Corp and other Private Landowners, SCC, unincorporated communities (Calder and Avery), USFS

**\*\* Goal 2: Inventory & Analysis and Treatments** – Conduct inventory and analysis on anadromous fisheries and elk habitat and design habitat improvement treatments to restore these species to historic locations and numbers. Focus efforts on the St. Joe, Clearwater and Lochsa watersheds.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, Coeur d’Alene Tribe, IDFG, IFSAC, NRCS, Nez Perce Tribe, Private Landowners, RAC, CBC, RMEF, USFS, UI

## St. Joe Clearwater & Montana Bitterroot Key Strategies include:

**Goal 2: Access** – Maintain and improve public access and infrastructure (roads and trails—OHV and non-motorized) for economic activities and recreation opportunities.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship, Urban Forestry

Stakeholders: BLM, CBC, Cities, Coeur d’Alene Tribe, Counties (Clearwater, Benewah, Idaho, Shoshone), IDL, IDPR, IFSAC, ITD, private landowners, and USFS

**Goal 4: Inventory & Analysis and Treatments** – Use an integrated approach of inventory and treatments (including herbicides, bio-control, and mechanical treatments) to mitigate and reduce spread of invasive species, including the area along the Idaho/Montana border. Monitor loss of canopy to development and recreation, particularly in the Orofino, Kamiah, and St. Maries areas.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship, Forest Health, Urban Forestry

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, Cities (Orofino, Kamiah, and St. Maries), Coeur d’Alene Tribe, Counties, CWMA’s, ICFAC, IDL, IFSAC, NRCS, Nez Perce Tribe, Private Landowners, RAC, USFS, and UI

**N Goal 3: Forest Conservation Incentives** – Support groups working collaboratively across ownerships in high conservation value areas such as in the checker boarded private ground and the headwaters of critical streams. Focus on maintaining working forests, elk and bull trout habitat, roadless area protection and recreation management.

S&PF Programs: Forest Legacy

Stakeholders: BLM, CBC, IDL, IDFG, IFSAC, land trusts, MDNRC, private landowners, WSFD, USFS

**\*\* Goal 4: Treatments** – Design and implement treatments and practices to protect the Elk River and St. Maries municipal watersheds from fire, insects and disease, and noxious weeds. Support local fire depts.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship, Forest Health, State Fire Assistance State Fire Assistance, Volunteer Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, Benewah County, BLM, CWWGs, Framing our Community, Idaho County, IDL, IFSAC, ISFPWG, NRCS, Nez Perce Tribe, Private Landowners, RAC, USFS

**\*\* Goal 5: Marketing** – Promote market development and restoration of local forest industry. Utilize local timber industry to provide services needed to meet CBC and SCC restoration goals.

Support existing biomass facilities in Lewiston, Plummer, St. Maries, and UI. Develop biomass infrastructure in Orofino, Elk River, Grangeville, and elsewhere in the St. Joe-Clearwater Basin.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, Coeur d’Alene Tribe, CBC, Counties, Framing our Community, IDL, IFPC, IFOA, IFA, IFSAC, Nez Perce Tribe, SCC, and USFS

**\*\* Goal 1: Treatments** – Support restoration projects to protect forests from wildfire, insects, and invasive species and re-establish landscape resiliency, diversity of age and species, and other healthy functions along the Idaho/Montana Border. Plant white bark pine where appropriate to restore this component of the ecosystem. Reduce fuel loading and prevent fire and smoke impacts to Montana.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, Coeur d’Alene Tribe, IDL, IFSAC, MDNRC, Nez Perce Tribe, Private Landowners, USFS, others

- \*\*** – Strategies where at least 75% of those rating strategies for this PLA rated them as High or Moderate Priority  
**N** – Identifies new strategies that were not included in the first draft of this document

### Acronyms Used:

ALC – Associated Logging Contractors	MDNRC – Montana Dept of Natural Resources and Conservation
BLM – Bureau of Land Management	NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Service
CBC – Clearwater Basin Collaborative	OHV – Off Highway Vehicle
CEDA – Clearwater Economic Development Assoc.	PCEI – Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute
CWMA – Cooperative Weed Management Area	PLT – Project Learning Tree
CWPPs – County Wildfire Protection Plans	RAC – Resource Advisory Committee
CWWGs – County Wildfire Working Groups	RC&D – Resource Conservation and Development Council
ICFAC – Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council	RMEF – Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
IDFG – Idaho Dept of Fish and Game	SCC – Shoshone County Forest Health Collaborative
IDL – Idaho Dept. of Lands	TNC – The Nature Conservancy
IDPR – Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation	UI – University of Idaho
ISFPWG – Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group	USFS – US Forest Service
IFA – Intermountain Forest Association	WSFD – Wyoming State Forestry Division
IFOA – Idaho Forest Owners Association	WUI – Wildland-Urban Interface
IFPC – Idaho Forest Products Commission	
IFSAC – Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee	

## St. Joe-Clearwater PLA Existing Plans and Resource Groups

### Existing Plans

Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forest Plans (1987) and Plan Revision • Northwest Passage Corridor Management Plan (2005) • Crapo Elk Initiative • Selway and Middle Fork Clearwater Sub basin Assessment • South Fork Clearwater Sub basin Assessment • Lochsa Corridor Assessment • Fire History Information (Barrett) • BLM River Management Plans • Cooperative Weed Management Area Plans and Strategies (Palouse, Clearwater, Upper Clearwater) • Clearwater Water Conservation Strategy • Northwest Power and Conservation Plans • Snake River Basin Adjudication and proposed Idaho Forestry Plan • BLM River Management Plan • Nez Perce Tribal Plans • National Park Service • Clearwater National Forest Plan (1987) and Geographic Area Summaries developed as part of the Forest Plan Revision • Benewah County Resource Plan • Benewah Soil and Water Conservation District Plans • St. Joe National Forest Natural Resource Plan • County Wildfire Protection Plans

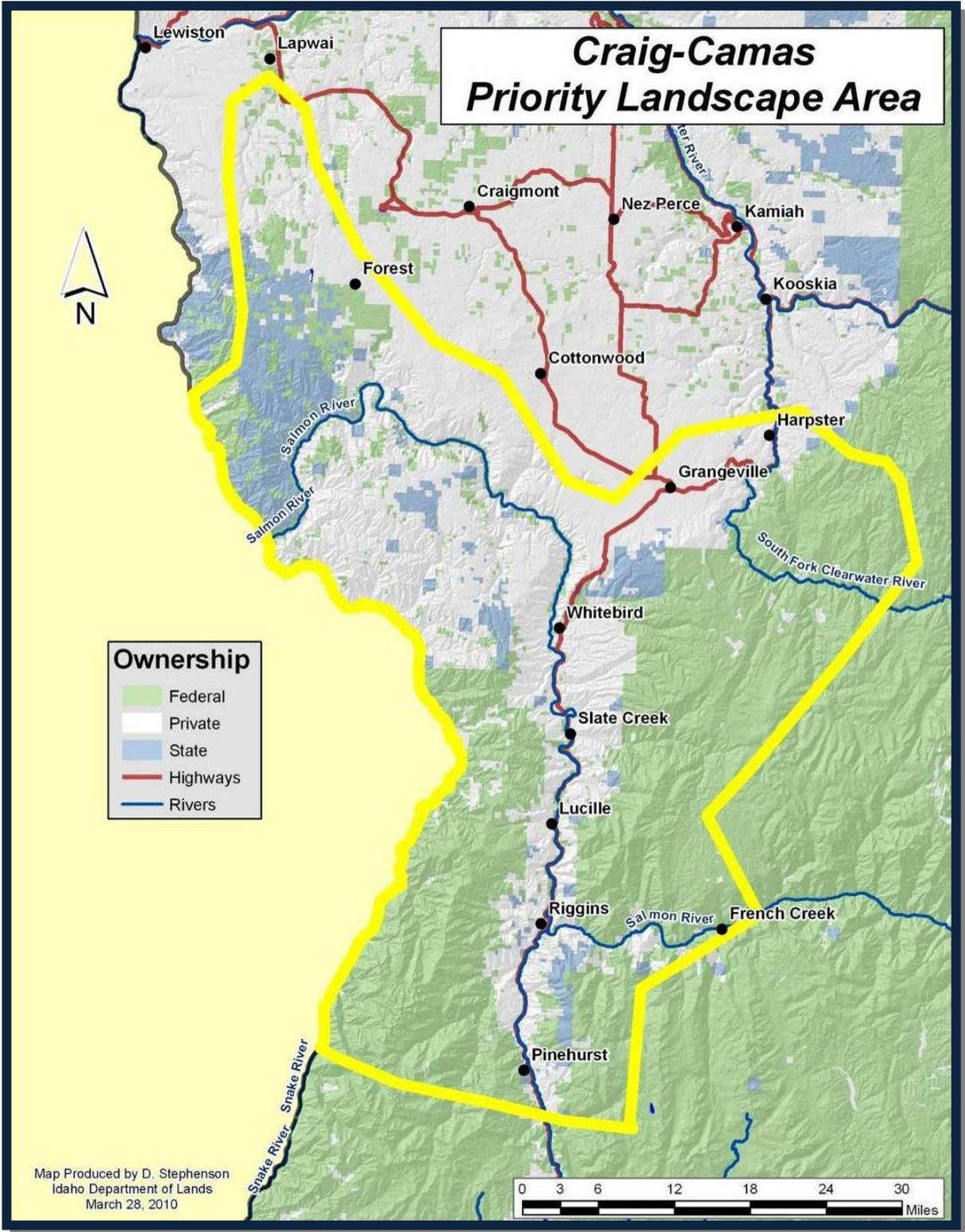
### Resource Groups

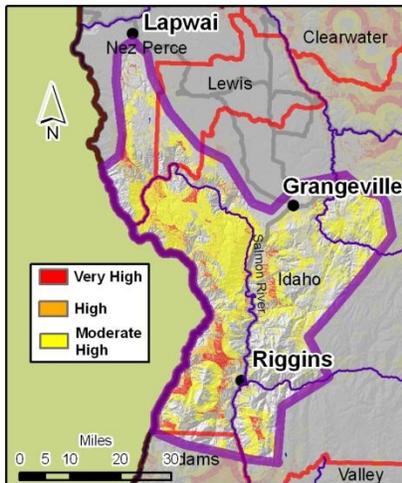
Clearwater Basin Collaborative • North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Council • Public Land Access Year-round • Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Council • Shoshone County Forest Health Collaborative • Watershed Advisory Groups • Soil and Water Conservation Districts • County Wildfire Working Groups

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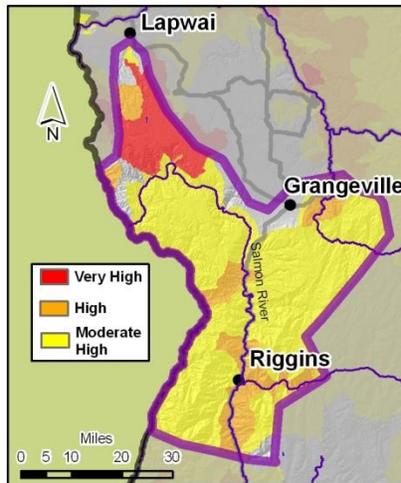
# Craig-Camas Priority Landscape Area

The Craig-Camas PLA extends from Culdesac in the north to the Idaho County line in the south. It includes a portion of the Salmon River and the Little Salmon River and the high peaks of the Seven Devils area. Grangeville, Whitebird and Riggins are the main population centers.

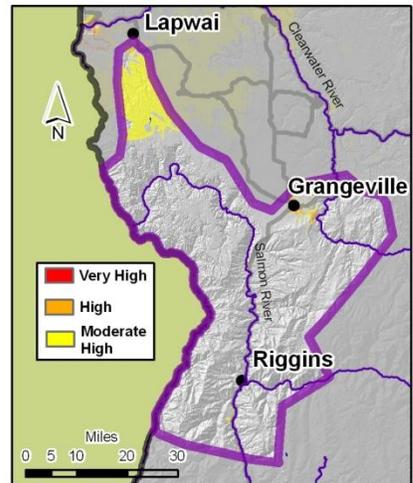




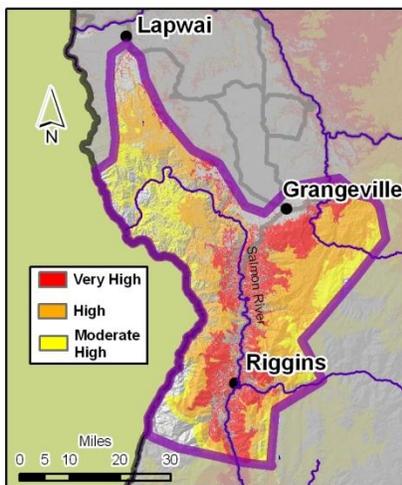
**Forest Health**



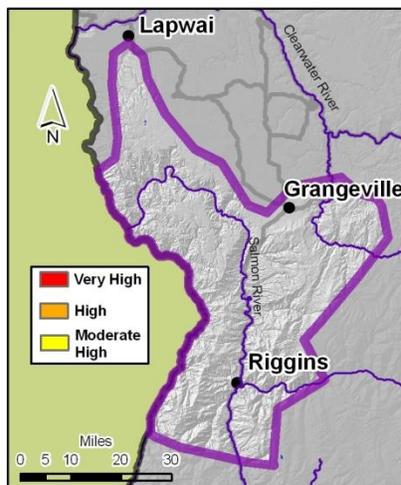
**Uncharacteristic Wildfire**



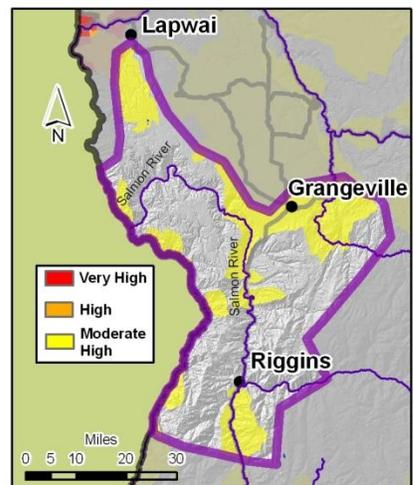
**Development/Recreation Pressure**



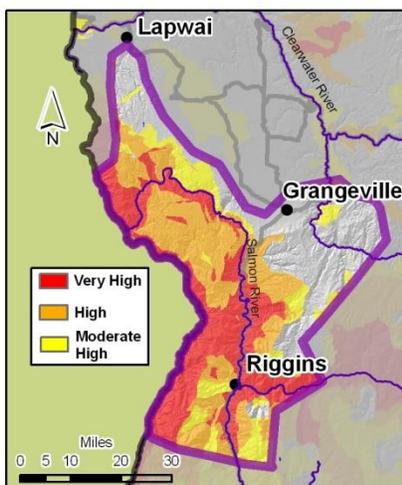
**Forest-base Wood Products Markets**



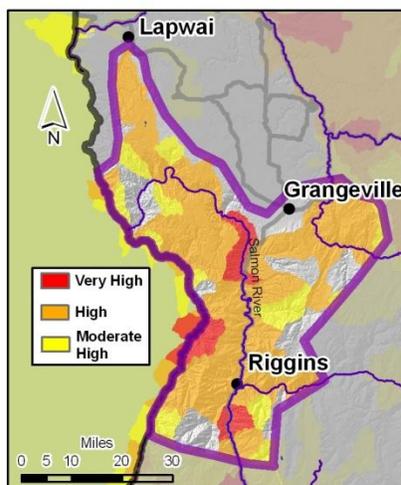
**Air Quality**



**Water Quality/Quantity**



**Wildlife/Biodiversity**



**FINAL MAP -- ALL ISSUES**

**Craig-Camas  
Priority Landscape Area**

## Summary of Threats and Benefits

Several forest resource issues were identified by the Resource Assessment process. The following is a summary of the key threats and benefits in the Craig - Camas PLA.

### **Potential Threats to Forest Resources:**

- Areas of moderate-high to high potential risk from **forest health threats**, primarily mountain pine beetle, noxious weeds, and impacts from climate change. Additional forest health threats include fir engraver and root disease.
- Some areas with very high risk to **uncharacteristic wildfire** in the northeast portion of this area

### **Potential Benefits to Forest Resources:**

- Some areas of high to very high benefit for **sustainable forest-based markets** along Salmon River and in the area around Grangeville
- Substantial areas of high and very-high potential benefit to **biodiversity and wildlife** throughout most of the area. All wildlife/biodiversity issues present.

## Priority Strategies for the Craig - Camas PLA

Based on the results of the Resource Assessment and stakeholder input, the following is a list of the key strategies to protect and improve forest resources in the Craig - Camas PLA.

### Craig - Camas Key Strategies include:

**\*\* Goal 1: Treatments** – Design stand treatments on a landscape scale to increase and maintain vegetation diversity and resiliency over time (urban and rural). This is an area of frequent fire starts and fires often spread quickly. Support CWWGs to design and implement fuels reduction and forest restoration treatments. Priority treatment areas include areas near Grangeville, the Salmon River communities, and forest in-holdings. Design treatments to reduce spread of root disease and noxious weeds in the Craig Mountain area and mountain pine beetle in the Soldier’s Meadows area. Use plantings and thinning to increase seral species that are resilient to fire and pathogens. Support local fire department training and capacity.

Design treatments to maintain and improve urban forest canopy in Grangeville.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance, Volunteer Fire Assistance, Urban Forestry

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, City of Grangeville, CWWGs, ICFAC, Idaho County, IDL, IFSAC, ISFPWG, Lewis County, NRCS, Nez Perce County, Nez Perce Tribe, Private Landowners, and USFS

**Goal 2: Treatments** – Where feasible, reforest agricultural fields to improve habitat connectivity and reduce erosion.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, IFSAC, Nez Perce Tribe, private landowners

**Goal 4: Inventory & Analysis** – Use partnerships to aggressively reduce or eradicate weeds and improve wildlife habitat.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: BLM, Clearwater RC&D, CWMAs, IFSAC, NRCS, Nez Perce Tribe, Private Landowners, USFS, UI

**Goal 4: Inventory & Analysis** – Develop systems for early detection, rapid response and enforcement capacity for early and effective action minimizing adverse impacts to forest ecosystems from motorized recreation and spread of invasive species.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: USFS, BLM, IDL, IFSAC, USFWS, private landowners, UI, Nez Perce Tribe

## Craig - Camas Key Strategies include:

**Goal 5: Marketing** – Develop diverse markets, labor, and product lines (Idaho brand) to ensure resiliency to volatile markets.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, IFPC, IFOA, IFA, IFSAC, Nez Perce Tribe, Private Landowners, USFS

**\*\*** – Strategies where at least 75% of those rating strategies for this PLA rated them as High or Moderate Priority  
**N** – Identifies new strategies that were not included in the first draft of this document

### Acronyms Used

ALC – Associated Logging Contractors	IFPC – Idaho Forest Products Commission
BLM – Bureau of Land Management	IFSAC – Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee
CWMA – Cooperative Weed Management Area	NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Service
CWPPs – County Wildfire Protection Plans	RC&D – Resource Conservation and Development Council
CWWGs – County Wildfire Working Groups	UI – University of Idaho
IDFG – Idaho Dept of Fish and Game	USFWS – US Fish and Wildlife Service
IDL – Idaho Dept. of Lands	USFS – US Forest Service
ISFPWG – Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group	WUI – Wildland-Urban Interface
IFA – Intermountain Forest Association	
IFOA – Idaho Forest Owners Association	

## Craig-Camas PLA Existing Plans and Resource Groups

### Existing Plans

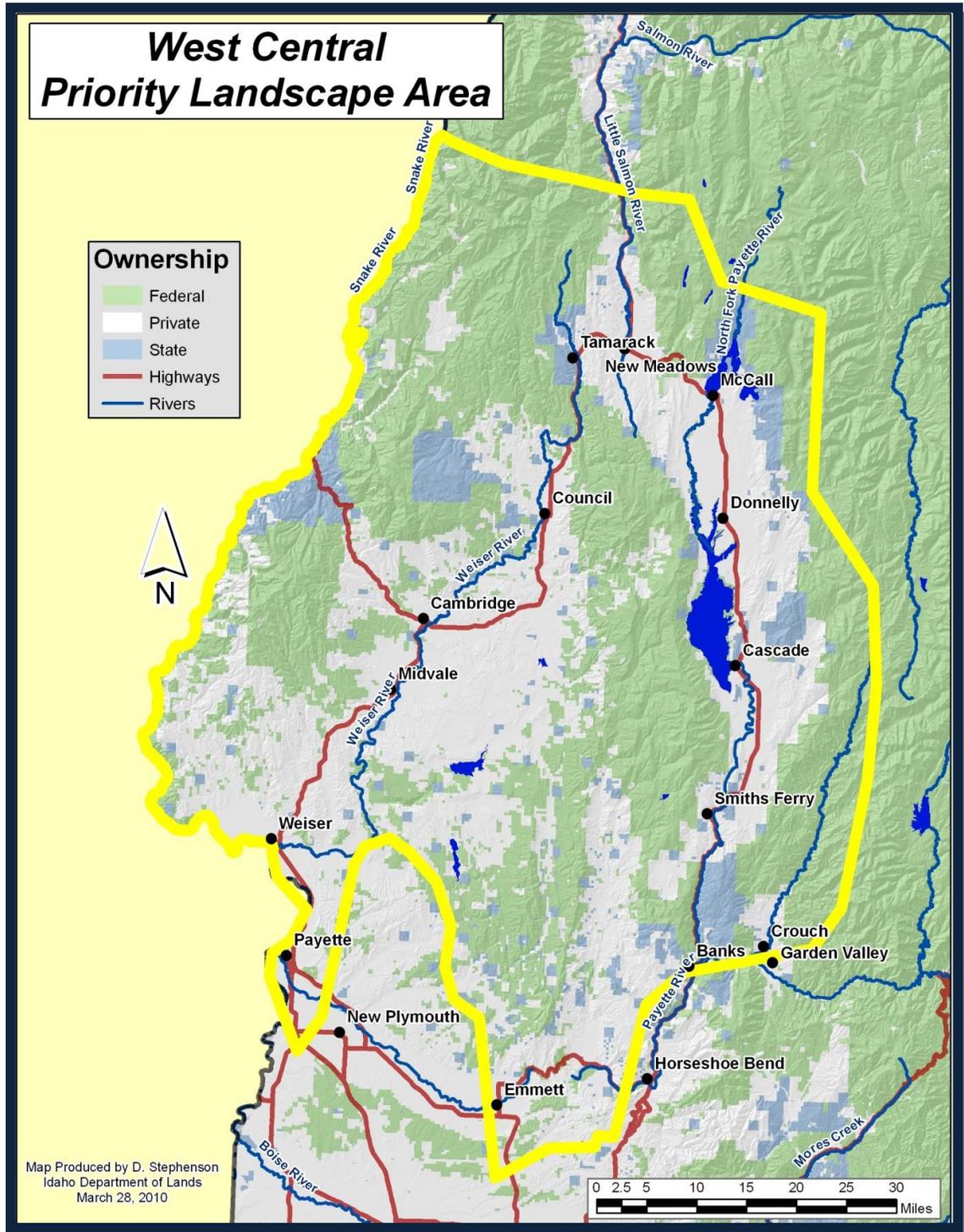
Nez Perce National Forest Plans • USFWS • Nez Perce Tribal Plans • County Wildfire Protection Plans

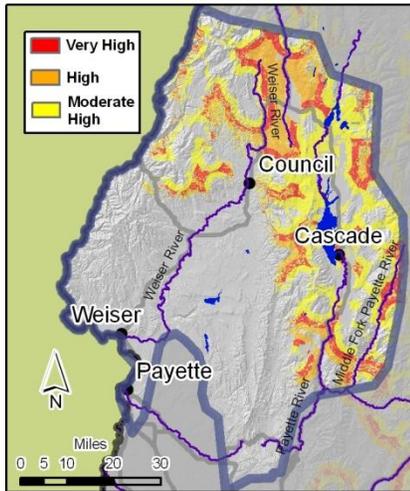
### Resource Groups

Waters of the West • Back Country Hunters and Anglers • Cooperative Weed Management Association • Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Council • Watershed Advisory Groups • County Wildfire Working Groups

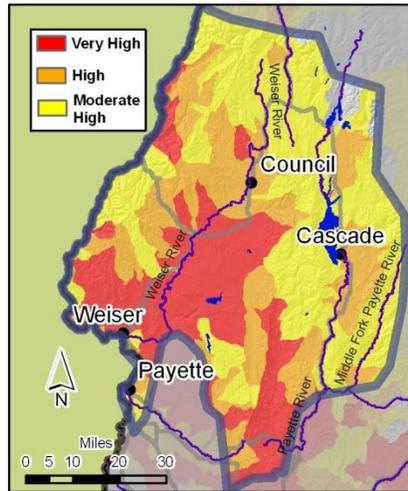
## West Central Idaho Priority Landscape Area

The West Central PLA borders the Craig-Camas PLA to the north and extends south to Payette, Emmett and Horseshoe Bend and from the Oregon border in the west to the Middle Fork of the Payette River in the east. It includes Payette and Cascade Lakes, the Weiser River drainage, the Middle Fork of the Payette River, and the southern portion of the Little Salmon River. The primary population centers include the cities of Council, Emmett, McCall, Payette and Weiser.

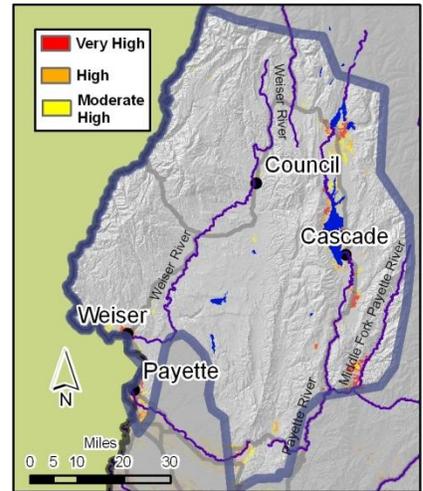




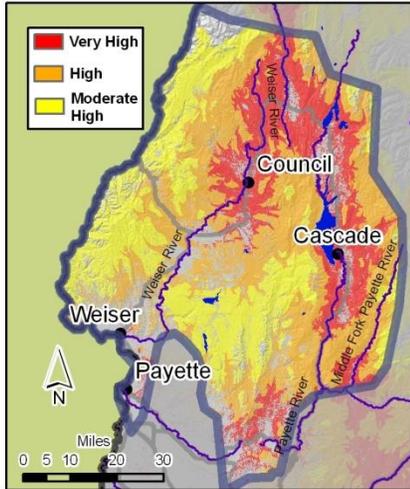
**Forest Health**



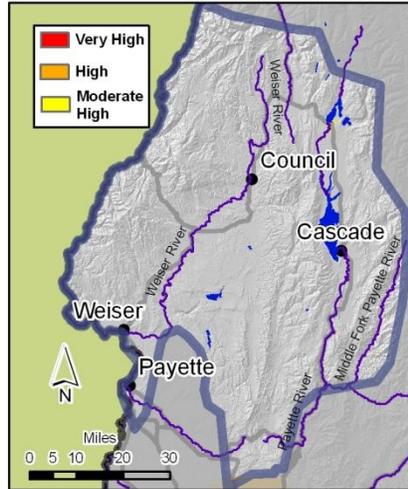
**Uncharacteristic Wildfire**



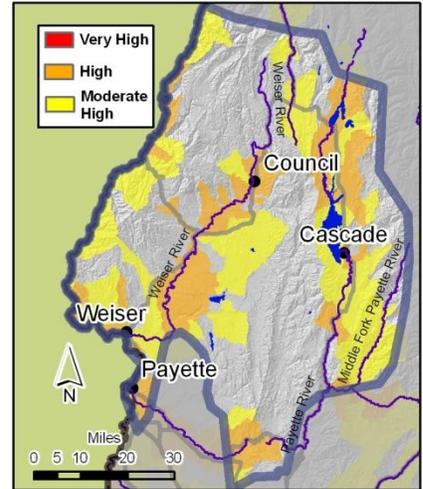
**Development/Recreation Pressure**



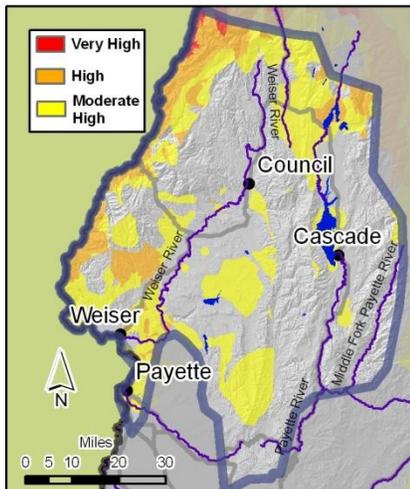
**Forest-base Wood Products Markets**



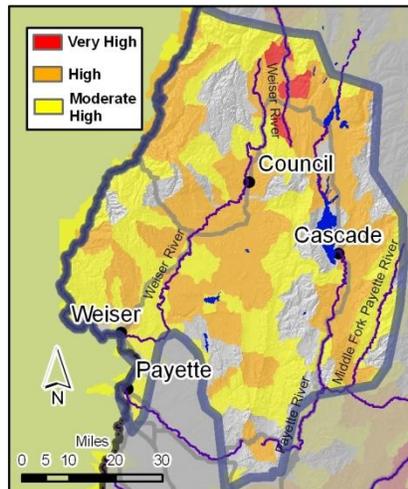
**Air Quality**



**Water Quality/Quantity**



**Wildlife/Biodiversity**



**FINAL MAP -- ALL ISSUES**

**West Central  
Priority Landscape Area**

## Summary of Threats and Benefits

Several forest resource issues were identified by the Resource Assessment process. The following is a summary of the key threats and benefits in the West Central PLA.

### **Potential Threats to Forest Resources:**

- Areas with potential **loss of canopy to development** between Banks and McCall and in the Weiser / Payette area
- Significant areas with moderate-high to very high risk of **forest health threats** in the eastern and northern portions of this Priority Area, primarily mountain pine beetle
- Substantial areas with high and very-high risk to **uncharacteristic wildfire**, especially in Adams, Gem, and Washington Counties

### **Potential Benefits to Forest Resources:**

- Pockets of moderate-high potential benefit to **biodiversity and wildlife**
- Pockets of areas of moderate-high potential benefit to **water quality/quantity** from forests and canopy
- Significant areas of high to very-high relative benefit for **sustainable forest-based markets**, especially in Adams and Cascade Counties
- Potential benefits to **air quality** in McCall

## Priority Strategies for the West Central PLA

Based on the results of the Resource Assessment and stakeholder input, the following is a list of the key strategies to protect and improve forest resources in the West Central PLA.

### West Central Key Strategies include:

**Goal 1: Inventory & Analysis and Treatments** – Collect information and conduct analysis to improve the understanding of the mortality associated with insect and disease and wildfire risk over time.

Develop landscape scale treatments to improve overall forest health by focusing on insect and disease management - specifically mountain pine beetle, Douglas-fir beetle, and western spruce budworm.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: BLM, IDL, IFSAC, private landowners, USFS, UI

**\*\* Goal 1: Treatments** – Support the Payette Forest Coalition in designing and implementing landscape scale projects across ownerships. Support CWWGs in designing and implementing fuels reduction and forest restoration treatments. Support local fire department training and capacity.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship, Forest Health, State Fire Assistance, Volunteer Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, Counties (Valley, Adams, Gem, Washington), IFSAC, ISFPWG, Nez Perce Tribe, PFC, private landowners, USFS, WCHRC&D

**\*\* Goal 2 and 3: Planning and Forest Conservation Incentives** – Develop strategies to guide development to areas of least ecosystem impact and to protect working forests. There are areas where loss of canopy and working forests to development is a significant threat, including the area between Banks and McCall and the area south of Weiser. Work with county commissioners and local planners to develop strategies for directing and managing growth to protect urban and rural forests.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship, Forest Health, Urban Forestry, Forest Legacy

Stakeholders: Counties (Adams, Gem, Valley, Washington), Cities (Cascade, Emmett, McCall, Payette, Weiser), developers, homeowners, ICFAC, IFSAC, land trusts, private landowners, realtors, USFS, UI

## West Central Key Strategies include:

**Goal 2: Treatments** – Use treatments to restore anadromous fish (steelhead) in the South Fork of Payette River.

S&PF Programs: State Fire Assistance, Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, Counties (Valley, Adams, Gem, Washington), IDFG, private landowners, Nez Perce Tribe, USFS, WCHRC&D

**\*\* Goal 4: Education** – Provide education and support to communities and counties to protect municipal watersheds, urban canopies, and WUI areas from wildfire threats, noxious weeds and development. Target developers, homeowners, planners, realtors, and others. Use the resources of the Idaho Firewise statewide education program, Project Learning Tree, and the Idaho Forest Products Commission.

S&PF Programs: State Fire Assistance, Forest Stewardship, Urban Forestry, Forest Health, Conservation Education

Stakeholders: Counties (Adams, Gem, Valley, Washington), CWWGs, Cities (Cascade, Emmett, McCall, Payette, Weiser), developers, homeowners, ICFAC, IFPC, IFSAC, ISFPWG, PLT, private landowners, realtors, UI Extension, and West Central Highlands RC&D

**Goal 2 and 4: Inventory & Analysis and Access** – Develop systems for early detection, rapid response and enforcement capacity for early and effective action minimizing adverse impacts to forest ecosystems from motorized recreation and spread of invasive species. Develop, maintain and improve public access and infrastructure for OHV use.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, Urban Forestry

Stakeholders: BLM, USFS, IDL, IDPR, IFSAC, Nez Perce Tribe, Private Landowners, USFS, UI

**Goal 4: Education** – Utilize partnerships to develop and implement an educational plan to resolve conflicts between motorized recreation and wildlife and biodiversity and forest health benefits. Work collaboratively to minimize conflicts with motorized use and wildlife, water, and spread of invasive weeds. Priority areas include the corridor between McCall and Banks.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: BLM, conservation organizations, IDFG, IDPR, IDL, IFPC, IFSAC, USFS, recreation user groups, USFS, UI Extension, WCHRC&D, and others

**\*\* Goal 5: Marketing** – Develop diverse markets, labor and product lines (Idaho brand) to ensure resiliency to volatile markets. Support development of biomass facilities and use of wood from treatments for biomass products.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance,

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, Counties (Adams, Gem, Valley, Washington, Payette), IDL, IDC, IFA, IFOA, IFSAC, PFC, private landowners, RMEF, USFS, WBUP, and other state departments and programs

**N Goals 1, 2 & 4: Treatments** – Future predicted growth pressure is high in the SE and NW parts of this PLA. Manage urban tree canopy in these communities to increase community forest health. Utilize resilient species adapted for the site conditions and predicted changes in climate and which use resource wisely. Focus on increasing canopy over impervious surfaces and near buildings for energy conservation.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Urban and Community Forestry

Stakeholders: Cities, ICFAC, USFS, Utilities, WCHRC&D

**\*\* –** Strategies where at least 75% of those rating strategies for this PLA rated them as High or Moderate Priority

**N –** Identifies new strategies that were not included in the first draft of this document

**Acronyms Used:**

ALC – Associated Logging Contractors	NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Service
BLM – Bureau of Land Management	OHV – Off Highway Vehicle
CWMA – Cooperative Weed Management Area	PCEI – Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute
CWPPs – County Wildfire Protection Plans	PFC – Payette Forest Coalition
CWWGs – County Wildfire Working Groups	PLT – Project Learning Tree
ICFAC – Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council	RAC – Resource Advisory Committee
IDFG – Idaho Dept of Fish and Game	RMEF – Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
IDL – Idaho Dept. of Lands	TNC – The Nature Conservancy
IDC – Idaho Dept of Commerce	UI – University of Idaho
IDPR – Idaho Dept of Parks and Recreation	USFS – US Forest Service
ISFPWG – Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group	WCHRC&D – West Central Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Council
IFA – Intermountain Forest Association	WBUP – Woody Biomass Utilization Partnership
IFOA – Idaho Forest Owners Association	WUI – Wildland-Urban Interface
IFPC – Idaho Forest Products Commission	
IFSAC – Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee	

**West Central PLA Existing Plans and Resource Groups****Existing Plans**

Payette Wildlife Conservation Area Strategy and Revised Payette National Forest Plan (2003) • County Wildfire Protection Plans

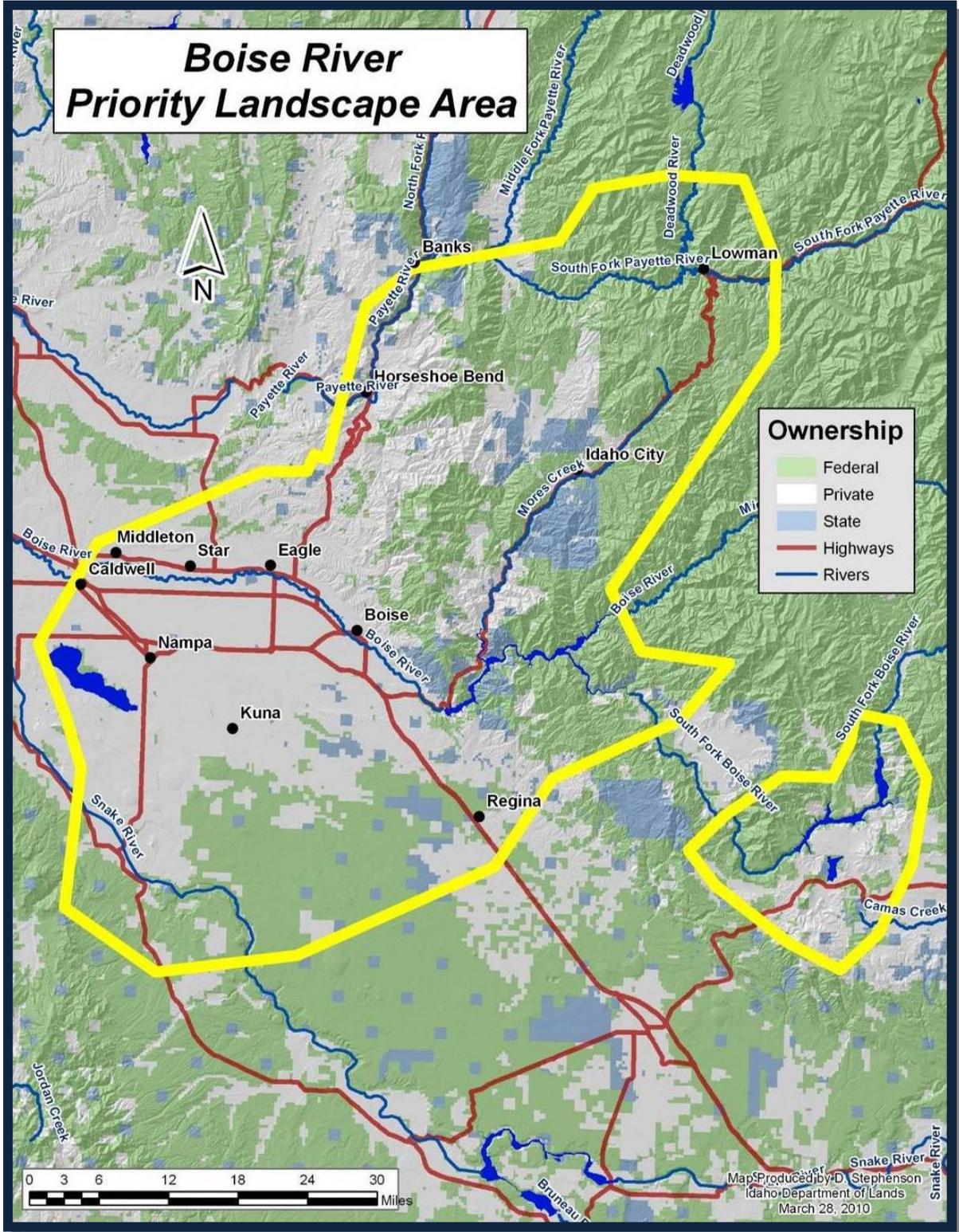
**Resource Groups**

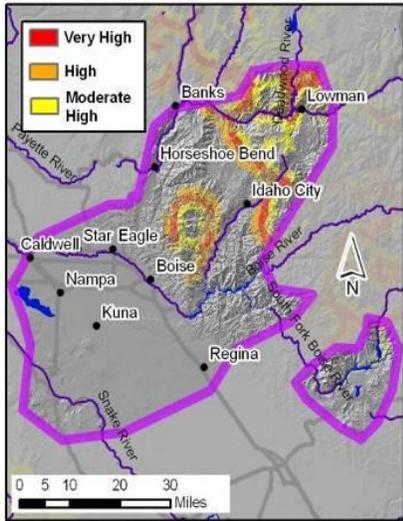
Woody Biomass Utilization Partnership • Payette Forest Coalition • Friends of Weiser River • Idaho Working Lands Coalition • West Central Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Council • Watershed Advisory Groups • County Wildfire Working Groups • Soil & Water Conservation Districts

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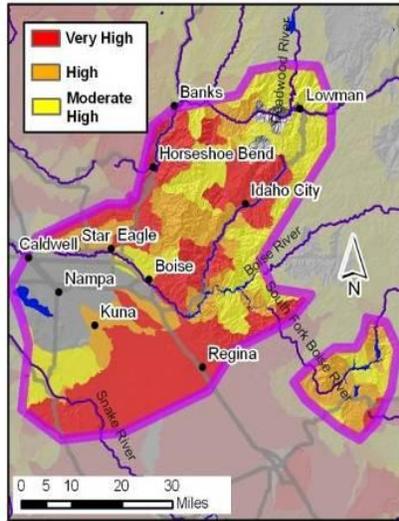
## Boise River Priority Landscape Area

The Boise River PLA borders the West Central PLA to the north, the Snake River to the south, Caldwell to the west, and Lowman to the east. It includes the cities in the Treasure Valley (most populated area of the state); a portion of the Boise, Payette, and South Fork of the Payette Rivers; and the mouth of the Deadwood River and Mores Creek.

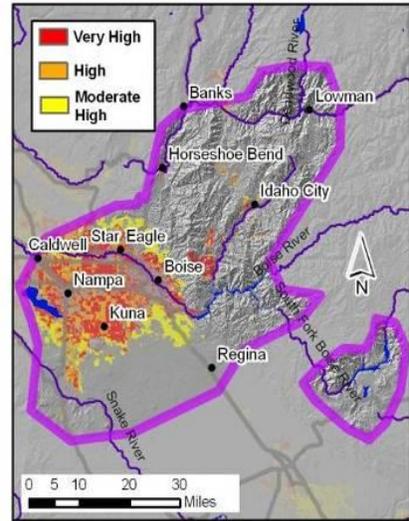




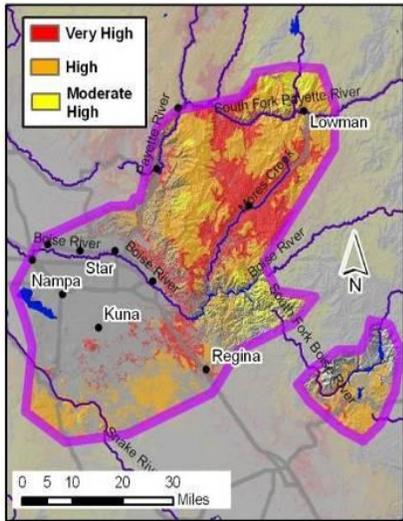
**Forest Health**



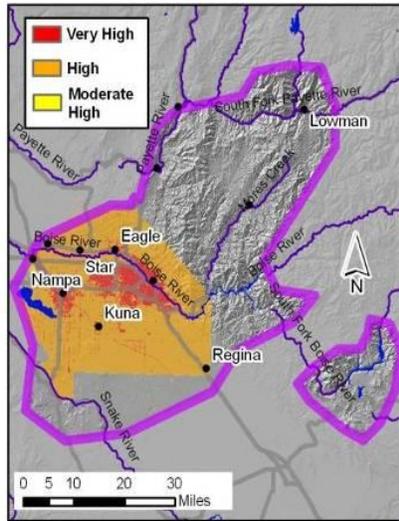
**Uncharacteristic Wildfire**



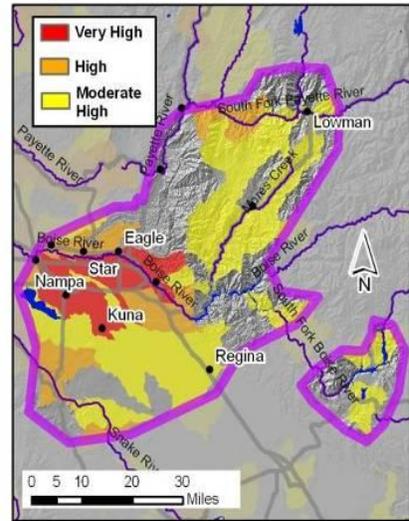
**Development/Recreation Pressure**



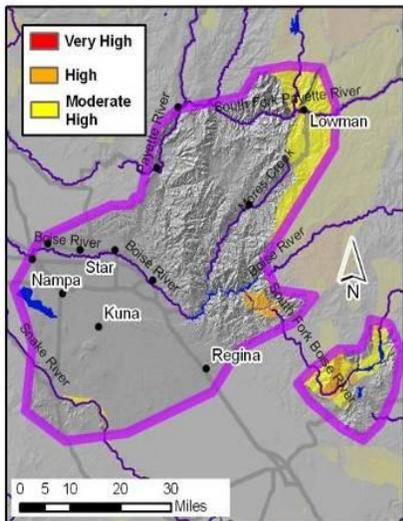
**Forest-base Wood Products Markets**



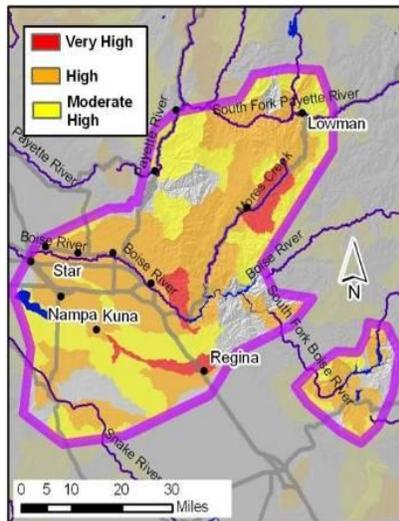
**Air Quality**



**Water Quality/Quantity**



**Wildlife/Biodiversity**



**FINAL MAP -- ALL ISSUES**

**Boise River  
Priority Landscape Area**

## Summary of Threats and Benefits

Several forest resource issues were identified by the Resource Assessment process. The following is a summary of the key threats and benefits in the Boise River PLA.

### **Potential Threats to Forest Resources:**

- Substantial areas of high and very-high potential **loss of forests/canopy from development**, especially in Ada and Canyon Counties
- Pockets of areas with high and moderate-high risk of **forest health** threats, primarily mountain pine beetle and balsam wooly adelgid, in Boise County)
- Substantial areas with high and very-high risk to **uncharacteristic wildfire** (extensive WUI)
- Substantial areas of high and moderate-high potential **loss of forests/canopy from development** along Mores Creek and the Payette River

### **Potential Benefits to Forest Resources:**

- Significant areas of high to very high potential benefit to **water quality/quantity** from forests and canopy, especially in the urban areas of Ada and Canyon Counties
- Substantial areas with high and very-high potential benefit for **air quality** from forests in the Treasure Valley
- Areas with moderate-high to high benefit for **wildlife**, mostly big game focal areas and The Nature Conservancy “Priority Area” and the South Fork of Boise River and some areas near the Snake River

## Priority Strategies for the Boise River PLA

Based on the results of the Resource Assessment and stakeholder input, the following is a list of the key strategies to protect and improve forest resources in the Boise River PLA.

### **Boise River Key Strategies include:**

**\*\* Goal 1: Treatments** – CWWGs continue to plan and implement CWPP priorities including hazardous fuel reduction and preparation work in the foothills of Boise and the interface to the north and east of Boise to protect communities and property and restore fire-adapted ecosystems. Support local fire department training and capacity.

S&PF Programs: State Fire Assistance, Volunteer Fire Assistance, Forest Health, Forest Stewardship  
Stakeholders: ALC, Ada and Boise Counties, BLM, CWWGs, IDL, IFSAC, ISFPWG, private landowners, RMEF, SWIRC&D, USFS, WBUP

**\*\* Goal 1: Education** – Develop educational and outreach components to engage people in a greater understanding and appreciation of the natural world and healthy forest practices. Work with schools and communities to develop new outdoor education and recreation opportunities.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship, Urban Forestry, Conservation Education

Stakeholders: BLM, Counties and Cities, Idaho Arborist Association, Idaho Department of Education, ICFAC, IDFG, IDL, IDPR, IFPC, IFSAC, Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association, schools, SWIRC&D, USFS, UI Extension

## Boise River Key Strategies include:

**Goals 1 & 4: Inventory and Analysis & Treatments** – Develop and implement cross-ownership efforts to improve landscape scale stand treatments to restore low elevation pine habitats, manage insect and disease, implement State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy actions, and inventory and mitigate invasive species, especially in high use areas along Mores Creek and the Payette River watersheds.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, conservation organizations, homeowner associations, IDFG, IDL, IFSAC, private landowners, SWIRC&D, USFS, UI, WBUP, and others

**\*\* Goal 2: Inventory & Analysis and Planning** – The air quality in the Treasure Valley is at risk of going non-attainment for ozone and particulates. Use existing analysis tools to better understand and utilize tree canopy to help mitigate air pollutants as one of many tools used to keep air quality above Federal standards. Agencies, county and urban planners, and other partners develop baseline data and model future potential benefits of canopy to air and water quality, stormwater runoff, and energy conservation.

S&PF Programs: Urban Forestry

Stakeholders: Ada County and Canyon Counties, Boise State University, highway districts, IDEQ, ICFAC, Idaho Power, Treasure Valley cities, SWIRC&D, UI, WBUP, and others

**\*\* Goal 2: Treatments** – Canopy goals determined in assessment are used to support increases in canopy to improve air quality and address other urban issues. Develop and support community forest management programs in Treasure Valley cities.

S&PF Programs: Urban Forestry, Forest Health

Stakeholders: Ada and Canyon Counties, highway districts, Idaho Arborist Association, IDEQ, ICFAC, Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association, Idaho Power, Treasure Valley cities, SWIRC&D, WBUP, and others

**Goal 2 and 4: Education and Access** – Utilize partnerships to develop and implement an educational plan to resolve conflicts between motorized recreation and wildlife and biodiversity and forest health benefits. Work collaboratively to minimize conflicts with motorized use and wildlife, water, and spread of invasive weeds. Priority areas include Mores Creek and the Payette River. Develop, maintain and improve public access and infrastructure for OHV use.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: BLM, conservation organizations, IDFG, IDL, IDPR, IFPC, IFSAC, recreation user groups, SWIRC&D, USFS, UI Extension, and others

**Goal 5: Marketing & Treatments** – Increase potential for forest products markets, including woody biomass, and the ability of landowners to remove material for these markets. Develop forest plantations for treated wastewater application, biomass and products.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, USFS, IDL, IDC, IFPC, Idaho Office of Energy Resources, IFOA, IFA, IFOA, IFSAC, PFC, Sage Community Resources, WBUP, and others

**N Goals 1, 2 & 4: Treatments** – Future predicted growth pressure is high throughout the Treasure Valley. Manage urban tree canopy in these communities to increase community forest health. Utilize resilient species adapted for the site conditions and predicted changes in climate and which use resource wisely. Focus on increasing canopy over impervious surfaces and near buildings for energy conservation.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Urban and Community Forestry

Stakeholders: Cities, ICFAC, SWIRC&D, USFS, Utilities

## Boise River Key Strategies include:

**N Goal 3: Forest Conservation Incentives** – A number of areas in this PLA have been identified as high value for conservation. Of highest priority is the Lucky Peak Area.

S&PF Programs: Forest Legacy

Stakeholders: Ada and Elmore County, BLM, IDFG, Inland Northwest Land Trust, USFS, IDL, IFSAC, NRCS, private landowners, RMEF, SWIRC&D, TNC, TPL, Vital Ground Foundation, and others

\*\* – Strategies where at least 75% of those rating strategies for this PLA rated them as High or Moderate Priority  
N – Identifies new strategies that were not included in the first draft of this document

### Acronyms Used:

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IDFG – Idaho Dept of Fish and Game	SWIRC&D – Southwest Idaho Resource Conservation and Development Council
IDL – Idaho Dept. of Lands	TNC – The Nature Conservancy
IDPR – Idaho Dept of Parks and Recreation	TPL – Trust for Public Lands
IFSAC – Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee	UI – University of Idaho
ISFPWG – Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group	USFS – US Forest Service
IFA – Intermountain Forest Association	WBUP – Woody Biomass Utilization Partnership
IFOA – Idaho Forest Owners Association	WUI – Wildland-Urban Interface

## Boise River PLA Existing Plans and Resource Groups

### Existing Plans

Boise National Forest Plan • Boise Wildlife Conservation Areas Strategy • Treasure Valley Cities' Urban Forest Plans • Treasure Valley Air Quality Improvement Plan • County Wildfire Protection Plans

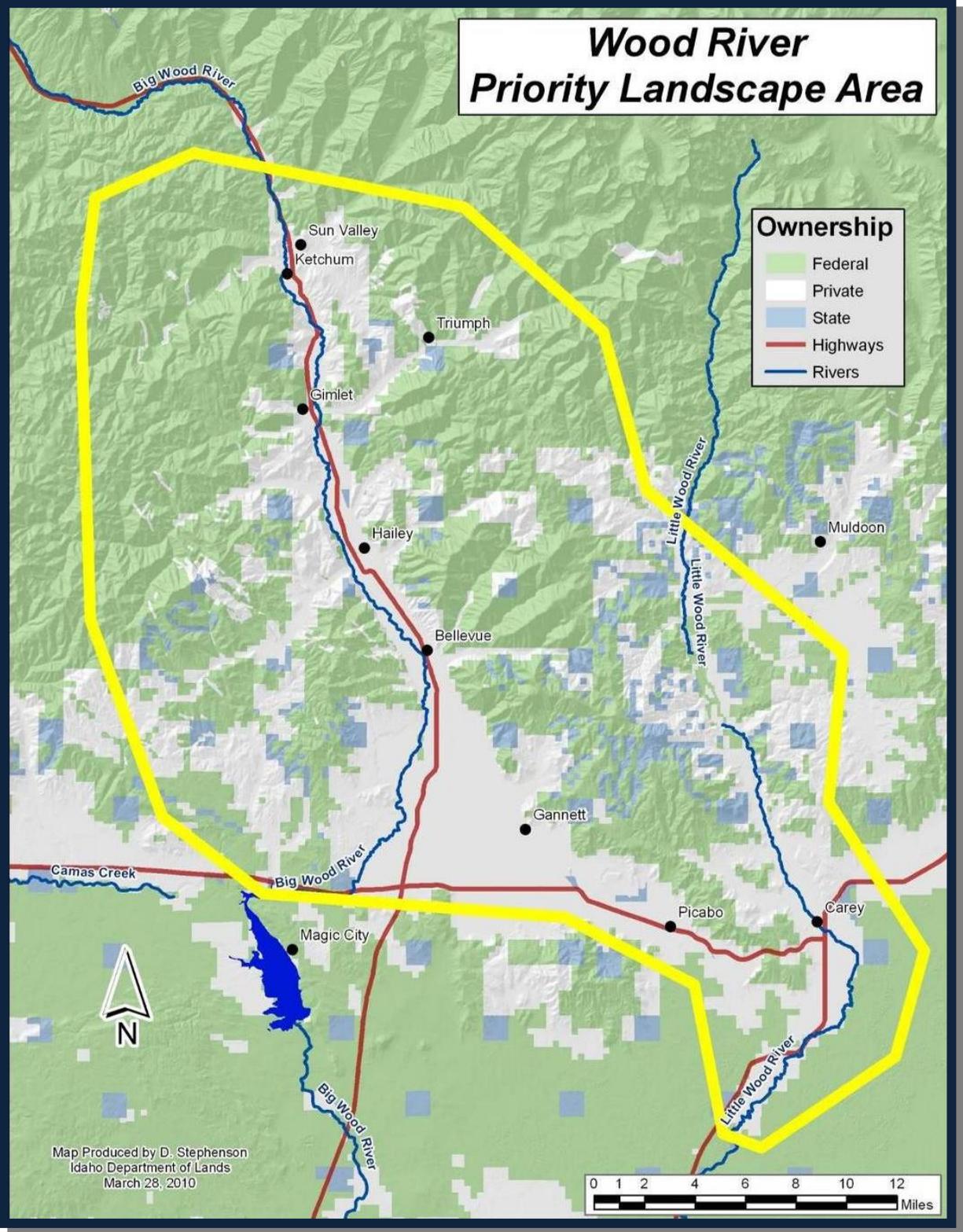
### Resource Groups

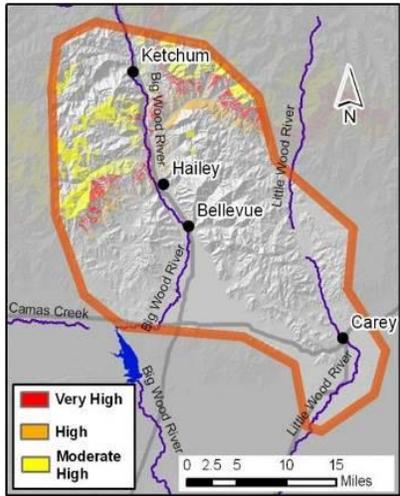
Southwest Idaho Resource Conservation and Development Council • Woody Biomass Utilization Partnership • Boise County • County Wildfire Working Groups • Watershed Advisory Groups • Soil & Water Conservation Districts

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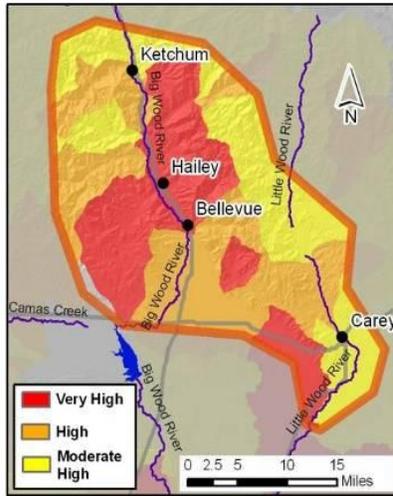
# Wood River Priority Landscape Area

The Wood River PLA encompasses Sun Valley to the north, US Highway 20 to the south, the east slopes of the Smoky Mountains in the west, and the Little Wood River Valley to the east, and significant parts of the Big and Little Wood Rivers. Primary population centers include the cities of Ketchum, Hailey, and Bellevue.

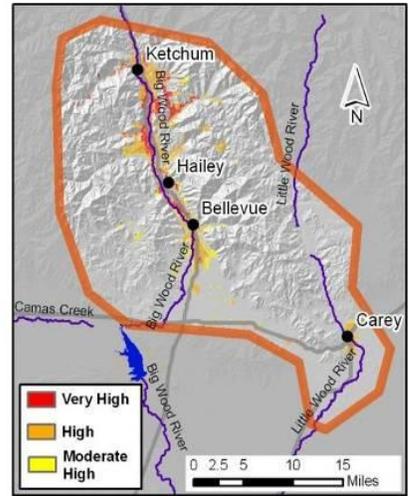




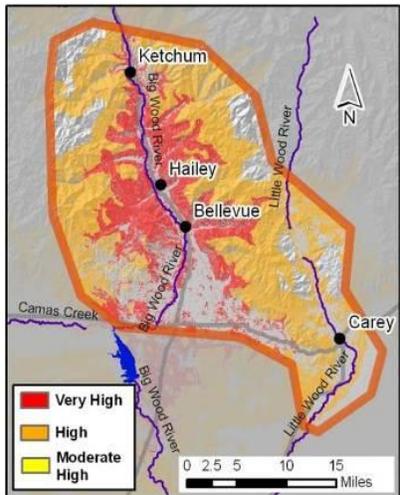
**Forest Health**



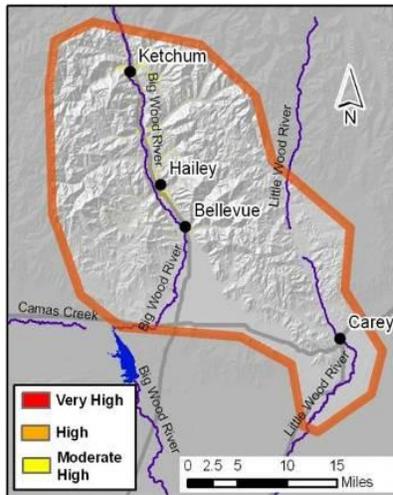
**Uncharacteristic Wildfire**



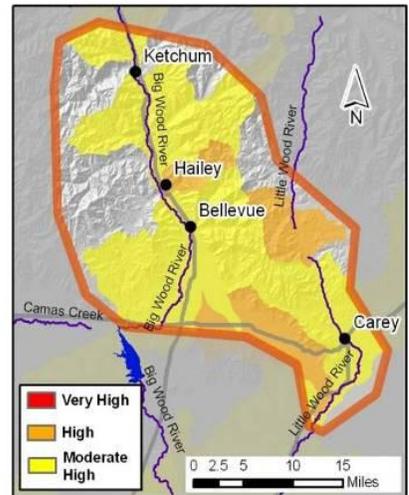
**Development/Recreation Pressure**



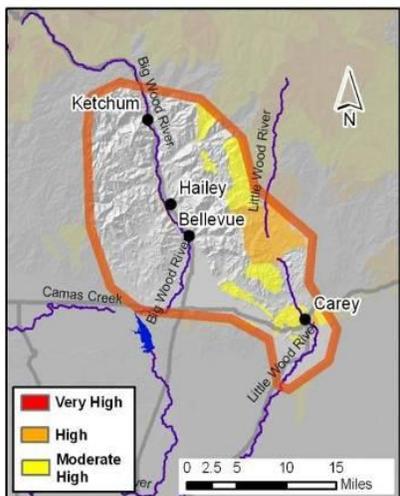
**Forest-base Wood Products Markets**



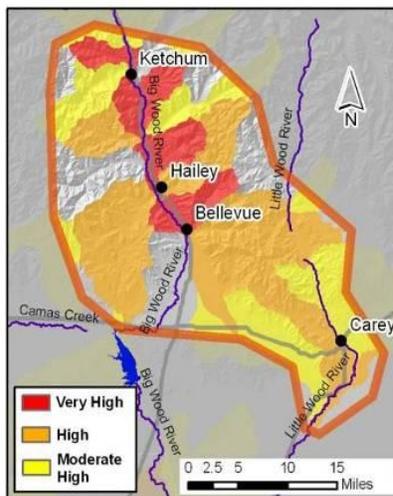
**Air Quality**



**Water Quality/Quantity**



**Wildlife/Biodiversity**



**FINAL MAP -- ALL ISSUES**

**Wood River  
Priority Landscape Area**

## Summary of Threats and Benefits

Several forest resource issues were identified by the Resource Assessment process. The following is a summary of the key threats and benefits in the Wood River PLA.

### Potential Threats to Forest Resources:

- Substantial areas with high and moderate-high risk to **uncharacteristic wildfire**
- Some areas with moderate-high **forest health** threats, primarily mountain pine beetle, Douglas-fir tussock moth, and potential for impacts from climate change
- High and very-high potential **loss of forests/canopy from development** along Highway 75 and near Bellevue, Hailey, and Ketchum

### Potential Benefits to Forest Resources:

- Some areas of high and moderate-high potential benefit to **biodiversity and wildlife**, especially in the big game/CWCS Focal Areas and The Nature Conservancy “High Priority Areas” mostly along the Little Wood River
- Substantial areas with high and moderate-high relative benefit for **sustainable forest-based markets**

## Priority Strategies for the Wood River PLA

Based on the results of the Resource Assessment and stakeholder input, the following is a list of the key strategies to protect and improve forest resources in the Wood River PLA.

### Wood River Key Strategies include:

**\*\* Goal 1: Inventory & Analysis and Treatments** – Build upon the Ketchum Ranger District’s watershed management plan for the Little Wood River area. Encourage and help facilitate development of a collaborative group to plan and implement restoration projects for the Little Wood River. Collect information and conduct analysis to improve the understanding of the mortality associated with insect and disease and wildfire risk over time.

Develop landscape scale treatments to improve overall forest health by focusing on insect and disease management.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, IDL, IFSAC, private landowners, USFS, UI, Wood River RC&D

**\*\* Goal 1: Treatments** – CWWGs continue to plan and implement CWPP priorities including hazardous fuel reduction and preparation work, especially in the Bellevue through Hailey and Sun Valley areas. Support local fire department training and capacity.

S&PF Programs: State Fire Assistance, Volunteer Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, Blaine County, BLM, IDL, ISFPWG, private landowners, USFS

**Goal 2: Inventory and Analysis** – ISFPWG and USFS ecologists develop improved mapping and analysis of relationship between insect and disease tree mortality and wildfire risk over time.

S&PF Programs: State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: BLM, IDL, ISFPWG, USFS, UI

**\*\* Goal 3: Inventory & Analysis** – Agencies and county and urban planners work to maintain and increase forest canopy to protect groundwater, surface water, and air quality. The Little Wood River and communities are priority areas.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, Urban Forestry

Stakeholders: Blaine County BLM, Cities (Bellevue, Hailey, Ketchum), ICFAC, IDL, IFSAC, private landowners, USFS, UI

## Wood River Key Strategies include:

**N Goal 3: Forest Conservation** – Work with the Wood River Land Trust to identify key forest tracts for acquisition and conservation. Focus on the Upper Little Wood Project in the Big Wood Watershed and the Liberal-Willow Project in the Big Wood/Upper South Fork Boise Watersheds.

S&PF Programs: Forest Legacy

Stakeholders: BLM, IDL, IFSAC, private landowners, RMEF, Southern Pioneers Alliance, TNC, USFS, Wood River Land Trust

**Goal 2 & 4: Inventory & Analysis, and Planning** – Identify conflict areas between motorized recreation and wildlife and biodiversity and forest health benefits. Work collaboratively to minimize conflicts with motorized use and wildlife, water, and spread of invasive weeds.

Agencies work with communities and schools to develop new outdoor education and recreation opportunities.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: BLM, CWMA, IDL, IDPR, IFSAC, private landowners, NRCS, recreation user groups, USFS, UI, Wood River RC&D

**Goal 3: Inventory and Analysis** – USFS work with USFWS, IDFG, and partners to complete and implement the comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy under development by the Boise, Payette, and Sawtooth National Forests.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: IDFG, IFSAC, ISFPWG, Private Landowners, RMEF, USFS, USFWS, UI

**Goal 5: Marketing** – Agencies and landowners work with State biomass and forest products groups to increase wood products markets, infrastructure, and ability of landowners to remove material for these markets.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, ID Dept. of Commerce, IDL, IFPC, IFOA, IFSAC, IFA, private landowners, USFS,

**N Goal 2: Access** – Develop, maintain and improve public access and infrastructure (roads and trails) for economic activities and recreation opportunities including OHV recreation.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: BLM, Blaine County, Cities, IDL, IDPR, ITD, private landowners, and USFS

**N Goals 1, 2 & 4: Treatments** – Future predicted growth pressure is high in communities between Bellevue and Ketchum. Manage urban tree canopy in these communities to increase community forest health. Utilize resilient species adapted for the site conditions and predicted changes in climate and which use resource wisely. Focus on increasing canopy over impervious surfaces and near buildings for energy conservation.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Urban and Community Forestry

Stakeholders: Cities, ICFAC, USFS, Utilities, Wood River RC&D and others

\*\* – Strategies where at least 75% of those rating strategies for this PLA rated them as High or Moderate Priority

N – Identifies new strategies that were not included in the first draft of this document

**Acronyms Used:**

ALC – Associated Logging Contractors	IFPC – Idaho Forest Products Commission
BLM – Bureau of Land Management	IFSAC – Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee
CWMA – Cooperative Weed Management Area	NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Service
CWPPs – County Wildfire Protection Plans	OHV – Off Highway Vehicle
CWWGs – County Wildfire Working Groups	PLT – Project Learning Tree
ICFAC – Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council	RC&D – Resource Conservation and Development Council
IDC – Idaho Dept of Commerce	RMEF – Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
IDFG – Idaho Dept of Fish and Game	TNC – The Nature Conservancy
IDL – Idaho Dept. of Lands	UI – University of Idaho
IDPR – Idaho Dept of Parks and Recreation	USFS – US Forest Service
ISFPWG – Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group	USFWS – US Fish and Wildlife Service
IFA – Intermountain Forest Association	
IFOA – Idaho Forest Owners Association	

**Wood River PLA Existing Plans and Resource Groups****Existing Plans**

Little Wood Watershed Management Plan • Wood River Land Trust Plans • Sawtooth National Forest Plan • Sawtooth Wildlife Conservation Areas Strategy • Urban Forestry Plans (Ketchum and Hailey) • Sawtooth Vision 20/20 • County Wildfire Protection Plans

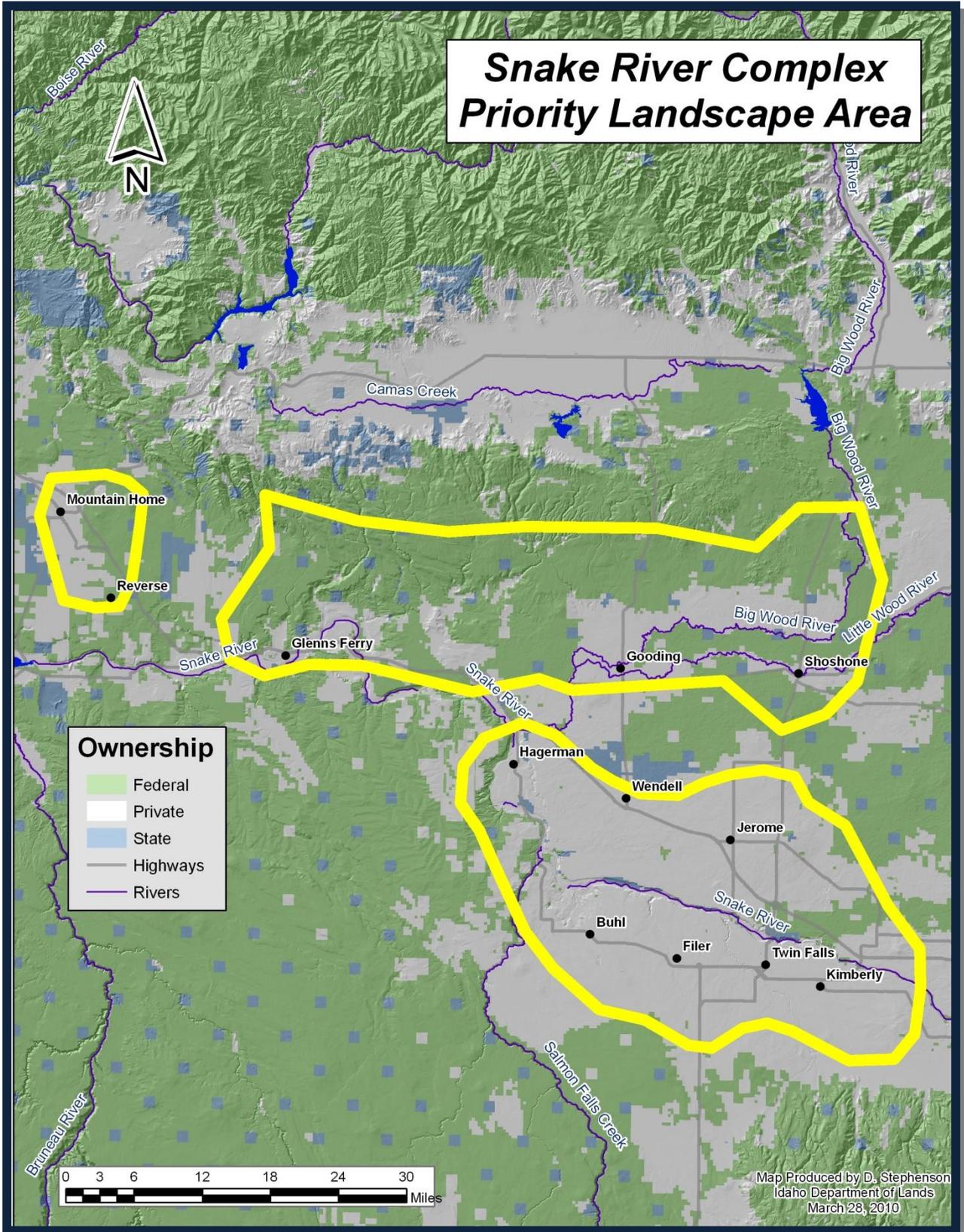
**Resource Groups**

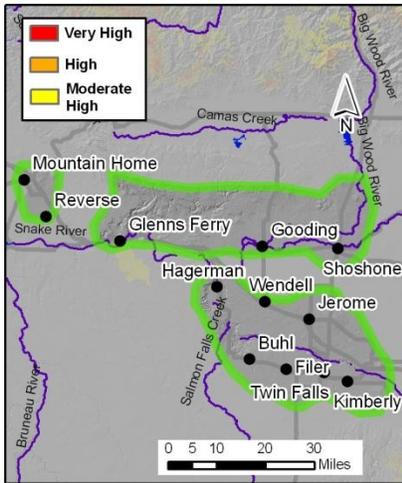
Wood River Resource Conservation and Development Council • Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation • County Wildfire Working Groups • Watershed Advisory Groups • Soil & Water Conservation Districts

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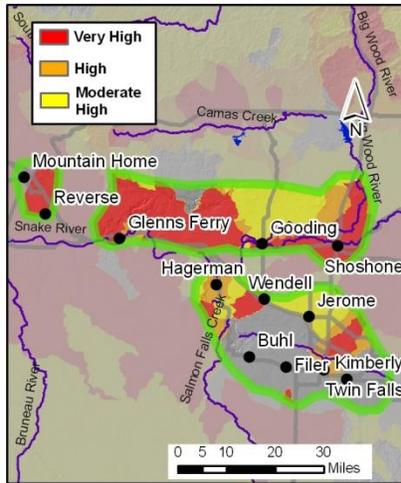
# Snake River Complex Priority Landscape Area

The Snake River PLA encompasses the urban areas along the Snake River in central Idaho including Mountain Home, Gooding, Glens Ferry, Jerome and Twin Falls.

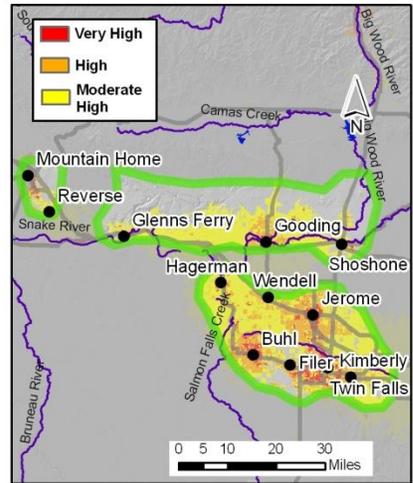




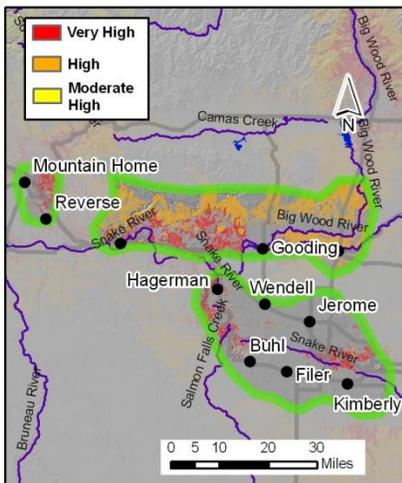
**Forest Health**



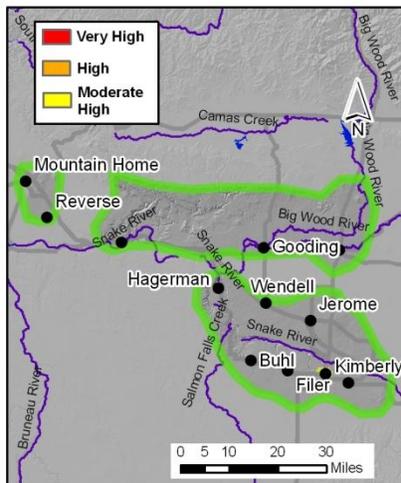
**Uncharacteristic Wildfire**



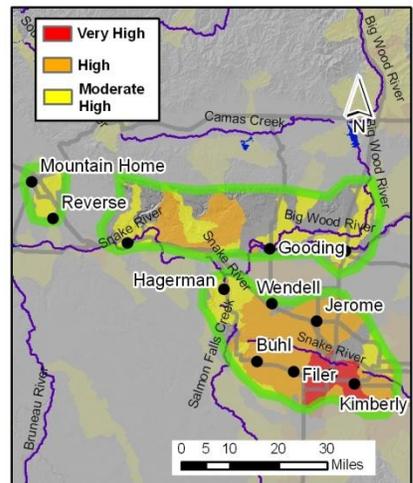
**Development/Recreation Pressure**



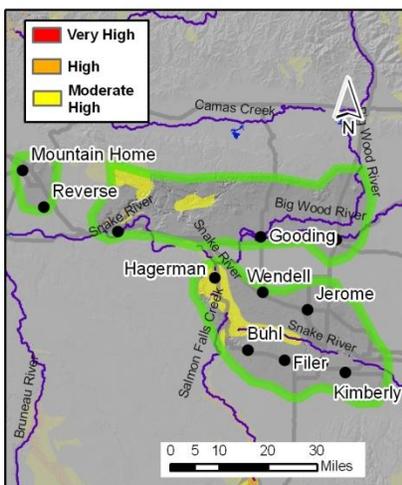
**Forest-base Wood Products Markets**



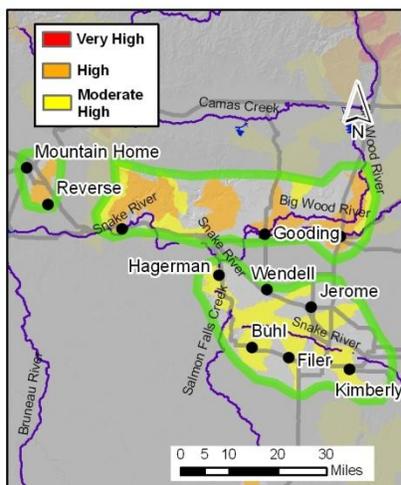
**Air Quality**



**Water Quality/Quantity**



**Wildlife/Biodiversity**



**FINAL MAP -- ALL ISSUES**

**Snake River Complex  
Priority Landscape Areas**

## Summary of Threats and Benefits

Several forest resource issues were identified by the Resource Assessment process. The following is a summary of the key threats and benefits in the Snake River Complex PLA.

### **Potential Threats to Forest Resources:**

- Substantial areas with high and very high risk to **uncharacteristic wildfire** (all within the WUI areas)
- Pockets of high to very high potential **loss of forests/canopy from development**, especially in the Mountain Home, Glenn's Ferry, Gooding, Shoshone, Jerome, and Twin Falls areas

### **Potential Benefits to Forest Resources**

- Pockets of areas with high benefit to **water quality and quantity**, especially in Twin Falls
- Pockets of areas with high and very-high relative benefit for sustainable **forest-based markets** for biomass
- Significant areas with moderate-high potential benefit to **air quality** in Twin Falls
- Areas with moderate-high to high benefit for **wildlife**, mostly big game focal areas and The Nature Conservancy "Priority Area" and the South Fork of Boise River and some areas near the Snake River

## Priority Strategies for the Snake River Complex PLA

Based on the results of the Resource Assessment and stakeholder input, the following is a list of the key strategies to protect and improve forest resources in the Snake River Complex PLA.

### **Snake River Complex Key Strategies include:**

**Goal 1: Treatments** – CWWGs continue to plan and implement CWPP priorities including hazardous fuel reduction and preparation work in WUI areas. Support local fire department training and capacity.

Develop landscape scale treatments to improve overall forest health by focusing on insect and disease management.

S&PF Programs: State Fire Assistance, Volunteer Fire Assistance, Forest Health, Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, Counties (Elmore, Lincoln and Twin Falls), CWWGs, IFSAC, ISFPWG, private landowners, USFS

**\*\* Goals 2 & 4: Treatments**– Along the Snake River Plain, the predominant forests are within communities and their effect on water quality and energy conservation is significant. Future predicted growth pressure is very high. Within existing communities and new growth area, focus on increasing canopy over impervious surfaces and near buildings for energy conservation. Develop community forest management programs in cities along the Snake River and manage to promote forest health and other ecosystems services as well as public access and education.

S&PF Programs: Urban Forestry, Forest Health

Stakeholders: Cities, College of Southern Idaho, ICFAC, Idaho Power, Mid Snake RC&D, USFS, UI, and others

**\*\* Goal 1: Education** – Develop educational and outreach components to engage people in a better understanding and appreciation of the natural world and healthy forest practices. Work with schools and communities to develop new outdoor education and recreation opportunities.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship, Urban Forestry, Conservation Education

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, Cities, Counties, Idaho Department of Education, ICFAC, IDFG, IDL, IFPC, IDPR, IFSAC, Mid Snake RC&D, PLT, Schools, USFS, UI Extension

## Snake River Complex Key Strategies include:

**Goal 2 and 4: Education and Access** – There is significant recreational pressure originating from this area, leading to conflicts between motorized use and wildlife, water, and spread of invasive weeds, especially in riparian areas. Work collaboratively to deliver education programs that address these conflicts. Develop, maintain and improve public access and infrastructure (roads and trails) for economic activities and recreation opportunities including OHV recreation.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship, Forest Legacy

Stakeholders: BLM, conservation organizations, IDFG, IDL, IDPR, IFPC, IFSAC, recreation user groups, USFS, UI Extension, and others

\*\* – Strategies where at least 75% of those rating strategies for this PLA rated them as High or Moderate Priority  
N – Identifies new strategies that were not included in the first draft of this document

### Acronyms Used:

ALC – Associated Logging Contractors	IFPC – Idaho Forest Products Commission
BLM – Bureau of Land Management	IFSAC – Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee
CWMA – Cooperative Weed Management Area	NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Service
CWPPs – County Wildfire Protection Plans	OHV – Off Highway Vehicle
CWWGs – County Wildfire Working Groups	PLT – Project Learning Tree
ICFAC – Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council	RC&D – Resource Conservation and Development Council
IDFG – Idaho Dept of Fish and Game	RMEF – Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
IDL – Idaho Dept. of Lands	TNC – The Nature Conservancy
IDC – Idaho Dept of Commerce	UI – University of Idaho
IDPR – Idaho Dept of Parks and Recreation	USFS – US Forest Service
ISFPWG – Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group	USFWS – US Fish and Wildlife Service
IFA – Intermountain Forest Association	WUI – Wildland Urban Interface
IFOA – Idaho Forest Owners Association	

## Snake River Complex PLA Existing Plans and Resource Groups

### Existing Plans

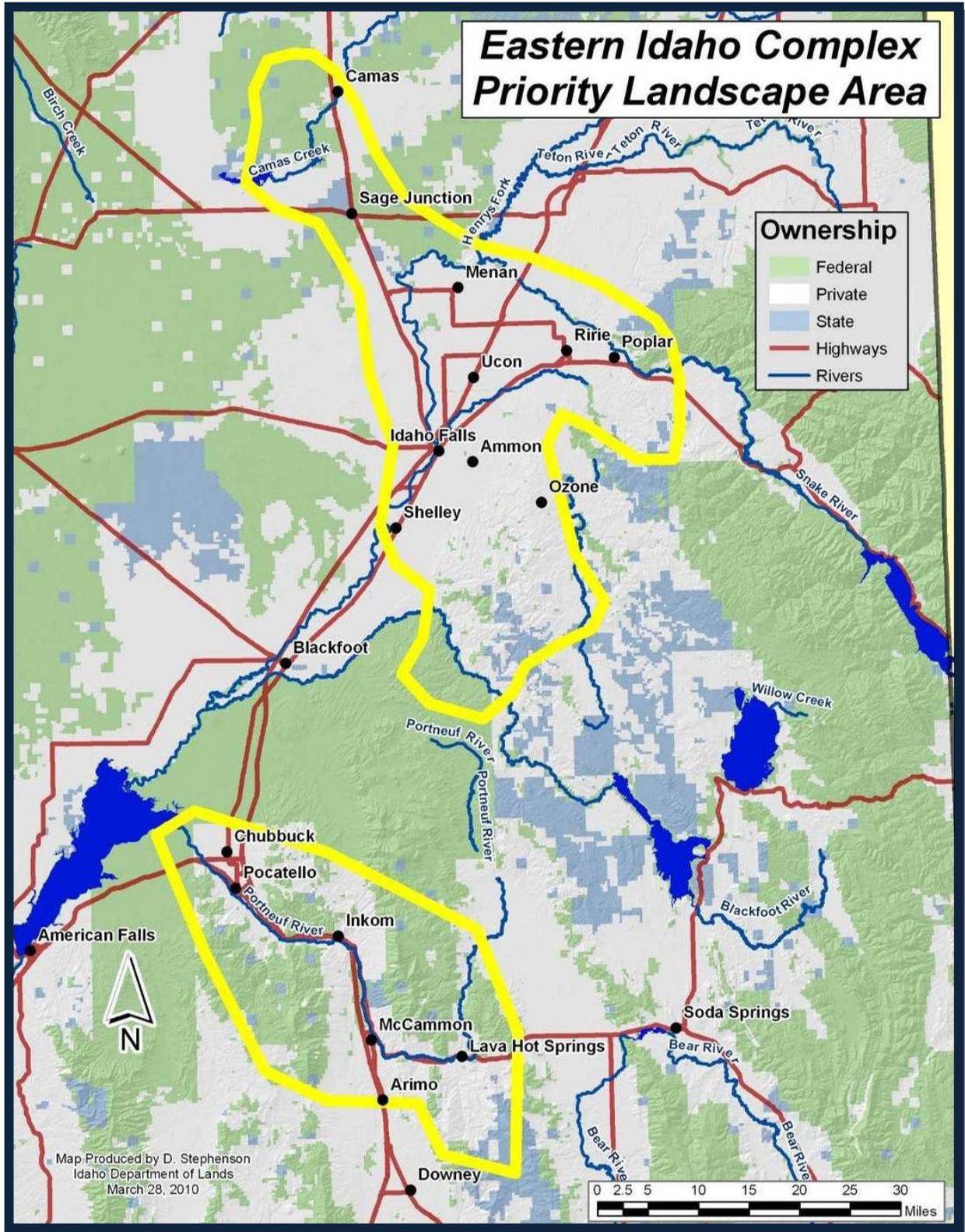
Sawtooth National Forest Plan • Urban Forestry Plans (Mountain Home and Twin Falls) • County Wildfire Protection Plans

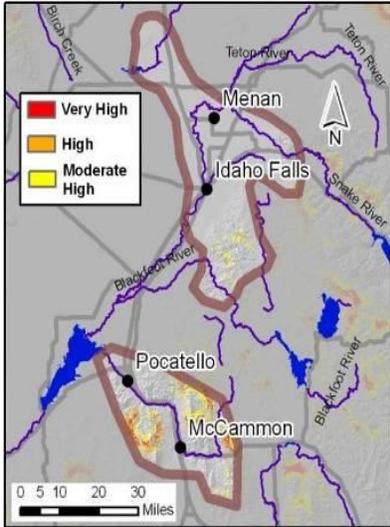
### Resource Groups

Mid-Snake Resource Conservation and Development Council • County Wildfire Working Groups • Watershed Advisory Groups • Soil & Water Conservation Districts

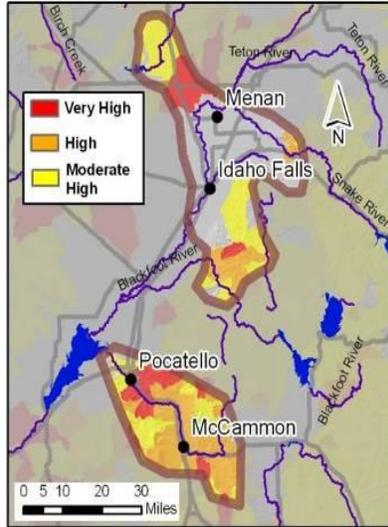
## Eastern Idaho Complex Priority Landscape Area

The Eastern Idaho PLA encompasses primarily the urban areas near and including Idaho Falls and Pocatello.

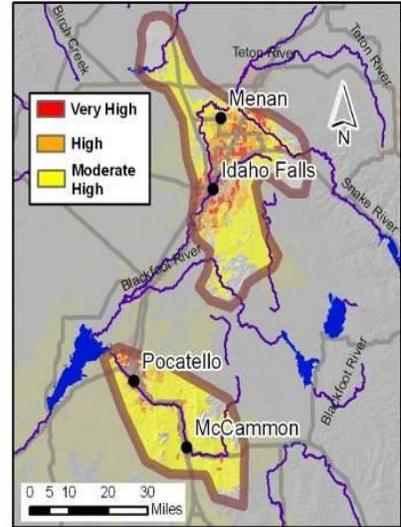




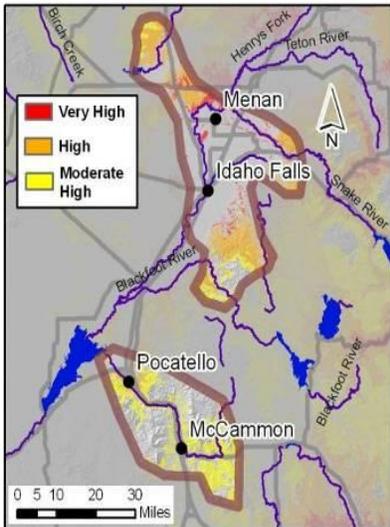
**Forest Health**



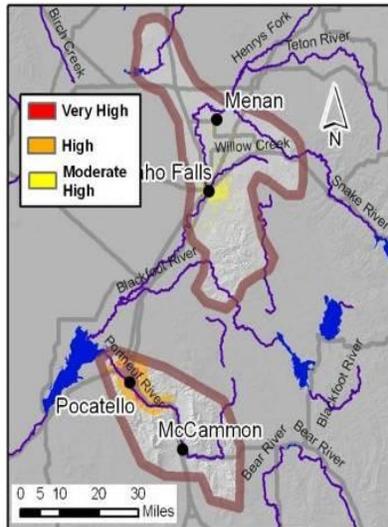
**Uncharacteristic Wildfire**



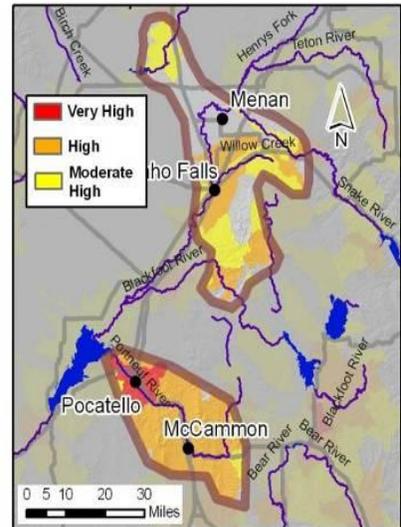
**Development/Recreation Pressure**



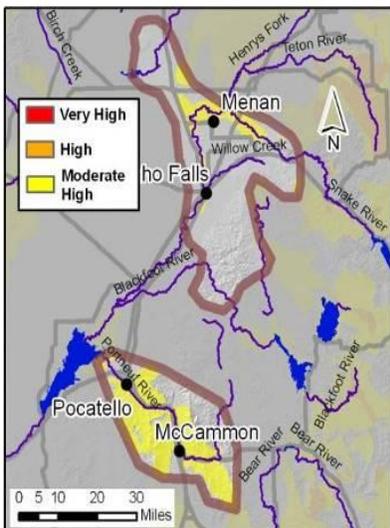
**Forest-base Wood Products Markets**



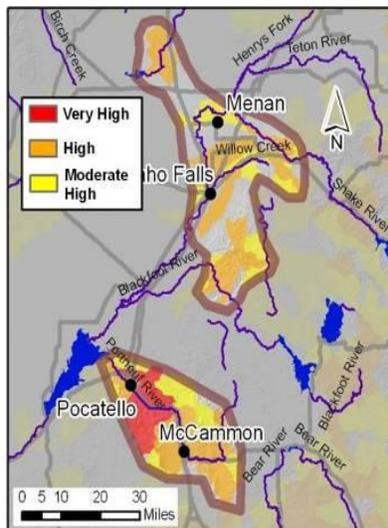
**Air Quality**



**Water Quality/Quantity**



**Wildlife/Biodiversity**



**FINAL MAP -- ALL ISSUES**

**Eastern Idaho Complex  
Priority Landscape Area**

## Summary of Threats and Benefits

Several forest resource issues were identified by the Resource Assessment process. The following is a summary of the key threats and benefits in the Eastern Idaho Complex PLA.

### Potential Threats to Forest Resources:

- Substantial areas with very high and high risk to **uncharacteristic wildfire** (extensive WUI)
- Substantial areas of high and moderate-high potential **loss of forests/canopy from development and recreation**

### Potential Benefits to Forest Resources:

- Some areas with high relative benefit for **sustainable forest-based markets** (scattered)
- Substantial areas of high potential benefit to **water quality/quantity** from forests and canopy, especially in Pocatello and the greater Idaho Falls area
- Some very high and high potential benefit to **air quality** from forests near Pocatello (non-attainment) and moderate high benefit around Idaho Falls

## Priority Strategies for the Eastern Idaho Complex PLA

Based on the results of the Resource Assessment and stakeholder input, the following is a list of the key strategies to protect and improve forest resources in the Eastern Idaho Complex PLA.

### Eastern Idaho Complex Key Strategies include:

**\*\* Goals 1 & 4: Inventory and Analysis & Treatments** – Develop and implement cross-ownership efforts to improve landscape scale stand treatments that reduce mountain pine beetle damage; retain white bark pine, aspen, and cottonwood in drainages; limit conifer encroachment into historic hardwood communities; implement State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan guidance; and inventory and mitigate invasive weeds.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, conservation organizations, CWWGs, homeowner associations, IDFG, IDL, IFSAC, private landowners, Three Rivers and High Country RC&Ds, UI, USFS, and others

**\*\* Goal 1: Treatments** – CWWGs continue to plan and implement CWPP priorities including hazardous fuel reduction and preparation work in WUI areas, especially in Pocatello and Lava Springs). Support local fire department training and capacity.

S&PF Programs: State Fire Assistance, Volunteer Fire Assistance, Forest Health, Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, Bannock County, BLM, CWWGs, IFSAC, ISFPWG, private landowners, USFS

**\*\* Goal 2: Inventory and Analysis** – The population in communities is growing rapidly and the urban areas are expanding. Air quality in and around Pocatello is non-attainment and potential water quality benefits from tree canopy is high in the larger cities and suburbs. An inventory and analysis of canopy benefits will establish baseline data and model future benefits with increases in canopy percentage to help improve air and water quality, reduce stormwater, and conserve energy in these areas.

S&PF Programs: Urban Forestry

Stakeholders: Cities in the greater Idaho Falls and Pocatello areas, Counties (Bannock, Bingham and Bonneville), ICFAC, highway districts, IDEQ, Rocky Mountain Power, Three Rivers and High Country RC&Ds, USFS, UI, and others

## Eastern Idaho Complex Key Strategies include:

**Goal 2: Treatments** – Canopy goals determined in assessment are used to support increases in canopy to improve air quality and other urban issues. Develop community forest management programs in communities and manage forests for forest health. Expand forest health treatments into surrounding rural areas. Focus on increasing canopy over impervious surfaces and near buildings for energy conservation.

S&PF Programs: Urban Forestry, Forest Health, Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: Cities in the greater Idaho Falls and Pocatello areas, Counties (Bannock, Bingham and Bonneville), highway districts, ICFAC, IDEQ, IFSAC, Rocky Mountain Power, Three Rivers and High Country RC&Ds, USFS, UI, and others

**Goal 2: Education** – Educate residents about air quality protection strategies (including use of biomass as a fuel source), the extended benefits of frequent low intensity burning, and forest health measures.

S&PF Programs: Urban Forestry, State Fire Assistance, Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: Cities in the greater Idaho Falls and Pocatello areas, Counties (Bannock, Bingham and Bonneville), ICFAC, IDEQ, IFPC, IFSAC, Rocky Mountain Power, Three Rivers and High Country RC&Ds, USFS, UI Extension, and others

**Goal 2 and 4: Education and Access**– There is significant recreational pressure in this area leading to conflicts between motorized use and wildlife, water, and spread of invasive weeds, especially in riparian areas. Work collaboratively to deliver education programs that address these conflicts. Develop, maintain and improve public access and infrastructure for OHV use.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: BLM, conservation organizations, IDFG, IDL, IDPR, IFPC, IFSAC, USFS, recreation user groups, USFS, UI Extension, and others

**Goal 5: Marketing & Treatments** – Increase potential for forest products markets, including woody biomass, and the ability of landowners to remove material for these markets.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, IDC, Idaho Office of Energy Resources, IDL, IFOA, IFPC, Idaho/Wyoming Biomass Utilization Group, IFA, IFSAC, Three Rivers and High Country RC&Ds, USFS, WSFD

\*\* – Strategies where at least 75% of those rating strategies for this PLA rated them as High or Moderate Priority  
 N – Identifies new strategies that were not included in the first draft of this document

### Acronyms Used:

ALC – Associated Logging Contractors	IFSAC – Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee
BLM – Bureau of Land Management	NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Service
CWMA – Cooperative Weed Management Area	OHV – Off Highway Vehicle
CWPPs – County Wildfire Protection Plans	PLT – Project Learning Tree
CWWGs – County Wildfire Working Groups	RC&D – Resource Conservation and Development Council
ICFAC – Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council	RMEF – Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
IDFG – Idaho Dept of Fish and Game	TNC – The Nature Conservancy
IDL – Idaho Dept. of Lands	UI – University of Idaho
IDC – Idaho Dept of Commerce	USFS – US Forest Service
IDPR – Idaho Dept of Parks and Recreation	USFWS – US Fish and Wildlife Service
ISFPWG – Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group	WSFD – Wyoming State Forestry Division
IFA – Intermountain Forest Association	WUI – Wildland Urban Interface
IFOA – Idaho Forest Owners Association	
IFPC – Idaho Forest Products Commission	

## Eastern Idaho Complex PLA Existing Plans and Resource Groups

### Existing Plans

Willow Creek and Medicine Lodge • Caribou-Targhee National Forest Plan • Urban Forestry Plans (Idaho Falls, Rexburg, Pocatello) • County Wildfire Protection Plans

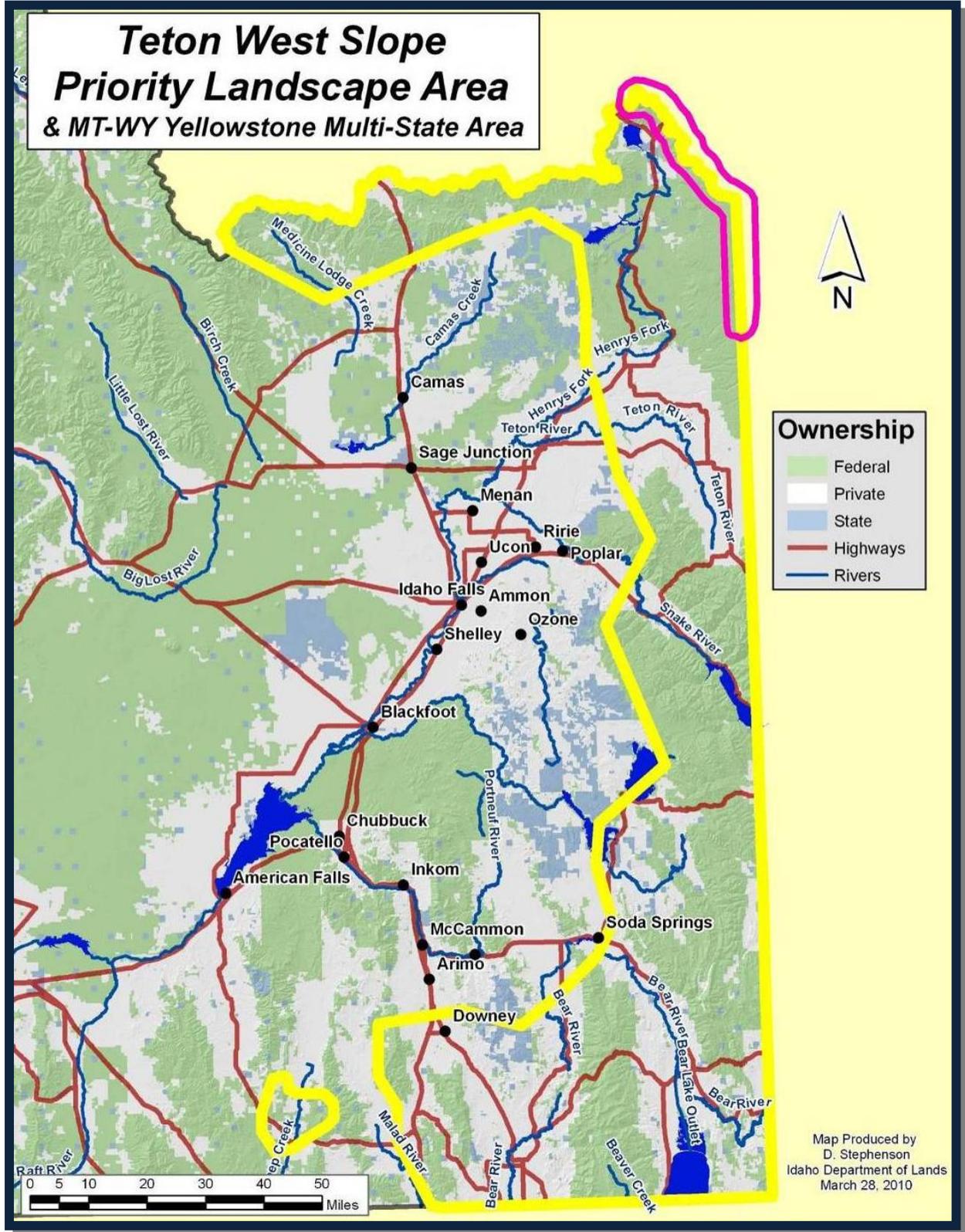
### Eastern Idaho Resource Groups

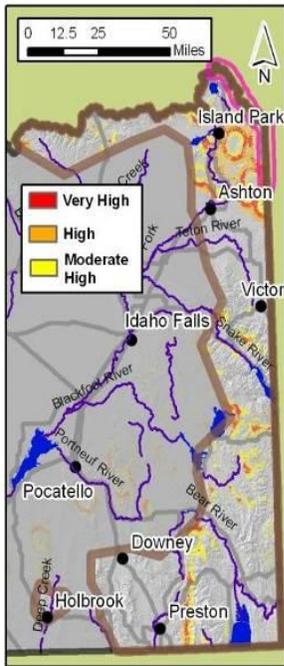
Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council • Portneuf River Watershed Group • County Wildfire Working Groups • Watershed Advisory Groups • Soil & Water Conservation Districts

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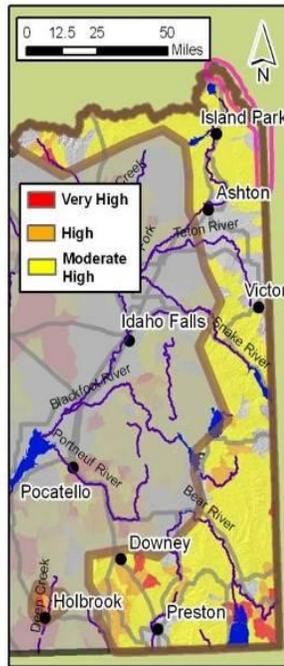
# Teton West Slope Complex Priority Landscape Area & Montana-Wyoming Yellowstone multi-state Area

The Teton West Slope PLA encompasses the area along the Idaho and Wyoming border.

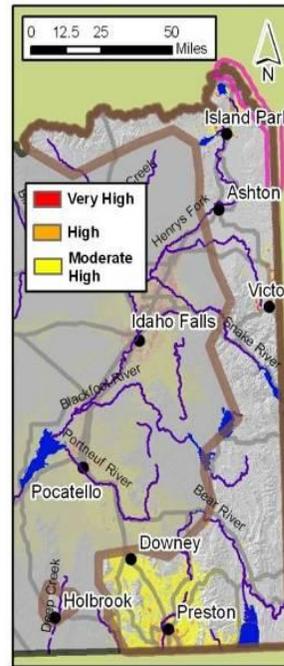




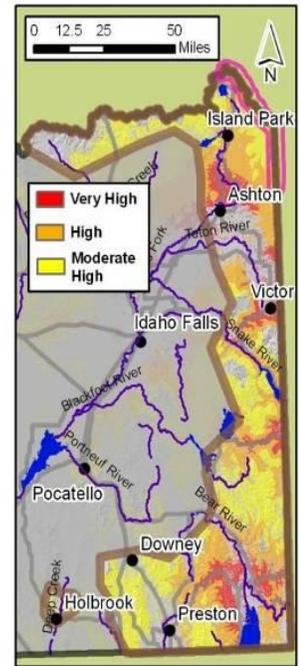
**Forest Health**



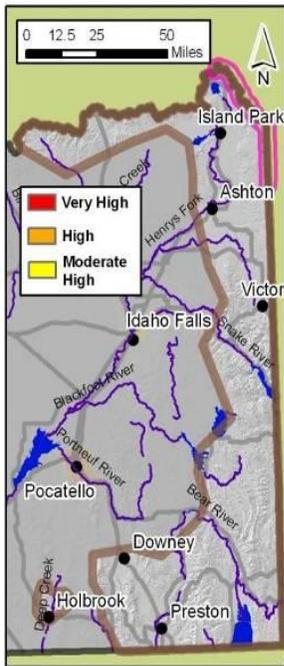
**Uncharacteristic Wildfire**



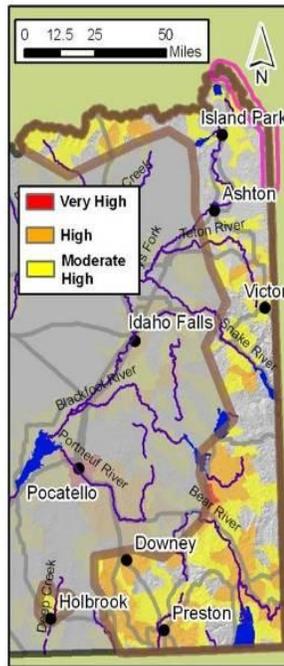
**Development/Recreation Pressure**



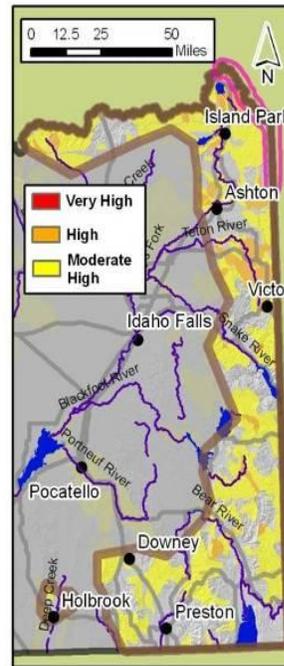
**Forest-base Wood Products Markets**



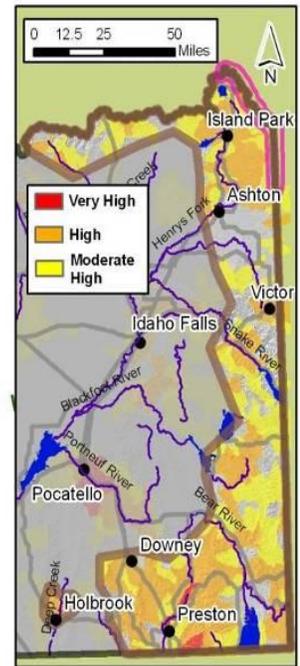
**Air Quality**



**Water Quality/Quantity**



**Wildlife/Biodiversity**



**FINAL MAP -- ALL ISSUES**

**Teton West Slope  
Priority Landscape Area  
& Montana/Wyoming Yellowstone**

## Summary of Threats and Benefits

Several forest resource issues were identified by the Resource Assessment process. The following is a summary of the key threats and benefits in the Teton West Slope PLA and Wyoming/Montana Yellowstone Multi-State Area.

### Potential Threats to Forest Resources:

- Areas of high risk to **forest health**, particularly mountain pine beetle in north portion of Priority Area and along the Bear River
- Pockets of areas with high and moderate-high risk to **uncharacteristic wildfire**, especially in Island Park area, Bear Lake, and Oneida and Cassia Counties
- Significant threat of **loss of forests/canopy from development and recreation** along Utah border and west slope of Tetons, in Island Park area, and along interstate north of Utah

### Potential Benefits to Forest Resources:

- Substantial areas with high and moderate-high relative benefit for **sustainable forest-based markets**, especially north and south ends of Priority Area
- Potential benefits for **air quality** in Franklin County
- Areas of moderate-high potential benefit to **water quality/quantity** from forests
- **Wildlife/ecosystem** benefits along border w/Yellowstone and Montana (big game focal areas)
- Shared concerns with Wyoming

## Priority Strategies for the Teton West Slope PLA & Wyoming/Montana Yellowstone Multi-State Area

Based on the results of the Resource Assessment and stakeholder input, the following is a list of the key strategies to protect and improve forest resources in the Teton West Slope PLA.

### Teton West Slope & Adjacent Multi-State Area Key Strategies include:

**\*\* Goal 1: Treatments** – Restore white bark pine, aspen, and cottonwood populations in the Continental Divide area, McCoy Creek, Blackfoot River, Willow Creek, and Harriman State Park.

Develop landscape scale treatments to improve overall forest health by focusing on insect and disease management—specifically mountain pine beetle, Douglas-fir beetle, and western spruce budworm.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, Bear River and High Country RC&Ds, BLM, IDFG, IFSAC MDNRC, NRCS, private landowners, USFS, WSFD, and others

**Goal 1: Treatments** – CWWGs continue to plan and implement CWPP priorities including hazardous fuel reduction and preparation, especially in Bannock County, Island Park, Henry’s Lake, Shotgun Valley, Bear Lake, and Oneida County.

S&PF Programs: State Fire Assistance, Volunteer Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, Bear River and High Country RC&Ds, BLM, Counties (Bannock, Bonneville Fremont, Oneida, Teton,), CWWGs, IDL, ISFPWG, MDNRC, private landowners, USFS, and WSDF

**Goal 1: Treatments & Managed Fire** – Work with counties and communities through the CWWGs to design and implement prescribed burning and mechanical treatments across ownerships in WUI areas. Key areas include Palisade’s Reservoir, Henry’s Lake, and Island Park.

S&PF Programs: State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, Bear River and High Country RC&Ds, BLM, Counties (Bannock, Bonneville Fremont, Oneida, Teton,), CWWGs, IDL, ISFPWG, MDNRC, private landowners, USFS, and WSDF

## Teton West Slope & Adjacent Multi-State Area Key Strategies include:

**\*\* Goal 2: Treatments** – Support stream restoration in the Teton area and fisheries restoration in Island Park, Henry’s Fork, Henry’s Lake, and South Fork of the Snake River. Support protection of grizzly bear habitat and other wildlife habitats along Wyoming and Montana borders near Yellowstone.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, IDL, IDFG, IFSAC private landowners, USFS, USFWS,

**\*\* Goals 2 and 4: Inventory & Analysis, Planning and Treatments** – Agencies, county and urban planners work to maintain and increase forest canopy to protect groundwater, surface water, and air quality. Manage development pressure, especially on west slope of Tetons, Island Park area, and along Interstate corridor north of Utah. Develop and enhance forest management capacity in communities.

S&PF Programs: Urban Forestry, Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, Bear River and High Country RC&Ds, BLM, Cities, Counties (Fremont, Teton, Bonneville, Bannock), ICFAC, IDEQ, IDFG, IFSAC, IDWR, MDNRC, private landowners, USFS, UI, and WSFD

**Goal 3: Forest Conservation Incentives** – Support groups working collaboratively across ownerships in the Henry’s Fork Legacy Project. This includes identifying and securing land parcels through conservation easements in the Teton West Slope area from St. Anthony north to the Idaho-Montana line. The focus of this effort is maintaining wildlife migration corridors, open spaces, and working ranches.

S&PF Programs: Forest Legacy

Stakeholders: BLM, IDFG, IDL, IFSAC, land trusts, MDNRC, private landowners, USFS, and WSFD

**Goal 4: Inventory & Analysis and Treatments** – CWMAs and other groups work collaboratively across ownerships to inventory and treat invasive species and implement mitigation measures to prevent spread. Special initiatives include the “Holding the Line” project aimed at preventing invasive species from moving from Idaho into Yellowstone National Park and nearby areas of Montana and Wyoming.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: Bear River and High Country RC&Ds, BLM, Counties (Bannock, Bonneville, Fremont, Teton), Henry’s Fork CWMA, IFSAC, MDNRC, private landowners, USFS, UI, WSFD, and others

**\*\* Goals 2 & 4: Planning and Inventory & Analysis** – Plan use and resolve conflicts between motorized recreation and wildlife and biodiversity and forest health benefits. Work collaboratively to minimize conflicts with motorized use and wildlife, water, and spread of invasive weeds.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, IFSAC, MDNRC, private landowners, recreation groups, USFS, WSFD, and others

**Goal 5: Marketing & Treatments** – Agencies and landowners work with local woody biomass working group and state biomass and forest products groups to increase wood product markets, infrastructure, and ability of landowners to remove material for these markets.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, Bear River and High Country RC&Ds, BLM, Counties (Bannock, Bonneville, Fremont, Teton), economic development agencies, IDC, IFPC, IFOA, IFSAC, ISFPWG, Idaho Office of Energy Resources, Idaho/Wyoming Biomass Utilization Group, IFA, MDNRC, private landowners, USFS, WSFD

**\*\* – Strategies where at least 75% of those rating strategies for this PLA rated them as High or Moderate Priority**

**N – Identifies new strategies that were not included in the first draft of this document**

**Acronyms Used:**

ALC – Associated Logging Contractors	IFOA – Idaho Forest Owners Association
BLM – Bureau of Land Management	IFPC – Idaho Forest Products Commission
CWMA – Cooperative Weed Management Area	IFSAC – Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee
CWPPs – County Wildfire Protection Plans	MDNRC – Montana Dept of Natural Resources and Conservation
CWWGs – County Wildfire Working Groups	NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Service
ICFAC – Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council	RC&D – Resource Conservation and Development Council
IDFG – Idaho Dept of Fish and Game	UI – University of Idaho
IDL – Idaho Dept. of Lands	USFS – US Forest Service
IDC – Idaho Dept of Commerce	USFWS – US Fish and Wildlife Service
IDPR – Idaho Dept of Parks and Recreation	WSFD – Wyoming State Forestry Division
IDWR – Idaho Dept of Water Resources	WUI – Wildland Urban Interface
ISFPWG – Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group	
IFA – Intermountain Forest Association	

**Teton – West Slope PLA Existing Plans and Resource Groups****Existing plans**

Caribou-Targhee National Forest Plan • BLM Upper Snake Resource Management Plan • US Bureau of Reclamation Teton Canyon Resource Management Plan • County Wildfire Protection Plans

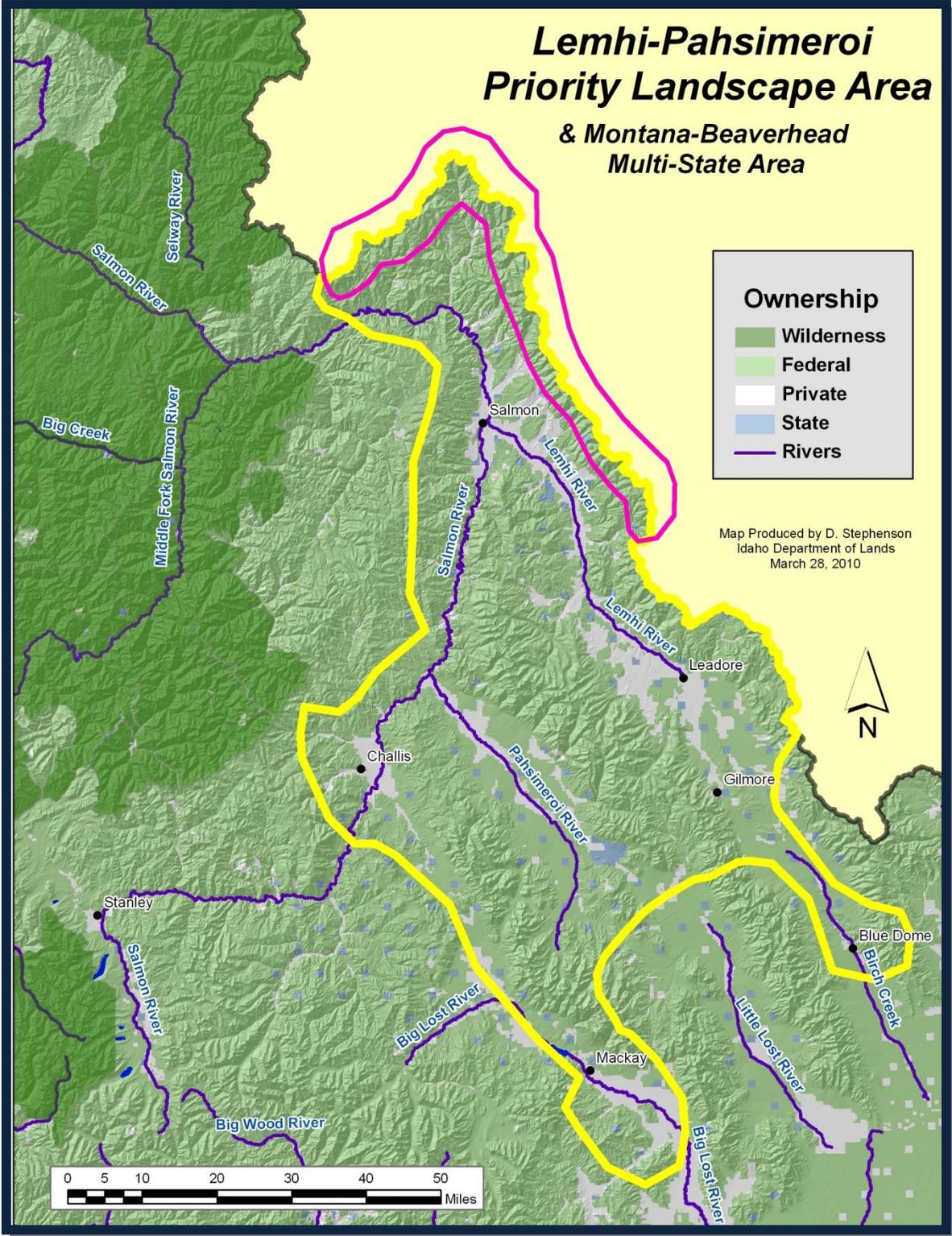
**Resource Groups**

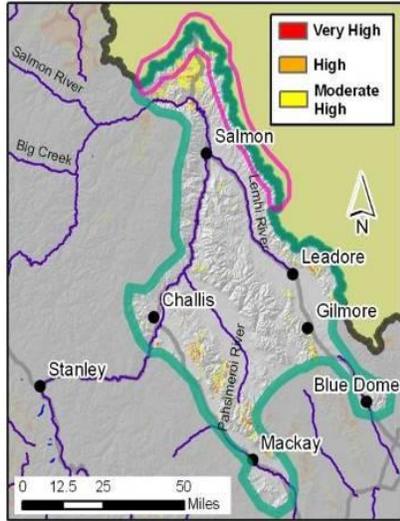
Henry’s Fork Cooperative Weed Management Area • Henry’s Fork Watershed Council • County Wildfire Working Groups • Watershed Advisory Groups • Soil & Water Conservation Districts

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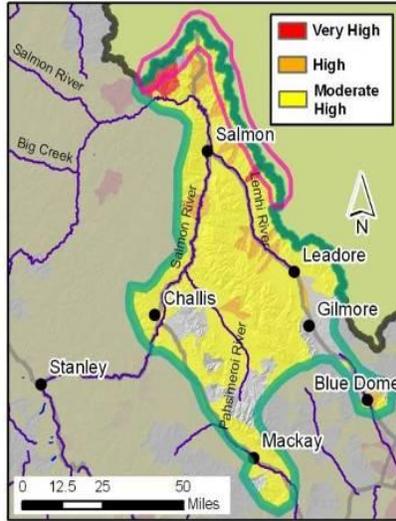
## Lemhi-Pahsimeroi Priority Landscape Area & Montana Beaverhead Multi-State Area

The Lemhi - Pahsimeroi PLA encompasses a large section of the Salmon River drainage as well as the Lemhi and Pahsimeroi Rivers. The primary population centers are Salmon, Challis and Mackay.

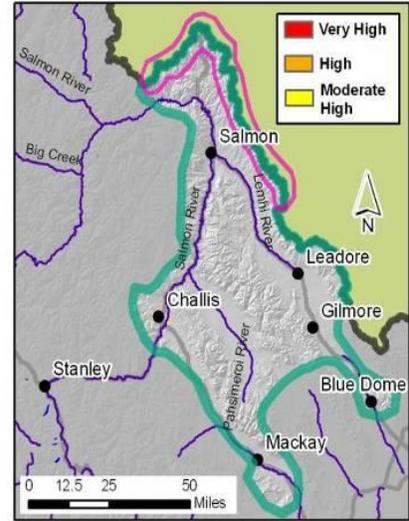




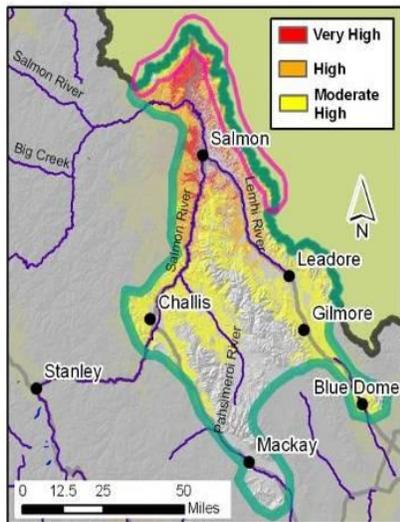
**Forest Health**



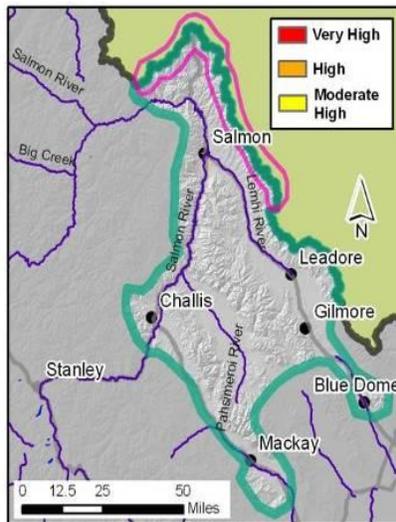
**Uncharacteristic Wildfire**



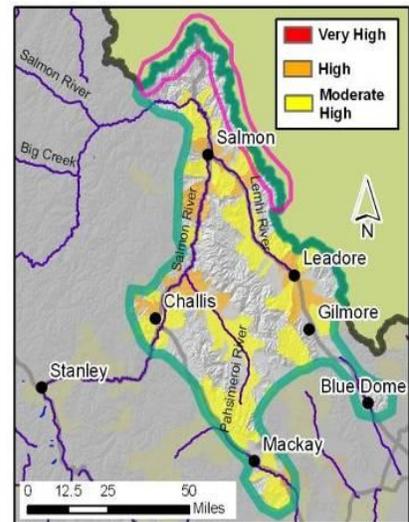
**Development/Recreation Pressure**



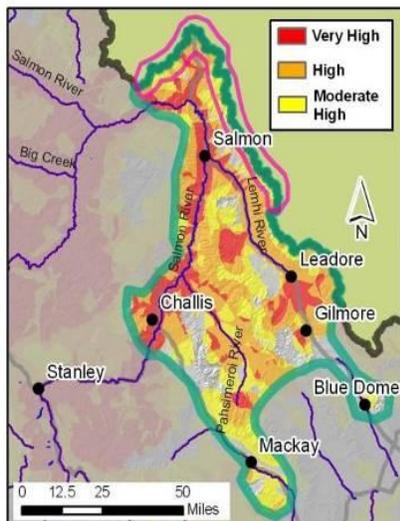
**Forest-base Wood Products Markets**



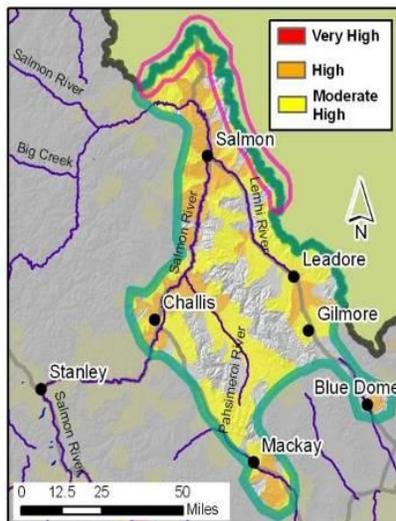
**Air Quality**



**Water Quality/Quantity**



**Wildlife/Biodiversity**



**FINAL MAP -- ALL ISSUES**

**Lemhi - Pahsimeroi  
Priority Landscape Area  
& Montana Beaverhead**

## Summary of Threats and Benefits

Several forest resource issues were identified by the Resource Assessment process. The following is a summary of the key threats and benefits in the Lemhi - Pahsimeroi PLA and Montana Beaverhead Multi-State Area.

### **Potential Threats to Forest Resources:**

- Pockets of areas with moderate-high risk to **uncharacteristic wildfire**
- Substantial risk of **loss of forests/canopy from development** issues in Salmon, Challis, and Mackay

### **Potential Benefit to Forest Resources:**

- Substantial areas of high and moderate-high potential benefit to **biodiversity and wildlife** throughout
- Some potential benefit for **air quality** around Salmon
- Pockets of moderate-high potential benefit to **water quality/quantity** from forests and canopy, mostly following major drainages (Lemhi, Salmon and Pahsimeroi Rivers)
- Substantial areas with high and moderate-high relative benefit for **sustainable forest-based markets**, especially in the northern part of the Priority Area
- Shared concerns with Montana.

## Priority Strategies for the Lemhi - Pahsimeroi PLA and Montana Beaverhead Multi-State Area

Based on the results of the Resource Assessment and stakeholder input, the following is a list of the key strategies to protect and improve forest resources in the Lemhi - Pahsimeroi PLA.

### **Lemhi-Pahsimeroi & Adjacent Multi-State Area Key Strategies include:**

**Goal 1: Inventory & Analysis and Treatments** – ISFPWG and USFS ecologists develop improved mapping and analysis of relationship between insect and disease tree mortality and wildfire risk over time.

Develop landscape scale treatments to improve overall forest health by focusing on insect and disease management - specifically mountain pine beetle, Douglas-fir beetle, and western spruce budworm.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, State Fire Assistance, Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: BLM, IDL, ISFPWG, Salmon Valley Stewardship Group, USFS, UI,

**\*\* Goal 1: Inventory & Analysis** – Continue development of the BLM Middle Rockies Assessment and integrate the results into the State Assessment and Resource Strategy.

S&PF Programs:

Stakeholders: BLM, IDL, MDNRC, Salmon Valley Stewardship Group, Idaho FAP Implementation Working Group, USFS, UI

**\*\* Goal 1: Treatments and Managed Fire** – Restore key ecosystem components such as white bark pine in higher elevations (North Zone of Salmon-Challis National Forest), low-elevation pine, and dry site habitats.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, Counties (Custer, Lemhi), IDL, private landowners, and Salmon Valley Stewardship Group, USFS

**\*\* Goal 1: Treatments & Managed Fire** – Implement stand treatments, including managed fire and mechanical treatments to increase resiliency of stands adjacent to the Frank Church Wilderness.

S&PF Programs: State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, USFS

## Lemhi-Pahsimeroi & Adjacent Multi-State Area Key Strategies include:

**\*\* Goal 1: Treatments** – CWWGs continue to plan and implement CWPP priorities including hazardous fuel reduction and preparation work, especially in the Hughes Creek, Gibbonsville, North Fork, and Jesse Creek areas.

S&PF Programs: State Fire Assistance, Volunteer Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, Counties (Custer, Lemhi), CWWGs, IDL, ISFPWG, private landowners, USFS

**\*\* Goal 1: Treatments & Managed Fire** – Implement stand treatments for forest health benefits and reduced wildfire threat in the Yankee Fork Drainage, Garden Creek, Bay Horse Area, and the Mackay municipal watershed.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance, Urban Forestry

Stakeholders: ALC, City of Mackay, Custer County, IDL, IFSAC, private landowners, USFS

**Goal 2: Treatments** – Increase urban canopy cover in Salmon, Challis, and Mackay to mitigate air quality impacts of wildfire on residents.

S&PF Programs: Urban Forestry

Stakeholders: Cities of Salmon, Challis and Mackay, IDEQ, ICFAC, USFS

**\*\* Goal 3: Forest Conservation** – Support the American Wildlands efforts and plans for wildlife habitat and connectivity.

S&PF Programs: Forest Legacy

Stakeholders: USFS, IDFG, High Country RC&D, land trusts, NRCS, private landowners

**Goal 4: Inventory & Analysis and Treatments** – CWMAs lead cross-ownership effort to improve inventories of invasive species and use mitigation measures to control spread.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, CWMAs, IDL, IFSAC, private landowners, USFS, UI,

**Goal 4: Inventory & Analysis, Treatments and Access** – USFS, BLM, and recreation user groups work together to plan use and resolve conflicts between motorized recreation and wildlife and biodiversity and forest health benefits. Develop, maintain and improve public access and infrastructure for OHV use.

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, CWMAs, IDL, IDPR, IFSAC, MDNRC, private landowners, recreation groups, USFS, UI

**Goal 5: Marketing & Treatments** – Agencies and landowners work with Salmon Valley Stewardship Group and state biomass and forest products groups to increase wood product markets, infrastructure, and ability of landowners to remove material for these markets.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, IFOA, IFPC, IFSAC, IDC, Lemhi Economic Development Working Group, private landowners, Salmon Valley Stewardship Group, USFS

**\*\*** – Strategies where at least 75% of those rating strategies for this PLA rated them as High or Moderate Priority

**N** – Identifies new strategies that were not included in the first draft of this document

**Acronyms Used:**

ALC – Associated Logging Contractors	IFOA – Idaho Forest Owners Association
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ICFAC – Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council	RC&D – Resource Conservation and Development Council
IDFG – Idaho Dept of Fish and Game	UI – University of Idaho
IDL – Idaho Dept. of Lands	USFS – US Forest Service
IDC – Idaho Dept of Commerce	USFWS – US Fish and Wildlife Service
IDPR – Idaho Dept of Parks and Recreation	WSFD – Wyoming State Forestry Division
IDWR – Idaho Dept of Water Resources	WUI – Wildland Urban Interface
ISFPWG – Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group	
IFA – Intermountain Forest Association	

**Lemhi-Pahsimeroi PLA Existing Plans and Resource Groups****Existing Plans**

Salmon-Challis National Forest Plan • American Wildlands Plans • Urban Forestry Plans (Salmon and Challis) • County Wildfire Protection Plans

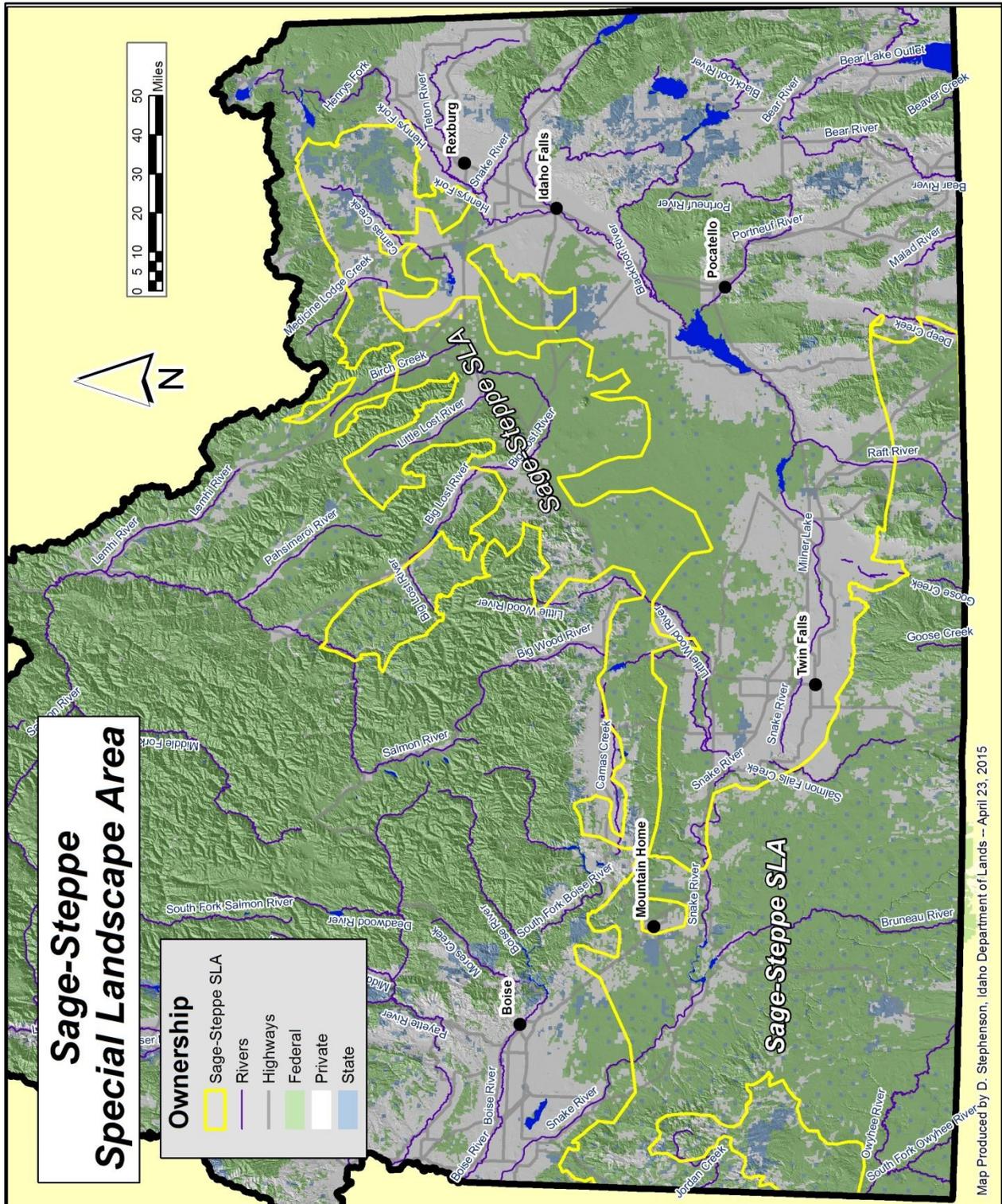
**Resource Groups**

Salmon Valley Stewardship Group • County Wildfire Working Groups • Watershed Advisory Groups • Soil & Water Conservation Districts

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## Sage-Steppe Special Landscape Area

The Sage-Steppe Special Landscape Area (SLA) includes much of the rangeland areas in southern Idaho. While not included in the first iteration of FAP, issues surrounding the potential loss of this valuable ecosystem have gained increased attention. The boundaries of the Sage-Steppe SLA primarily follow the “core” and “important” habitat designation for the greater sage-grouse and include adjacent areas with significant departure from historic fire regimes and very high populations of invasive annual grasses.



## Summary of Threats and Benefits

While not originally included in the Idaho Forest Action Plan due to conditions that inhibit growth of timber species, several significant issues affecting state, federal and private lands have elevated the importance of including the Sage-Steppe Special Landscape Area in FAP. Though not derived from the Resource Assessment process, land managers have identified a number of key threats and benefits that fit within the Goals of this plan. Additional information in the Sage-Steppe SLA is on page 18. The following is a summary of these key threats and benefits.

### **Potential Threats to Landscape Resources:**

- High risk of **uncharacteristic wildfire**, particularly in the lower elevation big sagebrush communities in the southwestern portion of the SLA. Wildfire is also a threat at higher elevations due to fuel build-up following years of fire suppression and juniper encroachment
- High risk of **invasive non-native annual grasses** such as cheatgrass and medusahead rye, which alter fire regime in which repeated wildfires cause wholesale loss of the sagebrush component of the landscape. Most pronounced in the SW portion of the SLA.
- **Juniper encroachment** at higher-elevations caused by long-term fire suppression. Encroachment further alters fire behavior, resulting in fragmented and degraded habitat for more than 350 species of plants and wildlife, including the greater sage-grouse. Juniper encroachment also reduces native understory vegetation, increasing soil erosion and decreasing value for livestock grazing.
- Livestock grazing is a compatible use in the SLA and can enhance wildlife habitat in many cases. However, **improper livestock grazing management**—such as overuse by livestock of vulnerable springs and depressions, or trampling—degrades range conditions, lowering ecosystem resilience, and increasing vulnerability to invasion by non-native species (though this also occurs on healthy rangeland due to other disturbances). Degradation of aspen communities and riparian areas also occurs when cattle aren't proactively managed in these systems. Riparian and aspen habitats within the sage-steppe SLA are critically important to Idaho's wildlife, recreation, and fisheries resources. Livestock infrastructure such as fences and watering facilities also pose threats to wildlife, however these can often be minimized and mitigated through appropriate placement and conservation measures such as marking fences to increase visibility to wildlife and retro-fitting livestock troughs with wildlife escape ramps.
- **Off-road vehicle use in undesignated areas**, especially in areas near urban centers, is disturbing wildlife such as greater sage-grouse during critical periods, and is further degrading the landscape through creation of new trails.

### **Potential Benefits to Landscape Resources:**

- High potential benefit to **wildlife and biodiversity**. The Sage-Steppe ecosystem supports more than 350 species of plants and wildlife including the greater sage-grouse, a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Once gone, however, it is very difficult to recreate.
- Very high **economic benefits for livestock grazing** on private and public lands, compatible with other land uses when appropriately managed.
- Moderate potential to benefit **sustainable forest-based wood products markets**, especially biomass created from removal of juniper.

## Priority Strategies for the Sage-Steppe SLA

Based on the results of the Resource Assessment and stakeholder input, the following is a list of the key strategies to protect and improve forest resources in the Sage-Steppe SLA.

### Sage-Steppe SLA Key Strategies include:

**Goal 1: Partnerships and Goal 4: Inventory & Analysis**—Apply principles of Cohesive Strategy, along with ecosystem resistance & resilience concepts in identifying priorities for wildfire suppression, prevention, and mitigation in this landscape. Work closely with the BLM, Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPAs) and other partners to develop a unified plan for wildfire management across ownership boundaries and to bolster existing agency and private efforts.

S&PF Programs: State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: State and Federal Land Management Agencies, Rangeland Fire Protection Associations, CWWGs, SWCDs, PF

**Goal 1: Partnerships, Goal 1 & 4: Treatments and Goal 4: Managed Fire**—Focus restoration and prevention efforts on areas that have not crossed the threshold of conversion to annual grasslands. Implement a strategy involving close coordination among agencies, to implement management practices that reduce, eliminate, or discourage the further establishment or spread of undesirable plants and noxious weeds in the SLA. The BLM and all the participation partners is concluding the Fire and Invasives Assessment Team (FIAT) assessment process, which refines focus areas and strategies for addressing the threats of fire and invasive species on all lands in the Great Basin. Opportunities will likely exist for S&FP programs to tie into FIAT projects and make them continuous across state and private lands adjacent to BLM allotments.

S&PF Programs: State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: State and Federal Land Management Agencies, Rangeland Fire Protection Associations, private landowners, SWCDs, PF

**Goal 4: Treatments and Goal 5: Inventory and Management, Treatments, and Marketing**—Address threat of juniper encroachment on state and private lands through targeted funding in areas where the greatest gains can be made for sage-steppe habitat (Phase I & II encroachment). Work with partners & stakeholders to develop market for biomass bi-product of treatment.

S&PF Programs: State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: State and Federal Land Management Agencies, Rangeland Fire Protection Associations, private landowners, IFPC, IDC

**Goal 4: Regulation/Policy:** Consider greater sage-grouse and other wildlife when considering development proposals on Federal, state or private lands; follow guidelines in associated agency management plan for sage-steppe restoration and management, sage grouse and the Idaho Governor's Alternative Plan.

S&PF Programs: State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: State and Federal Land Management Agencies, Rangeland Fire Protection Associations

**Goal 4: Regulation/Policy:** Work with lessees and partners to develop sustainable grazing plans on all leased lands and directly address threats and biological hotspots such as riparian areas and aspen groves. Consider wildlife when installing livestock infrastructure, and minimize and mitigate negative impacts of these practices.

S&PF Programs: State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: State and Federal Land Management Agencies, Rangeland Fire Protection Associations, Grazing lessees

**Acronyms Used:**

BLM – Bureau of Land Management	NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Service
CWMA – Cooperative Weed Management Area	PF – Pheasants Forester
CWWGs – County Wildfire Working Groups	OHV – Off Highway Vehicle
FIAT– Fire and Invasive Species Assessment Team	RAC – Resource Advisory Committee
IDC – Idaho Dept of Commerce	RFPA – Rangeland Fire Protection Association
IDFG – Idaho Dept of Fish and Game	RMEF – Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
IDL – Idaho Dept. of Lands	TNC – The Nature Conservancy
IDPR – Idaho Dept of Parks and Recreation	USFS – US Forest Service
IFPC – Idaho Forest Products Commission	WBUP – Woody Biomass Utilization Partnership
	WUI – Wildland-Urban Interface

**Boise River PLA Existing Plans and Resource Groups****Existing Plans**

Boise National Forest Plan • Idaho Governor’s Alternative Plan • IDL Draft Sage-grouse Management Plan • County Wildfire Protection Plans • NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative • BLM Fire and Invasive Species Assessment Process

**Resource Groups**

Pheasants Forestry • Mountain Home RFPA • Owyhee RFPA • Saylor Creek RFPS • Three Creek RFPA • Black Canyon RFPA • Woody Biomass Utilization Partnership • Southern Idaho Counties • County Wildfire Working Groups • Watershed Advisory Groups • Soil & Water Conservation Districts • BLM Fire and Invasive Species Assessment Teams (FIAT)

# Chapter 6 – Statewide Goals for the Long-term Health of Idaho’s Forests

In Chapters 4 and 5, we identified strategies that address specific issues in the Priority Landscape Areas (PLAs). The purpose of Chapter 6 is to identify issues that are affecting all or most of the PLA’s as well as many other forested areas in the State. We’ll also discuss the broader, causal factors that are affecting forested areas in the State—such as changing environmental and social factors that increase stress on forest systems (stressors).

## Statewide Goals and Strategies

Several common strategies that could be applied to numerous PLAs were identified by the Stakeholders and Core Strategy Development Team.

### STATEWIDE Key Strategies include:

**\*\* Goal 6: Partnerships and Inventory & Analysis** – Develop and utilize a state working group to steer and guide implementation of the overall Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP). Use local groups and partnerships to develop and implement strategies for individual Priority Areas. The statewide team and local groups will work together to develop and implement annual plans and to update the FAP, Improve information, identify and implement projects, identify and fill data gaps, and explore/develop new tools and strategies for assessing conditions and implementing projects. Determine role of S&PF Advisory groups within this framework.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, Urban & Community Forestry, State Fire Assistance, Forest Legacy

Stakeholders: State and Federal Land Management Agencies, Idaho RC&D’s, Professional Associations, IDL S&PF Advisory groups, other partners & groups

**\*\* Goals 1 & 2: Education** – Support and promote statewide forestry education and recognition programs including Project Learning Tree, Project Wild, Idaho Firewise, Tree Farm, Tree City and Tree Line USA, and Arbor Day celebrations.

S&PF Programs: Urban & Community Forestry, Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance, Conservation Education

Stakeholders: Cities, Counties, Idaho Tribes (Coeur d’Alene, Kootenai, Nez Perce, Shoshone-Bannock, Sho-Pai), ICFAC, IDFG, IDL, IDPR, IFPC, IFPWG, IFSAC, ID RC&D Councils, private landowners, schools, USFS, UI Extension, utilities, and others

**\*\* Goals 1, 2 and 4: Education** – Assess, design and implement effective education and outreach efforts to reach targeted audiences—forestry professionals, forest landowners, community residents, and non-forestry stakeholders. Utilize existing conference, workshop, and demonstration events and explore new technologies to increase efficiency and effectiveness. Incorporate assessment tools that measure changes in behavior. Educational needs include youth education, conserving working forests for the future, forest benefits, and technical training for professionals.

Develop and utilize a framework for continual dissemination of information to all partners in education.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, Urban & Community Forestry, State Fire Assistance, Forest Legacy, Conservation Education

Stakeholders: Other states, Idaho Tribes (Coeur d’Alene, Kootenai, Nez Perce, Shoshone-Bannock, Sho-Pai), IFPC, targeted agencies, organizations and groups, universities and state extension programs, UI Extension, others

## STATEWIDE Key Strategies include:

**\*\* Goal 1: Inventory & Analysis and Treatments** – Develop a statewide strategy to address climate change and anticipated impacts to forest conditions in Idaho. Include statewide inventory and analysis of conditions and targeted strategies across ownerships to improve resilience and to adapt to changing conditions.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, Urban & Community Forestry, State Fire Assistance, Forest Legacy

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, IDL, NRCS, Idaho RC&D's, Idaho Universities, S&PF Advisory Groups, USFS, UI, UI Extension, other partners & groups

**\*\* Goal 1: Inventory & Analysis, Treatments, Partnerships, Managed Fire, Education** – Continue strong partnership with County wildfire working groups. This current structure for implementing the National Fire Plan and Cohesive Strategy efforts in Idaho is working well and will continue to facilitate effective planning and implementation of hazardous fuels treatments and restoration projects, and enhance firefighting resources and public education.

S&PF Programs: State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, Counties IFPC, ISFPWG (includes all state, federal, county agencies), UI, UI Extension

**\*\* Goal 5: Marketing** – Develop a statewide biomass working group to lead a statewide approach to developing markets, infrastructure, and connecting wood material from treatment projects to markets. There are currently many efforts in the state and no overall lead or oversight. Bringing resources and expertise together at the state level will strengthen and align efforts in the state.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, Idaho Association of Counties, IDL, Idaho RC&D's, Idaho Office of Energy Resources, IDC, Local Biomass Utilization Working Groups, and USFS

**Goal 5: Marketing** – Partner with the Idaho Forest Products Commission on statewide marketing to aggressively promote Idaho forest products within and outside of the state. Develop a culture where Idaho products are a preference with consumers (similar to potatoes).

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, IDC, IDL, Idaho RC&D's, IFPC, IFOA, IFA, industrial forest owners, NRCS, USFS, other partners & groups

**Goal 6: Inventory & Analysis and Partnerships** – Work with adjacent states to align each state's Forest Resource Strategies in border areas and develop a framework for cross-state implementation.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, Urban & Community Forestry, State Fire Assistance, Forest Legacy

Stakeholders: FAP Implementation Working Group, Idaho S&PF Advisory Groups, States of Montana, Nevada, Washington, Wyoming, Utah and Oregon, USFS, UI

**N Goal 2 and 4: Education, Planning and Regulation/Policy** – Educate local governments, planning and zoning commissions, and insurance companies about the implications of location and types of development on forest resources. Emphasis should include the ramifications of development on wildland fire fighting, wildlife, long-term timber supplies, and true costs to local governments.

Work collaboratively to strengthen community commitment to a healthy urban forest by encouraging the strategic planting of trees to mitigate stormwater runoff and increase energy savings. Educate local governments about the qualitative and quantitative benefits community forestry can provide and promote species diversity.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, Urban & Community Forestry, State Fire Assistance, Forest Legacy, Conservation Education

Stakeholders: BSCI, Cities, Counties, IDL, IFPC, Idaho S&PF Advisory groups, PLT, targeted agencies, organizations and groups, UI Extension

## STATEWIDE Key Strategies include:

**N Goals 1, 2 and 4: Treatments, Partnerships, and Education** – Capitalize on potential partnership efforts or funding opportunities for community forest health improvement. For example, transportation enhancement landscaping grants, a potential tree planting grant program through the Small Business Administration, an Energy Conservation Tree Planting grant program through the Department of Energy, and others.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Urban & Community Forestry, Conservation Education

Stakeholders: Appropriate state and federal agencies, Arbor Day Foundation, Cities, Association of Idaho Cities, Association of Landscape Architects (ID/MT Chapter), ICFAC, Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association, International Society of Arboriculture (PNW Chapter), utilities, and others

**N Goal 2 and 4: Access, Education, and Regulation/Policy** – Continue to establish programs and funding mechanisms designed to manage OHV use to help improve forest resources and provide for public access to forest lands. Work collaboratively to provide public education for responsible OHV use and develop projects that effectively develop, maintain, improve and manage recreational OHV activities.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Urban & Community Forestry, Conservation Education

Stakeholders: BLM, Cities, Counties, IDFG, IDL, IDPR, IFPC, Idaho RC&Ds, Idaho Tribes, recreation interest groups, NRCS, PLT, USFS, UI Extension, and others

**N Goal 2: Education** – Develop programs that emphasize outdoor education for youth in the spirit of "No Child Left Inside." Develop partnerships with schools and stakeholder groups to develop more outdoor learning opportunities that focus on relevant issues addressed in the Idaho FAP. This will address connecting people to the land and also build awareness and capacity for future work on all the issues as younger generations learn about and appreciate what is happening in their forests.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, Urban & Community Forestry, State Fire Assistance, Forest Legacy, Conservation Education

Stakeholders: Association of Idaho Cities, BLM, Cities, Counties, Idaho Counties Association, Idaho Dept of Education, IDL, IFPC, Idaho S&PF Advisory Groups, Schools, PLT, targeted agencies, organizations and groups, USFS, UI Extension

**N Goal 1, 2, and 5: Treatments and Partnerships** – Design and implement stand treatments over landscape scales and provide a continued supply of wood material for existing and new markets. Treatments should address key local forest health issues.

Use existing partnerships and collaborative groups to accomplish strategy. These types of groups provide stewardship in a subarea of the State and it is important that they remain viable and supported.

S&PF Programs: Urban & Community Forestry, Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, and State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: Collaborative groups, USFS, IDL, BLM, Tribes, NRCS, private landowners, RC&Ds, counties, cities, ALC, and others

**N Goal 3: Forest Conservation Incentives** – Partner with land trusts and agencies to work collaboratively whenever possible to develop conservation efforts. Create economic incentives that increase hold values over sell values of priority forest areas.

S&PF Programs: Forest Legacy, Urban & Community Forestry, Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, and State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: BLM, Cities, Counties, Collaborative groups, IDL, Idaho RC&Ds, Idaho Tribes, Land Trusts, NRCS, private landowners, USFS, and many others

\*\* – Strategies where at least 75% of those rating strategies for this PLA rated them as High or Moderate Priority

**N – Identifies new strategies that were not included in the first draft of this document**

**Acronyms Used:**

ALC – Associated Logging Contractors	IFSAC – Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee
BLM – Bureau of Land Management	ISFPWG – Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group
BSCI – Building Sustainable Communities Initiative	IFA – Intermountain Forest Association
CWMA – Cooperative Weed Management Area	IFOA – Idaho Forest Owners Association
CWPPs – County Wildfire Protection Plans	IFPC – Idaho Forest Products Commission
CWWGs – County Wildfire Working Groups	PLT – Project Learning Tree
FAP – Forest Action Plan	NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Service
ICFAC – Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council	RC&D – Resource Conservation and Development Council
IDFG – Idaho Dept of Fish and Game	S&PF – State and Private Forestry
IDL – Idaho Dept. of Lands	UI – University of Idaho
IDC – Idaho Dept of Commerce	USFS – US Forest Service
IDPR – Idaho Dept of Parks and Recreation	USFWS – US Fish and Wildlife Service
IDWR – Idaho Dept of Water Resources	WUI – Wildland Urban Interface

**Statewide Existing Plans and Resource Groups****Existing Plans**

Idaho Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy Idaho Fire Plan • Forest Asset Management Plan • Forest Legacy Assessment of Need • County Wildfire Protection Plans • NRCS Rapid Watershed Assessment • Cumulative Watershed Effects Plans • DEQ Sub Basin Assessments and Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plans • Idaho Roadless Rule • Resource Conservation and Development Council Area Plans • Coordinated Resource Offering Protocol (CROP)

**Resource Groups**

Idaho State Technical Committee • Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group • Idaho Stewardship Advisory Committee • Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council • Idaho Departments of Fish and Game, Lands, Commerce, Parks and Recreation, Water Resources, Environmental Quality, Office of Energy Resources • Idaho RC&D Association • US Forest Service • Natural Resources Conservation Service • US Fish and Wildlife Service • US Bureau of Land Management • US Core of Engineers • Association of Idaho Cities • Idaho Counties Association • Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts • State and National Professional Associations • Idaho Forest Products Association • Associated Logging Contractors • Intermountain Forest Association

## Managing Stressors and Long-Term Health of Idaho's Forests

An important overarching goal is to manage for reduced stress and the long-term health of forest systems throughout Idaho. The threats identified in the Idaho Forest Action Plan Resources—forest health, uncharacteristic wildfire, development and recreation—are driven by changes in climate, economic conditions, demographics, and other environmental conditions and social values. The benefits—wood products markets, water quality and quantity, air quality, and wildlife and biodiversity—depend on maintaining ecological integrity and sustainable use of forests. Looking at the first level of these factors and working down can provide a framework for strategic, integrated approaches to restoration and protection. For example, warmer temperatures and reduced precipitation (climate change) can combine to increase the occurrence and severity of wildfires and insect and disease infestations. Increasing wildfire and insect mortality on large scales can diminish wildlife habitat and biodiversity, water and air quality, and availability of wood products. Population growth and expanding human development can reduce habitat and water quality and increase risk of losses to wildfire. By developing goals and strategies to address issues on the first level of this causal hierarchy, the long-term health of forest systems can be more effectively managed.

### Strategy:

Within the next five years, as part of FAP revision, convene a group of partners to look more broadly at causal factors and stressors to Idaho Forests and identify even longer-term strategies to address these. These factors include changes in climate, demographics, economics, and social values. This effort can be looked at as a “Research and Development” arm of the FAP. The goal is to gain understanding of the higher-level “drivers” of forest stress and change and be “out in front” with strategies for adaptation to these changes and mitigation of the impacts.

S&P Forestry Programs: all

Stakeholders: all (a small group to take the lead with this effort and report to all Stakeholders)

# Appendices

## Appendix A – Definitions

**Agroforestry** – An integrated approach of using the interactive benefits from combining trees and shrubs with crops and/or livestock. It combines agricultural and forestry technologies to create more diverse, productive, profitable, healthy and sustainable land-use systems.

**American Tree Farm System** – A network of more than 83,000 woodland owners sustainably managing 26 million acres of forestland. It is the largest and oldest sustainable family woodland system in America, internationally recognized, meeting strict third-party certification standards.

**Anadromous fish** – fish that live in the ocean mostly, and breed in fresh water (i.e. species of salmon)

**Aquifer** – An underground bed or layer of permeable rock, sediment, or soil that yields water

**Best management practices (BMPs)** – A method or combination of methods that is an effective and practical way (technologically and economically) to prevent undesirable results.

**Biodiversity** - the number and variety of species of plant and animal life within a region

**Biomass (woody)** – The trees and woody plants, including limbs, tops, needles, leaves, and other woody parts, grown in forest, woodland, or rangeland environments that are the byproducts of forest management

**Carbon sequestration** – The process by which atmospheric carbon dioxide is absorbed by trees and other plants through photosynthesis and stored as carbon in biomass (trunks, branches, foliage, and roots), soils, and wood products. Adopting certain agricultural and forestry activities can reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to the atmosphere and sequester additional carbon.

**Collaboration** –A recursive process where two or more people or organizations work together in an intersection of common goals

**Collaborative Group** – A cooperative advisory group representing diverse interests organized to address land management issues and resolve conflicts within an identified area

**Conservation easement** – A legally binding agreement that limits certain types of uses or prevents development from taking place on the land in perpetuity while the land remains in private hands

**Coordinated Resource Offering Protocol (CROP)** – A projection of wood product offerings within and between agencies within an investor landscape.

**Development** – The increase in the density of residential, commercial or industrial structures on the landscape. Loss of productive urban and rural forests to development is a critical issue in Idaho.

**Ecological restoration** – The process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. The concept of ecological restoration is forward-looking. Restoration focuses on reestablishing composition, structure, and ecological processes to maintain or increase resilience of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in a dynamic, continually evolving world.

**Ecosystem** – An interacting system of living organisms, soil and climatic factors. Forests, wetlands, watersheds, ponds, prairies and communities are ecosystems.

**Ecosystem services** – Benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food, water, timber, and fiber; regulating services that affect climate, floods, disease, wastes, air and water quality; cultural services that provide recreational, aesthetic, and spiritual benefits; and supporting services such as soil formation, photosynthesis, and nutrient cycling.

**Environment** – The complex surroundings of an item or area of interest, such as air, water, natural resources and their physical conditions (temperature and humidity).

**Erosion** – The wearing away of the land surface by water, wind, ice or other geologic agents and by such processes as gravitational creep

**Forest** – A large area where trees grow close together. Forests can be in rural and urban areas.

**Forest Action Plan Forest (FAP) Resource Assessment** – A geospatial analysis of the conditions and trends of forests in Idaho, based upon seven key issues and 24 sub-issues categorized into threats to and potential benefits from forests. The assessment uses best available data for informing these issues and is an objective method for identifying areas within the state where focusing resources will have the greatest opportunity to address shared priorities.

**Forest diversity** – Different types of forest communities and numbers of species within forests

**Forest health** – A measure of the robustness of forest ecosystems. Aspects of forest health include biological diversity; soil, air, and water productivity; natural disturbances; and the capacity of the forest to provide a sustained flow of goods and services for people.

**Forest loss** – The conversion of forestland to some other land use

**Forest structure** – The complexity of the vertical and horizontal forest

**Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)** – An independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world’s forests. FSC certification is a voluntary, market-based tool that supports responsible forest management worldwide. FSC certified forest products are verified from the forest of origin through the supply chain

**Forestry** – The practice of creating, managing, using, and conserving forests for human benefit

**Fragmentation** – The process by which large continuous tracts of forestland are broken into smaller, disconnected units

**Greenhouse gasses (GHGs)** – Gasses, including methane, chlorofluorocarbons and carbon dioxide, which act as a shield that traps heat in the earth’s atmosphere and thought to contribute to global warming

**Habitat** – The area or environment where an organism or ecological community normally lives or occurs

**Hardwoods** – Dicotyledonous trees, usually broadleaf and deciduous

**Harvesting** – Felling, loading and transporting forest products, round wood or logs

**Hazard fuels reduction** – Any treatment of living and dead fuels that reduces the potential spread or undesirable effects of fire

**Herbaceous** – A non-woody type of plant that grows along the forest floor and has leaves and stems which die down at the end of the growing season to the soil level

**Herbicide** – Any substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent the growth of or destroy terrestrial or aquatic weeds

**Hydrologic Unit Code** – A series of numbers in a nested hierarchy that are used to identify a watershed size and location. The greater number of digits in the identification number, the smaller the area. The first two digits identify the region of the United States. An eight-digit hydrologic unit code typically identifies a basin and averages around 703 square miles. A 14-digit code is typically the smallest watershed identified.

**Impervious** – Surface that is not passable for water

**Invasive species** – Species, which is often non-native, whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health

**Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan (LFSP)** – A multi-resource plan that lays out strategies for achieving unique landowner objectives and sustaining forest health and vigor

**Landscape scale** – The scale which is relevant to the phenomenon under consideration and which is of sufficient size where actions have a real, meaningful and persistent affect

**Native species** – A species that is a part of the original fauna or flora of the area in question

**Noxious Weeds** – The 64 different species of weeds which are designated noxious by Idaho state law

**Off highway vehicles (OHVs)** – As used in this report, any type of vehicle which is capable of driving on and off paved or gravel surfaces for recreation. OHV used in designated areas is a popular and supported form of recreation. OHV use in undesignated areas can degrade forests.

**Ozone** – As used in this document, an unstable, poisonous allotrope of oxygen (O<sub>3</sub>) produced in the lower atmosphere by the photochemical reaction of certain pollutants such as volatile organic compounds.

**Parcelization** – The change in ownership patterns when larger forested tracts are divided into smaller parcels owned by several owners.

**Prescribed fire** – Controlled application of fire to wildland fuels in either their natural or modified state, under specified environmental conditions that allow the fire to be confined to a predetermined area. The application produces the fire behavior and fire characteristics required to attain planned fire treatment and resource management objectives.

**Priority Landscape Area** – For this document, an areas within which significant portions rated as high and very high priority by the Idaho Forest Action Plan Resource Assessment, and which share similar vegetative, geographic and management characteristics

**Regeneration** – Process of replacing old trees with young through harvest or other means

**Restoration** – The process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. (Thinning and prescribed fire are examples of vegetation management tools used to accomplish forest restoration.)

**Riparian** – Pertaining to the banks of a stream, river or pond

**Runoff** – Portion of precipitation that flows from a drainage area or in open channels

**Sedimentation** – process that deposits soils, debris and other materials in bodies of water

**Seedling** – A small, young tree, less than 3 years old

**Silviculture** – The science and art of controlling the establishment, composition, and growth of forests

**Stakeholders** – With respect to this document, Federal, state and local agencies, organizations and individuals that influence or are otherwise interested, involved, or affected by an Idaho statewide forest resource management strategy.

**Stand Structure** – A description of the distribution and representation of stand age and stand size classes within a stand. The distribution of trees in a stand, which can be described by species, vertical or horizontal spatial patterns, size of trees or tree parts, age, or a combination of these.

**State and Private Forestry** – An organization of the USDA Forest Service that partners with states to deliver technical and financial assistance to landowners and resource managers to help sustain the Nation’s state, tribal, non-industrial and community forests

**Softwood** – Coniferous trees, usually evergreen, having leaves that are needles or scale like

**Soil** – Unconsolidated mineral and organic material on the immediate surface of the earth, serving as a natural medium for the growth of plants

**Stream** – A body of concentrated flowing water in a natural low area of land

**Sustainability** – The capacity to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs; integrates environmental, social, and economic concerns and outcomes.

**Sustainable forest management** – Management in an attempt to attain balance between society's increasing demands for forest products and benefits, and the conservation and maintenance of forest health and diversity

- Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)** – An independent, non-profit organization responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving a sustainable forestry certification program. The standard for certification is based on principles and measures that promote sustainable forest management and consider all forest values.
- Thinning** – Cutting or removing certain trees to allow those remaining to grow faster. Usually a commercial operation in younger stands that brings an income to the landowner while improving a forest.
- Treatments** – Management or harvesting activities applied to a forest stand to alter the condition of the stand. Treatments may or may not generate revenue.
- Tree** – Woody plant having one erect perennial stem or trunk at least 3 inches diameter at breast height, a more or less definitely formed crown of foliage, and a height of at least 13 feet (at maturity).
- Uncharacteristic wildland fire** – An increase in wildfire size, severity, and resistance to control compared to that which occurred prior to European settlement.
- Urban and Community Forestry** – The care and management of tree populations in communities (urban and Community forests) as a critical part of the urban infrastructure and for the purpose of improving the urban environment
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)** – Organic chemical compounds which have significant vapor pressures and which can affect the environment and human health. Higher temperatures and sunlight are factors that increase the production of VOCs.
- Watershed** – Area within which all runoff collects into a single stream or drainage system, exiting through a single mouth or outlet
- Wetland** – Transitional area between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems that is inundated or saturated with water for long enough periods to produce hydric soils and support hydrophytic vegetation
- Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)** – areas where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland
- Wildfires** – Uncontrolled fires occurring in forestland, brushland and grassland
- Wood products** – Materials developed from use of the hard fibrous substance (wood) which makes up the greater part of the trunks and limbs of trees. Solid wood products include lumber, veneer and plywood, furniture, poles, piling, mine timbers, and posts; and composite wood products include laminated timbers, insulation board, hardboard, and particleboard. Woody biomass (see biomass) is also considered a wood product.

## Appendix B – Acronyms

ALC – Associated Logging Contractors	PF – Pheasants Forever
AON – Assessment of Need (Forest Legacy Program)	PFC – Payette Forest Coalition
ATFS – American Tree Farm System	PLA – Priority Landscape Area
BLM – Bureau of Land Management	RAC – Resource Advisory Committee
BSCI – Building Sustainable Communities Initiative	RC&D – Resource, Conservation and Development Council
CBC – Clearwater Basin Collaborative	RFPA – Rangeland Fire Protection Associations
CDA – Coeur d’Alene	RMEF – Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
CE – Conservation Education	S&PF – State and Private Forestry
CEDA – Clearwater Economic Development Association	SCC – Shoshone County Forest Health Collaborative
CFAA – Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act	SFI – Sustainable Forestry Initiative
CROP – Coordinated Resource Offering Protocol	SVEDC – Silver Valley Economic Development Corporation
CWCS – Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy	SVRP – Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie
CWMA – Cooperative Weed Management Area	T&E – Federally listed threatened and endangered species
CWPP – County Wildfire Protection Plan	TNC – The Nature Conservancy
CWWG – County Wildfire Working Group	TPL – Trust for Public Lands
ESA – Endangered Species Act	UCF – Urban & Community Forestry
FAMP – Forest Asset Management Plan (IDL)	UI – University of Idaho
FAP – Forest Action Plan	USDA – United States Department of Agriculture
FHP – Forest Health Program	USFS – United States Forest Service
FIAT – Fire and Invasive Species Assessment Team	USFWS – United States Fish and Wildlife Service
FLP – Forest Legacy Program	VOC – Volatile Organic Compound
FLRA – Federal Landscape Restoration Act	WNDR – Washington Department of Natural Resources
FSC – Forest Stewardship Council	WBUP – Woody Biomass Utilization Partnership
FSP – Forest Stewardship Program	WSFD – Wyoming State Forestry Division
ICFAC – Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council	WUI – Wildland Urban Interface
IDEQ – Idaho Department of Environmental Quality	
IDFG – Idaho Fish and Game	
IFPC – Idaho Forest Products Commission	
IDL – Idaho Department of Lands	
IDC – Idaho Department of Commerce	
IDPR – Idaho Parks and Recreation	
IDWR – Idaho Department of Water Resources	
IFA – Intermountain Forest Association	
IFOA – Idaho Forest Owners Association	
IFSAC – Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee	
ISFPWG – Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group	
KVRI – Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative	
LFSP – Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan	
MDNRC – Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation	
NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act	
NFP – National Fire Plan	
NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service	
OHV – Off Highway Vehicle	
PAC – Panhandle Area Council	

## Appendix C – Stakeholders / Contributors:

Lisa Ailport .....	Idaho Chapter, American Planning Association
Ara Andrea.....	NRCS State Technical Committee
Arnold Appeney.....	Shoshone-Bannock Tribe Land Use Director
George Bacon .....	Idaho Department of Lands, Director
Robert Barkley .....	Idaho Department of Lands
Ann Bates.....	Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association
Gerry Bates.....	South Idaho Community Forestry Assistant
Oscar Baumhoff.....	Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee, Chair
Scott Bell.....	US Forest Service, State & Private Forestry
Dayle Bennett .....	US Forest Service Region 4; Forest Health Protection Group Leader
Patti Best .....	Idaho Power
Jason Betz .....	Idaho Department of Lands
John Bernardo .....	Chair-Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council
Barry Bollenbacher .....	US Forest Service Region 1 Silviculturist
Juan Bonilla.....	Idaho Fire Chiefs Association
Mike Bowman.....	Idaho Resource Conservation and Development Councils
Brett Boyer .....	City of Rathdrum Administrator
Ree Brannon .....	Clearwater RC&D
Randy Brooks.....	University of Idaho Extension
Gary Brown.....	US Forest Service, NFS System
Andy Brunelle .....	US Forest Service Capital Coordinator
Glen Burkhardt .....	Bureau of Land Management
Serena Carlson.....	Intermountain Forest Association
Clark Christianson.....	Idaho Department of Lands
Chris Clay .....	Idaho Department of Lands
Eileen Clegg .....	Association of Idaho Cities
Susan Cleverly.....	Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security
Jill Cobb.....	Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Dana Coelho .....	Western Forestry Leadership Coalition
Robert Cope.....	Idaho Association of Counties
Steve Cuvala .....	Idaho Department of Lands
G. Kirk David .....	Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee; Member
Gina Davis .....	Idaho Department of Lands
Jamie Davis .....	Bonner County Planning Department
Mike DeArmond .....	USDI Bureau of Land Management
John DeGroot.....	Nez Perce Tribe
Ed DeYoung .....	Idaho Department of Lands
Dan Dinning .....	Idaho Association of Counties
Tim Droegmiller.....	Nez Perce Tribal Forestry
Jim DuBuisson.....	Sandpoint Native Plant Society
Tom Eckberg .....	Idaho Department of Lands
Troy Elmore .....	Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
Margie Ewing-Costa.....	US Forest Service State and Private Forestry Regions 1 & 4
Scott Ferguson.....	Bear River RC&D
Craig Foss.....	Idaho Department of Lands
Lara Fondow .....	Pheasants Forever
Mary Fritz .....	Idaho Department of Lands
Ron Fryzowski.....	Idaho Department of Lands
Janet Funk.....	Idaho Tree Farms

## Stakeholders / Contributors *(continued)*

Frank Gariglio ..... Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Craig Glazer..... Idaho Panhandle National Forest/USFS Region 1  
Kim Golden ..... Panhandle Lakes RC&D  
David Groeschl..... Idaho Department of Lands, Asst. Director—Forestry & Fire  
Don Gunter ..... Inland Forest Management, Boundary County  
Gene Gray..... Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council  
Jeff Handel..... Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation  
Bas Hargrove ..... The Nature Conservancy  
Bob Helmer..... Idaho Department of Lands  
Bryan Helmich ..... Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game  
Von Helmuth ..... US Forest Service, Idaho Panhandle National Forest; FHP Group Leader  
Tom Herron ..... Idaho Department of Environmental Quality;  
Tyre Hofeltz ..... Idaho Department of Lands  
Steven Hollenhorst ..... University of Idaho, Building Sustainable Communities Initiative  
Morris D. Huffman..... Woody Biomass Utilization Partnership  
Polly Huggins ..... Wood River RC&D  
Tom Johnson ..... Idaho Department of Lands  
Paula Jones ..... Three Rivers RC&D  
Suzie Jude ..... Idaho Department of Lands  
Tim Kastning ..... Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council  
Tim Kennedy..... Idaho Department of Lands  
Shawn Keough..... Associated Logging Contractors  
David Kiesig..... College of Southern Idaho  
Tera King..... Northwest Management, Inc.; Consulting Forester  
Ken Knoch..... City of Ammon Parks and Forestry  
Sharon LaBrecque..... Sawtooth National Forest  
Cyndi Lane ..... Clearwater National Forest  
Mark Larson..... State Fire Marshal (Emeritus)  
Tim Layser..... Selkirk Conservation Alliance  
Tom Maguire ..... Ecosystem Sciences Foundation  
Ron Mahoney ..... U of Idaho Extension  
Bill Moore ..... Southwest Idaho RC&D  
Kurt Mettler..... Coeur d’Alene Tribe  
Robyn Miller ..... The Nature Conservancy  
Lyn Morelan..... Idaho Forest Practice Act Advisory Committee; Member  
Betty Munis ..... Idaho Forest Products Commission  
Ken Ockfen ..... Idaho Department of Lands  
Michelle Pak ..... City of Pocatello Planning Department  
Brian Patton..... Idaho Department of Water Resources  
Arlene Pence..... Idaho Forest Owners Association  
Peg Polichio ..... Forest Service State & Private Forestry  
Kim Ragotzkie ..... Henry’s Fork Foundation  
Carol Randall..... Idaho Panhandle National Forests  
Bob Regear ..... Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association  
James Riley ..... Intermountain Forest Association  
Vince Rinaldi ..... Shoshone County Commissioner  
Jim Rineholt ..... Sawtooth National Recreation Area  
Ron Roizen..... Shoshone County  
Doug Russell ..... Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council

## Stakeholders / Contributors *(continued)*

Knute Sandahl..... Idaho Fire Marshal  
Gregg Servheen ..... Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
Patrick Seymour..... Idaho Department of Lands  
Chris Schnepf ..... University of Idaho Forestry Extension  
Brian Shiplett ..... Idaho Department of Lands  
Steve Smart ..... High Country RC&D  
Richard Spencer ..... Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Greg Servheen ..... Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
James Tucker ..... US Forest Service, NFS  
Bob Unnasch ..... The Nature Conservancy  
Janet Valle ..... US Forest Service, S&PF Regions 1&4  
Ed Warner..... Idaho Department of Lands  
JeAnn Willson ..... Idaho Department of Lands  
Steve Winward ..... US Forest Service Region 4  
Mike Wolcott ..... Inland Forest Management

## Appendix D – State and Private Forestry Performance (Reporting) Measures

The following performance (reporting) measures are specific to **State and Private Forestry programs** and intended to demonstrate outcomes and communicate the value of federal investments in state, private and other non-federal landscapes. The table also shows how they address the following three national priorities.

1. **Conserve and Manage Working Forest Landscapes for Multiple Values and Uses**
2. **Protect Forests from Threats**
3. **Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests**

Note that not all of the National Priorities apply to every strategy or every landscape.

Goals & Strategies	National Priority Addressed	State and Private Forestry Performance Measures
<b>Goal 1: Idaho's Forests are diverse and resilient to climatic changes and other natural and unique stresses</b>		
<b>Inventory &amp; Analysis</b>	<b>1 &amp; 3</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Percent of population living in communities with inventories and active forest management plans</li> <li>2. Number and percent of communities with a CWPP or equivalent</li> <li>3. Acres of forest areas in high priority areas with an active Forest Stewardship Management Plan</li> </ol>
<b>Treatments</b>	<b>All</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of acres of forest areas managed sustainably as per a current Forest Stewardship Management Plan.</li> <li>2. Number of acres treated to restore fire-adapted ecosystems that are (1) moved toward desired conditions and (2) maintained in desired conditions</li> <li>3. Total # of acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels on state and private lands through State Fire Assistance per Community Wildfire Protection Plans</li> <li>4. Number and percent of forest acres restored and/or protected from invasive and native insects, diseases and plants</li> <li>5. Number and percent of population in communities actively managing community trees</li> <li>6. Acres and percent of high priority habitat areas where S&amp;PF activities are protecting, conserving and enhancing wildlife and fish habitat</li> <li>7. Acres of connected forest resulting from S&amp;PF investments</li> <li>8. Acres/percent of priority areas vulnerable to climate change where S&amp;PF activities contribute to resilient forests able to adapt to climate change</li> <li>9. Acres and percent of high priority forests treated with prescribed fire and mechanical treatments to maintain or restore to a fire-adaptive state</li> </ol>
<b>Managed Fire</b>	<b>All</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acres and percent of high priority forests treated with prescribed and natural fire to maintain or restored to a fire-adaptive state</li> </ol>
<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>All</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Total value of resources leveraged through partnerships (monetary and in-kind)</li> <li>2. Qualitative: Collaborative group and partnership success stories</li> </ol>
<b>Education</b>	<b>All</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Percentage of at-risk communities who report increased local suppression capacity via more trained/certified fire fighters and/or crews</li> <li>2. Number of people who annually participate in FS and S&amp;PF and state forestry agency environmental literacy programs and activities</li> <li>3. Percent of population within cities served by professional forestry staff</li> <li>4. Number of people engaged in environmental stewardship activities as part of an S&amp;PF program</li> </ol>

Goals & Strategies	National Priority Addressed	State and Private Forestry Performance Measures
<b>Goal 2: <i>The ecosystem benefits that Idaho forests provide are identified, maintained and enhanced</i></b>		
<b>Inventory &amp; Analysis</b>	<b>3</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Population of communities benefiting from S&amp;PF activities designed to contribute to improved water and air quality</li> <li>2. Population of communities benefiting from S&amp;PF activities result in energy conservation</li> <li>3. Acres and percent of priority watershed areas where S&amp;PF activities are enhancing or protecting water quality and quantity</li> </ol>
<b>Planning</b>	<b>3</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Qualitative: examples of how canopy has been integrated into ecosystem management plans (air and water quality, energy, stormwater, etc.)</li> <li>2. Qualitative: Landowner Forest Stewardship Plans or Community Forestry Management Plans that identify use of forests for ecosystem benefits</li> </ol>
<b>Treatments</b>	<b>3</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acres and percent of priority watershed areas where S&amp;PF activities are enhancing or protecting water quality and quantity</li> <li>2. Population of communities benefiting from S&amp;PF activities designed to contribute to an improvement in air quality</li> <li>3. Population of communities benefiting from S&amp;PF activities that result in energy conservation</li> <li>4. Acres and percent of priority habitat areas where S&amp;PF activities are protecting, conserving, and enhancing wildlife and fish habitat</li> <li>5. Potential carbon sequestered through implementation of forest management practices on private forest lands</li> <li>6. Qualitative: Develop case studies to tell the story of dollars saved per year using strategic tree planting for conservation.</li> </ol>
<b>Education</b>	<b>3</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Percentage of at-risk communities who report increased local suppression capacity via more trained/certified fire fighters and/or crews</li> <li>2. Number of people who annually participate in FS and S&amp;PF and state forestry agency education activities focusing on ecosystem services of forests and trees</li> <li>3. Qualitative: examples of how ecosystem benefits are understood and supported by non-forestry stakeholders to address issues—ex.: air and water quality managers, utilities, developers, etc.</li> <li>4. Increase in canopy cover over public and private lands in communities over time</li> </ol>
<b>Access</b>	<b>3</b>	N/A
<b>Goal 3: <i>Forestlands with the highest benefits are identified, protected and enhanced</i></b>		
<b>Inventory &amp; Analysis</b>	<b>1</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acres and percent of high priority forest areas identified</li> </ol>
<b>Forest Conservation Incentives</b>	<b>1</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Annual and cumulative acres of High priority forest ecosystems and landscapes are protected from conversion</li> <li>2. Acres and percent of priority habitat areas where S&amp;PF activities are protecting, conserving, and enhancing wildlife and fish habitat</li> <li>3. Acres of connected forest resulting from S&amp;PF investments</li> </ol>

Goals & Strategies	National Priority Addressed	State and Private Forestry Performance Measures
<b><i>Goal 4: Forest ecosystems are resilient to human activities</i></b>		
<b>Inventory &amp; Analysis</b>	<b>2</b>	Qualitative: Examples of how early detection, rapid response (EDRR) has found problems leading to eradication (example: gypsy moth in Idaho)
<b>Treatments</b>	<b>2 &amp; 3</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Qualitative: examples of developments following BMPs</li> <li>2. Qualitative: Integration of BMPs into local governmental development policies</li> <li>3. Acres of land treated per recommendations in CWPPs</li> </ol>
<b>Education</b>	<b>2 &amp; 3</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of people who annually participate in FS and S&amp;PF and state forestry agency education activities focusing on ecosystem services of forests and trees</li> <li>2. Qualitative: Lower number of forest practices violations</li> <li>3. Qualitative: Examples of incentives that help reduce adverse impacts from development; communities adopting development incentives; developers that follow BMPs voluntarily because they recognize the benefit to their business</li> </ol>
<b>Regulation/Policy</b>	<b>2 &amp; 3</b>	Qualitative: Examples of ordinances or policies that protect forestlands from development Qualitative: Examples of ordinance or policies that codify BMPs
<b><i>Goal 5: Forest-based wood products markets are economically vibrant and sustainable</i></b>		
<b>Inventory &amp; Analysis</b>	<b>1 &amp; 3</b>	Quantify number of landowners, acres and volume metrics that enable market development
<b>Treatments</b>	<b>3</b>	Number of total jobs (direct, indirect, and induced) sustained or maintained in the economy annually due to S&PF investments. Qualitative: Develop success stories highlighting job creation/retention. Qualitative: Provide statistics on state/private forestland (especially NIPF) contribution to forest products sector.
<b>Marketing</b>	<b>3</b>	Qualitative: Examples of marketing efforts and their impact on forest products markets
<b><i>Goal 6: Idaho has an integrated framework for implementing the Idaho Forest Action Plan</i></b>		
<b>Inventory &amp; Analysis</b>	All	Qualitative: Descriptions of new information and tools that have been identified and developed which will aid Idaho in fulfilling the intent and purpose of S&PF Redesign and these strategies
<b>Partnerships</b>	All	Many options

## Appendix E – 2008 Farm Bill Requirements for Forest Action Plans

As noted in the Introduction, the 2008 Farm Bill and a “redesign” of State and Private Forestry (S&PF) programs required that each state develop a Forest Action Plan, including a resource assessment and strategy document, across all ownerships as a requisite to receive federal funding for S&PF programs. The specific 2008 Farm Bill requirements for these are listed below with a brief explanation of how each was fulfilled.

### Statewide Forest Resource Assessment Includes:

**The conditions and trends of forest resources in the state.....** Yes  No

*The process used to determine the most critical issues either threatening forests or for which forests provide benefit—and a geospatial analysis of conditions and trends relative to these issues—are described in detail in the Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP) Resources Assessment: Issues, Data, Methodologies, Process and Maps.*

**The threats to forest lands and resources in the state consistent with national priorities .....** Yes  No

*Strategies that address the threats to forestlands and resources—as well as the potential benefits forests provide—are consistent with the three national priorities. The list of goals and strategies and how each cross-walks to the national priorities are identified in Chapter 4.*

**Areas or regions of the state that are a priority .....** Yes  No

**Any multi-state areas that are a regional priority .....** Yes  No

*The Idaho Forest Action Plan Resource Assessment models seven key issues and 24 sub-issues describing threats to and benefits from forests to determine the highest priority areas within the state (See SAFR document). The final FAP map was further refined to identify 13 specific Priority Landscape Areas (PLAs) within Idaho and six multi-state PLAs as described in Chapter 2. Specific information on each PLA is described in Chapter 5. Information on the multi-state PLAs are incorporated into the adjacent State PLA.*

### Forest Action Plans Include:

**Long-term strategies to address threats to forest resources in the state\* .....** Yes  No

**Description of resources necessary for state forester to address state-wide strategy\* .....** Yes  No

*\*Can be presented in a strategies matrix with columns for (a) programs that contribute, (b) resources required, (c) national objective it supports, and (d) performance measure(s) that will be used for each strategy.*

*Long-term goals and strategies and how they apply to each issue are identified in Chapter 4. The most relevant of these goals and strategies for—and how they apply to—each PLA are listed and described in Chapter 5, along with the State and Private Forestry Programs, resources and partners that are needed or can contribute. State and Private Forestry Program performance (reporting) measures for each goal and strategy and which National Strategies each supports is listed in Appendix D.*

**Stakeholder Groups Coordinated with for the Statewide Assessment and Strategy:**

*Note: this could be identified in the body of the documents or as an appendix.*

**State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (required) ..... Yes  No**

*Members of the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee, including Frank Gariglio, Chris Schnepf, Kirk David and Serena Carlson were involved in the Core Assessment and Strategy teams, helping guide the development of both the Assessment and Strategy documents. Project co-leaders kept the committee informed through e-mail and presentations at committee meetings.*

**State Wildlife Agency (required) ..... Yes  No**

*Gregg Servheen, Wildlife Program Coordinator with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game represented this agency on both the Core Assessment and Strategy Development Teams. His assistance was invaluable in providing the best available wildlife data and how best to model these data to identify areas in the state where forestry actions will have the greatest benefit to wildlife, and in developing appropriate strategies.*

**State Technical Committee (required)..... Yes  No**

*Idaho State Conservationist Jeff Burwell appointed State Technical Committee member Ara Andrea to represent this Committee on the Core Assessment and Strategy Development teams. Ara will continue representing the State Technical Committee with implementation.*

**Lead agency for the Forest Legacy Program (if not the state forestry agency) (required) ..... Yes  No**

*The Idaho Department of Lands is the lead agency for the Forest Legacy Program. Legacy Program Specialist Ed Warner participated as a member of both the Core Assessment and Core Strategy Development teams.*

**Applicable Federal land management agencies (required)..... Yes  No**

*The USDI Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service (State and Private Forestry and the National Forest System) and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service are the primary Federal forestland management agencies in Idaho. Each had representatives who actively participated on the Core Assessment and Strategy teams.*

**Other Plans Incorporated in Statewide Assessment and Strategy:**

**Community wildfire protection plans (required) ..... Yes  No**

*Community wildfire protection plans (CWPPs) are integrated into strategies within each of the PLAs.*

**State wildlife action plans (required) ..... Yes  No**

*Data from the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS)—including key wildlife and fish habitat and State Wildlife Focal Areas were included in the geospatial FAP Resource Assessment. A detailed description of the modeling used is included in the Assessment document. The CWCS is incorporated herein by reference. It is one of many plans that should be consulted as actions and projects are developed from the listed strategies for each PLA. It is directly referenced in many strategies throughout the PLAs.*

Other ..... Yes  No

*Many specific plans that can help inform actions and projects based off the strategies are identified in each PLA.*

**Forest Legacy Assessment of Need (check the one box below that applies)**

**Previously approved AON remains unchanged and is incorporated by reference**

*The Legacy Assessment of Need (AON) is incorporated by reference*

OR

**Required AON components are included in the Assessment and Strategy (Note: AON elements will be evaluated outside the assessment and strategy certification process)**

*It was the intent of the Idaho Department of Lands that the Idaho Forest Action Plan will serve as the Legacy Assessment of Need once a careful review of both documents is completed in the next year or two. This review has been completed and all AON components are included in the Assessment and Strategy.*

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Throughout the development of the Idaho Forest Action Plan, the Idaho Department of Lands engaged a broad group of stakeholders in addition to the Core Assessment and Strategy Teams. The larger stakeholder committee met many times over the past two years to provide guidance, review progress and recommend changes or modifications. The agendas of and notes from all meetings are posted on the Idaho Department of Lands Forest Action Plan web pages, as they have been throughout the process. Additionally, various drafts of both documents were posted on-line along with a process for submitting comments. E-mails were sent frequently to an ever-expanding list of interested stakeholders to gain additional feedback. The core teams reviewed and discussed how best to incorporate input. The result is an Idaho Forest Action Plan that represents a broad array of stakeholders committed to working together to protect, conserve and enhance Idaho’s forests.

# Appendix F – WHITE PAPER: Moving to a Single Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council Structure

December 12, 2011

## Issue Overview

The last few years have brought about a considerable change in state funding and program direction for Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) private forestry and fire bureau programs. State general fund reductions of 25% have required IDL to reduce bureau staffing levels, and to revisit how program assistance is delivered throughout Idaho. The 2008 Farm Bill formalized a shift in direction for USDA Forest Service (FS) State & Private Forestry (S&PF) programs (Forest Stewardship, Forest Legacy, Urban Forestry, Forest Health, State Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance) that IDL delivers in partnership with the FS. Every state has been directed to prepare a State Assessment of Forest Resources and Statewide Forest Resource Strategy, collectively referred to as the state Forest Action Plan (FAP), with an emphasis on combining local, state and federal program resources to address forestry concerns collaboratively in identified Priority Landscape Areas. The Idaho FAP will help landowners and managers better recognize and support opportunities where working together and leveraging limited resources can address multiple critical issues of statewide importance. It is an objective of the FAP to serve as a springboard toward a more strategic, comprehensive and coordinated approach to forest management that addresses critical forest issues.

To address the strategic opportunities identified in the FAP, and in light of fiscal and programmatic changes, the Director of IDL asked agency staff to review their program delivery methods and consider opportunities to integrate resources and optimize program outcomes. Coordination of three separate advisory councils requires considerable staff time and fiscal resources, so IDL staff was tasked with investigating a more efficient and collaborative model for seeking input from partners. An IDL Oversight Group, consisting of representatives from each of the three advisory councils and IDL staff, was assembled to address the Director's request. To ensure federal program requirements are being addressed, IDL has discussed this effort with regional and national level FS S&PF managers.

## Current Advisory Council Structure in Idaho

Historically, S&PF programs have operated independently, with specific program staff hired to oversee each, and program-specific advisory councils for Forest Stewardship (Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee), Fire-National Fire Plan (Idaho Fire Plan Working Group) and Urban Forestry (Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council). The advisory councils are in a transition between focusing on what the original program direction mandated and the new direction as discussed above. The primary focus, past and present, of the three IDL advisory councils in supporting IDL program efforts follows:

### Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group (ISFPWG)

Formed in 2002, this group's primary focus to date has been hazard fuels reduction across all ownerships statewide. There has been an evolution from working with individual landowners to working with county government to coordinate county-wide activities. IFPWG efforts have included extensive time working with counties to develop Community Wildfire Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council

Protection Plans. IFPWG currently focuses on coordinating different state and federal agency funding for hazardous fuels treatment (HFT) work. The group works with all lands that have potential for wildfire, not just forestlands. Communication and coordination amongst various local, state and federal agencies and organizations are key focus areas for this group.

### Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee (IFSAC)

Formed in the early 1990s, this group's primary focus was providing advice to IDL regarding cost-share program priorities. In recent years, program cost-share has shifted from Forest Service (FS) funded programs initiated through IDL to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funded programs with IDL involvement being

primarily as a Technical Service Provider. Currently, this group's primary focus is information sharing within the committee, and outreach to non-industrial forest landowners, encouraging active management of private forestlands. They also provide project review and funding recommendations for the Idaho Forest Legacy Program.

#### Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council (ICFAC)

Formed in the early 1990s, this group's primary focus was outreach to cities of all sizes and included providing advice to IDL regarding cost-share programs that were available to cities statewide. These cost-share programs have been eliminated due to reduced federal program funding. Currently, this group's primary focus is communication and information sharing within the committee, Arbor Day and Tree City USA promotion and recognition for cities statewide, and encouraging projects that demonstrate and promote the value of urban trees.

### **Recommended Changes: Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council**

An IDL Oversight Group consisting of representatives from each of the three advisory councils and IDL staff was assembled to review how these groups currently operate and provide recommendations for how the groups might work more cooperatively to address FAP priorities. After reviewing the purpose of each existing advisory council and discussing the new direction of S&PF program delivery mandated through S&PF Redesign, the Oversight Group determined that the focus points of these three groups have a great amount of overlap and that there is great potential to achieve effective statewide program outcomes more strategically through consolidation into a single Coordinating Council. All three groups place a high priority on communication and information sharing, and this can continue to be achieved through including representation from each group in the single Coordinating Council structure. This concept closely follows the strategy identified in the FAP.

#### Coordinating Council Representation

The Oversight Group recognizes the importance of being strategic about the number of Coordinating Council members that can function efficiently and effectively. The following representation from the existing advisory councils is recommended with the understanding that additional interest groups may be represented through appointment to subcommittees.

USDA Forest Service – S&PF, USDI Bureau of Land Management, USDA National Forest Systems (fire staff), Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Fire Chiefs, State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Homeland Security, University of Idaho Extension Forestry, University or College - urban planning or arborist program, Idaho Association of Counties, Association of Idaho Cities, Idaho Chapter – American Planning Association, Tribes, private forest landowners (Idaho Forest Owners Association), Idaho Tree Farm Committee, Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts or a conservation organization, Association of Consulting Foresters – Inland Empire Chapter, City forester, Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association or green industry, and a utility company representative.

#### Coordinating Council Operating Protocol

- Council Leadership. A "Co-Leader" concept is recommended, consisting of an IDL staff member and a Council member. The Council member serves as Chairperson and leads meetings. The IDL staffer coordinates agendas, meeting arrangements, etc.
- Subcommittees will be appointed as needed, but will not be "standing." Forest Legacy applications and grants review (Competitive and Western Fire grants) may be handled by the full Council.
- IDL staff (program managers and bureau chief) will participate in meetings but will not serve as voting members.
- A simple charter outlining Council purpose and operating procedures will be developed by the Coordinating Council membership.
- IDL will follow the current nomination process used for advisory councils to appoint members from identified interests.

- 6-12 months after formation, IDL will review the effectiveness of the Coordinating Council to assure program needs are being addressed.

Specifically, the Oversight Group identified the following focus areas to be addressed:

- ✦ Assist the State Forester with multi-objective strategic planning through prioritization and implementation of the FAP. This includes developing annual and long-term statewide action plans focusing on priority resource issues rather than individual programs, monitoring and reviewing accomplishments, refining and prioritizing actions, informing and involving stakeholders, and incorporating new information and filling data gaps. Overarching focus should be “Healthy Forests for all Idahoans.”
- ✦ Facilitate sound land management across all land ownerships through enhanced interaction between communities, private landowners, and local, state and federal agencies and related interest groups. Clarify roles of partners and collaborative groups.
- ✦ Assist the State Forester in reviewing policy issues. Develop position papers in collaboration with relevant constituencies and interest groups.
- ✦ Identify and coordinate funding opportunities to strategically address FAP objectives. Coordinate competitive grants, National Fire Plan grants, Forest Health grants, and other non-S&PF funding opportunities. Include partner/stakeholder involvement and leverage.
- ✦ Advise the State Forester on use of non-grant base level program funds. Review Forest Legacy Program Proposals and recommend applications for National competition.

## Appendix G – Idaho’s Forest Legacy Program

### Purpose and summary:

Reflecting the overarching goals of the national program, Idaho’s Forest Legacy Program (FLP) recognizes that it is first necessary to keep forests intact in order to protect the values and benefits that society derives from those lands. Inherent in Congress’s authorization of the Forest Legacy Program is the recognition that most forested lands in the United States are held by private landowners who face growing financial pressure to convert those lands to uses that will forever remove them from the forested land-base. The demand for residential and commercial developments is the primary cause of this conversion.

The purpose of the Forest Legacy Program is to help prevent conversion of important forestlands to non-forest uses. Private forestlands provide important economic and environmental values that will be irretrievably lost if the land use is changed. Idaho participates in the state grant option allowing the State of Idaho to purchase conservation easements that transfer development rights on privately owned lands to the state. The nature of the rights that the landowner is willing to forego is negotiated for each easement. Once the provisions are agreed upon and the easement closed, the Idaho Department of Lands will be responsible for assuring that the terms of the easement are met. Through such arrangements, landowners derive financial benefits and ensure that the enrolled lands remain as forests forever.

### Program Goals and Objectives:

In accordance with the federal Forest Legacy Program, the purpose of Idaho’s Forest Legacy Program is to protect environmentally important forest areas and the public values they provide. Within this broad context, specific goals for the program are identified below.

#### Goals

- Identify high priority forestlands in Idaho
- Maintain the cultural and economic stability of rural communities by conserving *working* forest landscapes
- Conserve and/or enhance water quality
- Maintain unique forest habitats
- Protect and provide habitat for native fish, wildlife and plants
- Protect the social values that forests provide such as public recreation, scenic, cultural and historical values

To achieve program goals and further leverage Idaho’s conservation efforts, the following objectives will be used to direct the Forest Legacy Program in Idaho.

#### Objectives

- Promote wildlife connectivity between undeveloped areas
- Focus efforts on projects with large areas of contiguous forest (>100 acres)
- Promote sustainable forest management practices (Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan (LFSP), Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), American Tree Farm System (ATFS), etc.)
- Contribute to a large scale organized conservation plan (Yellowstone to Yukon, Idaho’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, etc.)
- Protect Threatened and Endangered species habitat
- Complement previous investments in forestland conservation

The goals and objectives outlined above provide a framework for Idaho’s Forest Legacy Program and will be achieved through continued and effective implementation of the program. Furthermore, they can be used as a tool to measure Idaho’s success in meeting its overall purpose, to maintain forested landscapes.

### Project Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for Idaho’s Forest Legacy Program, submitted applications must meet **all** of the following requirements:

1. Project must meet one or more of Idaho’s FLP goals.
2. Project must be within an Idaho Priority Landscape Area as identified in FAP.
3. Project must be sponsored by a state agency or a land trust organization.
4. Project must be privately owned (non-federal, State, or local government).
5. Project must be at least five (5) acres in size.
6. Project must include a minimum 25% cash or in-kind, non-federal match. The FLP will fund up to 75% of total program costs (acquisition costs plus other allowable expenses). A landowner that does not meet the match percentage as stated in their application by the closing date of a Forest Legacy acquisition will not be eligible to apply for FLP funding until the non-federal match has been met.
7. Project must be 75% forestland (defined as land with trees that has at least 10% canopy cover or formally had such tree cover and is not currently developed for non-forest use).
8. Landowners agree to follow federal FLP requirements and implementation rules including:
  - a. Accepting an appraisal that meets standard federal appraisal guidelines.
  - b. Managing the property by means of a Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan (LFSP) approved through the Idaho Forest Stewardship Program.
  - c. Signing a perpetual conservation easement with the State of Idaho, with the stated purposes of maintaining, enhancing, and/or conserving in perpetuity the forestland and conservation values of the property.
  - d. Allowing annual monitoring for conservation easement (CE) compliance.

### Criteria for Ranking Individual Project Proposals:

Eligible project proposals (see Project Eligibility Requirements above) will be ranked independently by the ILRCC and/or Idaho Forest Legacy subcommittee<sup>10</sup> members according to the criteria outlined below. These criteria generally reflect those used by the National Review Panel.

1. **Importance:** These criteria evaluate the economic, environmental and social impacts potentially conserved by the project. Higher scores will be given to projects that possess a majority of the attributes listed below and at a broad scale of significance.
  - a. Forestry: Are the forest resources managed for sustainability? Does the property contain characteristics to sustain a productive forest?
  - b. Economic Benefits: Does the project provide timber and/or non-timber revenue to the local, regional or national economy?
  - c. Threatened or Endangered Species: Does the site have threatened or endangered species and/or designated habitat?
  - d. Fish, Wildlife, Plants, and Unique Forest Communities: Does the site contain unique forest communities and/or important fish or wildlife habitat?

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<sup>10</sup> The Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council (ILRCC) will assume advisory responsibilities for all of Idaho’s State and Private Forestry Programs beginning in 2012. See Pages 23 and 114 for more information.

- e. Water Supply and Watershed Protection: Does the property have a direct relationship with protecting the water supply or watershed? Does the property contain important riparian area, wetlands, shorelines, river systems, or sensitive watershed lands?
  - f. Public Access: Will protection of the property maintain or establish access by the public for recreation?
  - g. Scenic: Is the site located within a viewshed of a government designated scenic feature or area?
  - h. Historic/Cultural/Tribal: Does the site contain features of historical, cultural, and/or tribal significance?
2. **Threatened**: These criteria evaluate the likelihood of a project’s conversion to non-forest uses. Project’s that demonstrate a greater threat of conversion will be scored higher.
- Legal Protection: What is the degree of legal protection that currently exists on the property?  
Land/Landowners Circumstances: What are the land and/or owner circumstances (property held in an estate, aging landowner, future property by heirs is uncertain, property is up for sale or has a sale pending, landowner has received purchase offers, land has an approved subdivision plan, etc.)?  
Adjacent Land Use: What are the adjacent land use characteristics such as existing land status, rate of development growth and conversion, rate of population growth, rate of change in ownership, etc?  
Ability to Develop: Are there physical attributes of the property that will facilitate conversion, such as access, buildable ground, zoning, slope, water/sewer, electricity, etc.?
3. **Strategic**: These criteria evaluate a project’s relevance or relationship to conservation on a broader scale. Projects that significantly enhance conservation strategies at a broad scale will be scored higher.
- a. Conservation Strategy: How does the project fit within a larger conservation plan, strategy, or initiative?
  - b. Compliment Protected Lands: Is the project strategically linked to already protected lands (past FLP projects, Federal, State, other conservation lands, etc.)?
4. **Prior FLP funding**: Has the landowner been awarded FLP funding (regardless of amount) for two consecutive years? An owner that has been awarded FLP funding for two consecutive years, cannot be ranked the #1 project the third year unless it is the sole application recommended for funding from the State of Idaho.

Additionally, the following criteria will **enhance** application rating:

Completing five or more of the following items will significantly affect a project’s score: preliminary appraisal, signed option or purchase and sales agreement, cost-share commitment, held by a third party at the request of the State, draft Conservation Easement, LFSP, mineral survey and title report.

A 50% or greater non-federal match

Letters of support from various public and private entities (NGO’s, non-profit, government officials, etc)

### Project Prioritization

Individual Forest Legacy applications go through a rigorous and highly competitive review process. First, the above criteria are used to score and develop a prioritization list. Proposals with higher scores rank higher. The State’s priority list, with approval from ILRCC<sup>11</sup>, is then forwarded to the Forest Service regional committee. This regional committee uses similar ranking criteria, the national core criteria, to score and rank project applications from the Western United States. Projects are then submitted to the Washington Office where the National Review Panel will use the same national core criteria to develop a prioritized national project list. The regional and National Review

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<sup>11</sup> *ibid*

Panels are not bound by a State’s priority ranking of projects and may rank projects out of a State’s priority order. Finally, the outcome from the National Review Panel will be a ranked and prioritized list of FLP projects for submission to the Office of Management and Budget for consideration in the President’s Budget. Projects highest on the list will receive top priority for funds as they become available.

### **Comparison of Priority Landscape Areas and Legacy Assessment of Need Areas**

The original Idaho Legacy Program Assessment of Need (AON) was developed without a geospatial analysis. Rather, within the latitude provided by the National Forest Legacy Program, the state adopted a broad definition of forests and considered threats to and values from them. Legacy eligible areas were selected on a county scale, and only included counties with more than 10,000 acres of non-federal forestlands. However, included within the map of final legacy eligible areas are ineligible lands (Federal and State lands) and areas that are not forested or which cannot support forests. The areas included as “Legacy eligible” were divided into six regions at a county scale. These were prioritized through a numerical process using information representing acres of private forestland, population change, land use change, threatened and endangered species candidates, dispersed recreation, and information on forest markets.

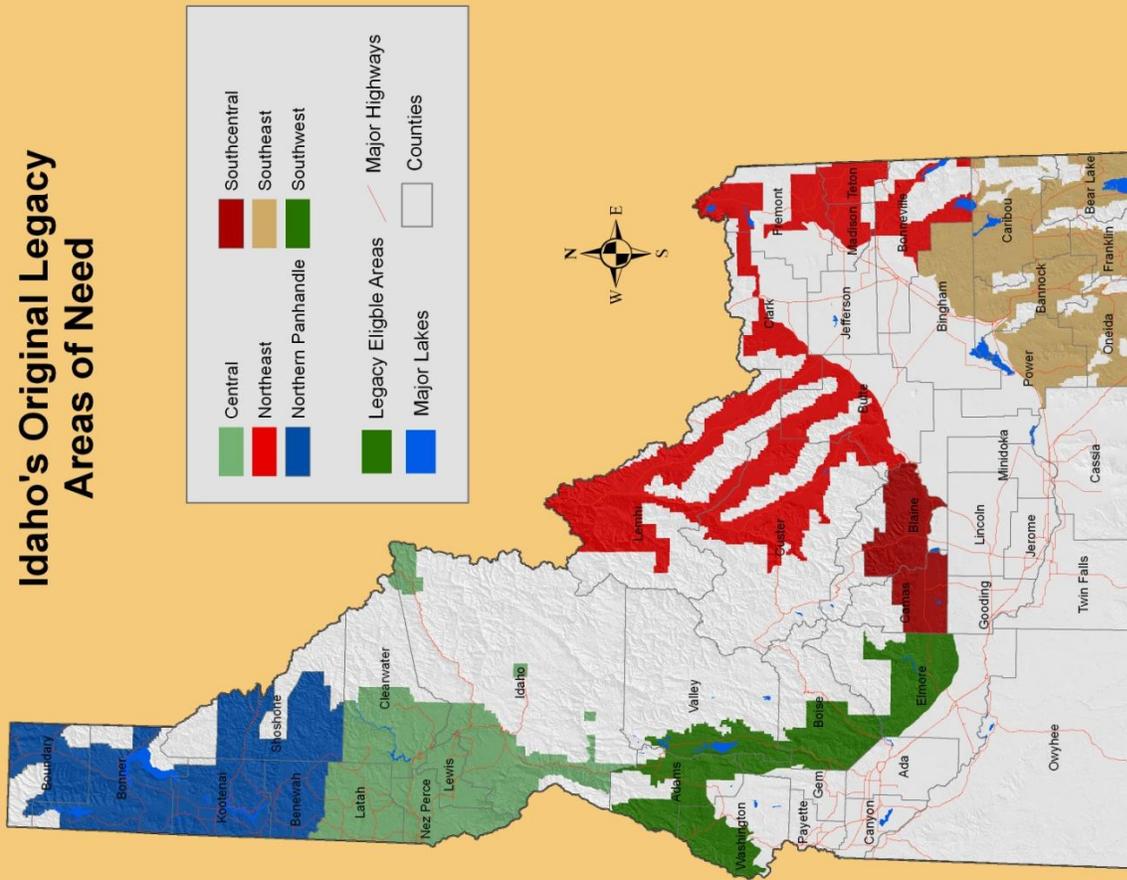
The Idaho Statewide Forest Resource Assessment—described in detail in the Idaho Forest Action Plan, part 1—used a geospatial analysis of these same issues, but also included the additional critical issues of water quality, air quality, and uncharacteristic wildland fire risk. The assessment was completed on a HUC 6, or subwatershed scale using 30-meter or finer data. Through a far more robust stakeholder involvement process than occurred during development of the original AON, the statewide datasets that best informed these issues were selected and an analytical methodology developed which led to the identification of Priority Landscape Areas—areas in which focusing federal and partner resources will address multiple high-priority issues. It should be emphasized that the resulting map only determines those areas in which Legacy projects are eligible. As has been done from the start of Idaho’s Legacy Program, an in depth review, analysis and ranking of specific projects as described above will continue.

The Forest Legacy Areas map (from the original AON) and the map of Priority Landscape Areas look quite different at first glance (see page 133). Yet both maps contain lands that are ineligible for Forest Legacy Projects. These include state and federal lands, and areas that lack or are incapable of supporting forests. To compare the two maps, these ineligible areas must be excluded. The two maps on page 134 represent a more accurate comparison. In both maps, ineligible lands by ownership, non-forested areas and areas that receive less than 10” annual precipitation (unable to support forests) have been masked out. Even though the process for developing these maps was different, the maps themselves are remarkably similar.

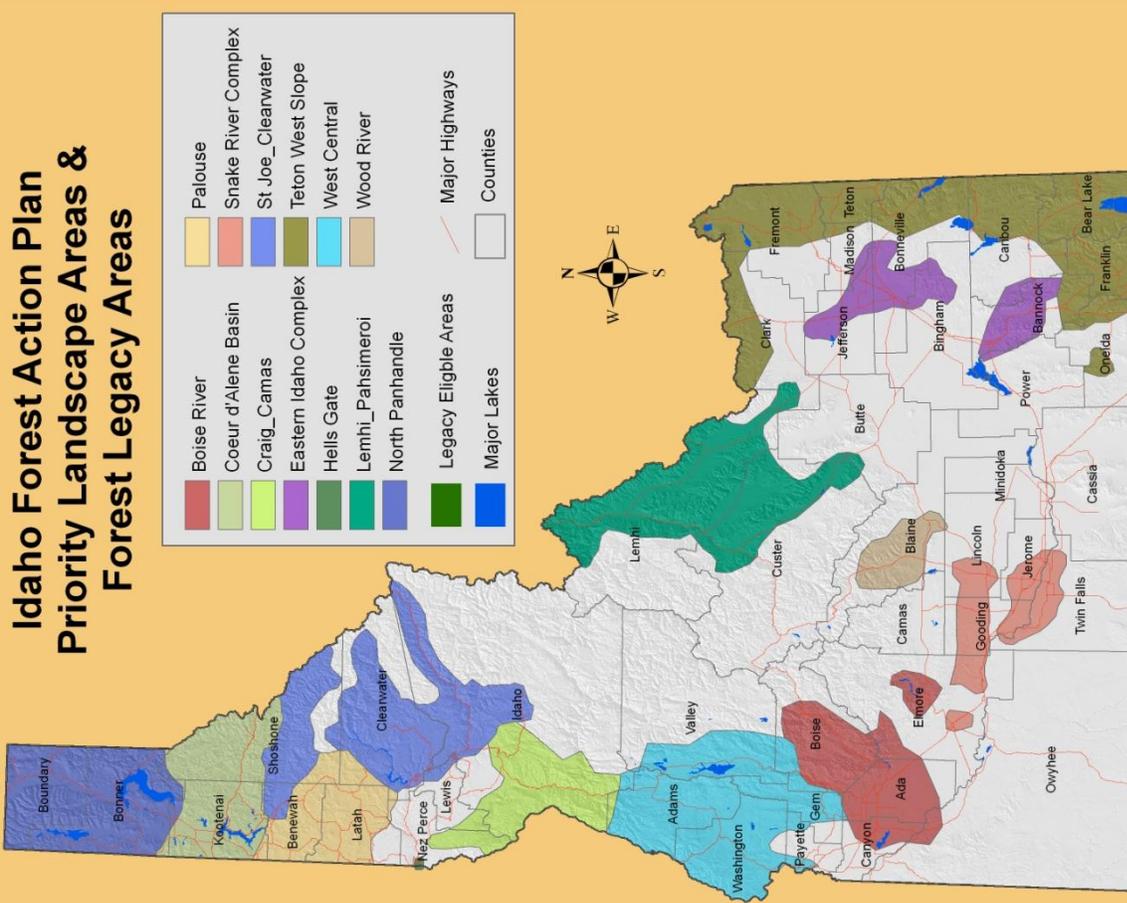
With the integration of the Legacy Program into the Idaho Forest Action Plan, the six original Legacy Areas identified in Idaho’s September 2002 Assessment of Need are being dissolved, and replaced by the 12 Priority Landscape Areas identified in the 2010 Idaho Forest Action Plan. Priority Landscape Areas Legacy Eligible Lands will be the working map for determining initial Legacy project eligibility. It is our belief that the areas identified on this map best reflect statewide priorities.

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## Idaho's Original Legacy Areas of Need



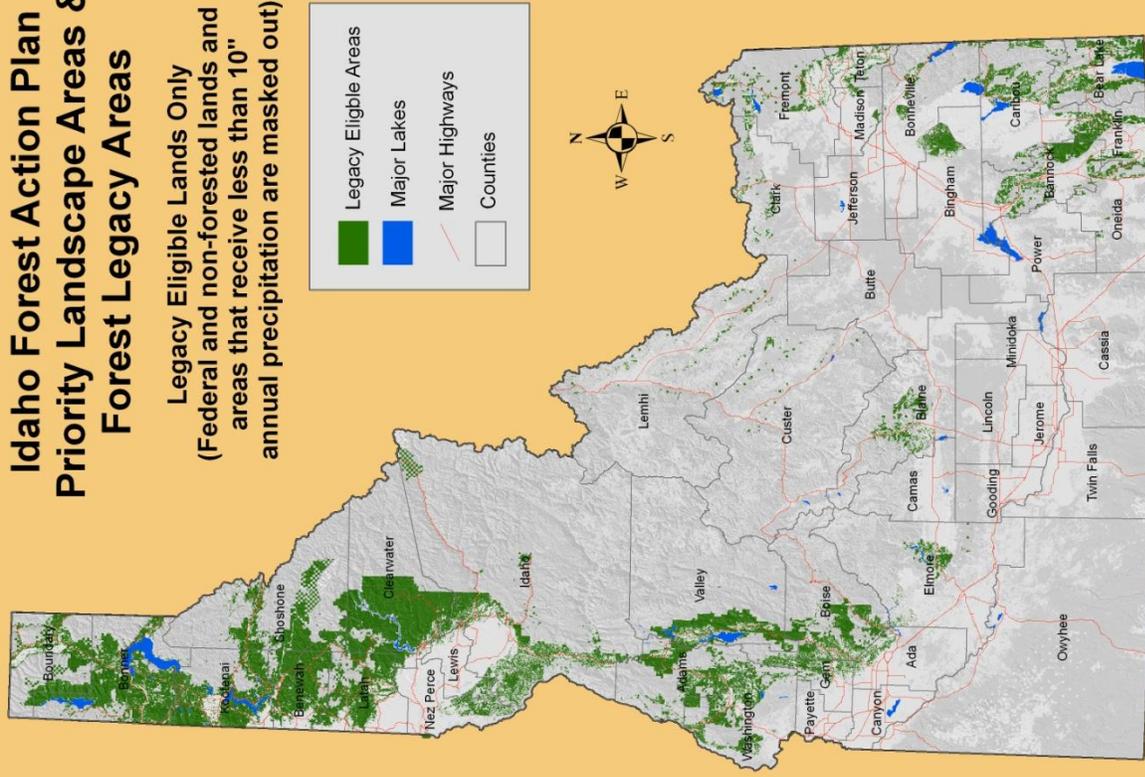
Map Produced by D. Stephenson  
Idaho Department of Lands  
March 8, 2012



Map Produced by D. Stephenson  
Idaho Department of Lands  
May 30, 2012

# Idaho Forest Action Plan Priority Landscape Areas & Forest Legacy Areas

Legacy Eligible Lands Only  
(Federal and non-forested lands and  
areas that receive less than 10"  
annual precipitation are masked out)

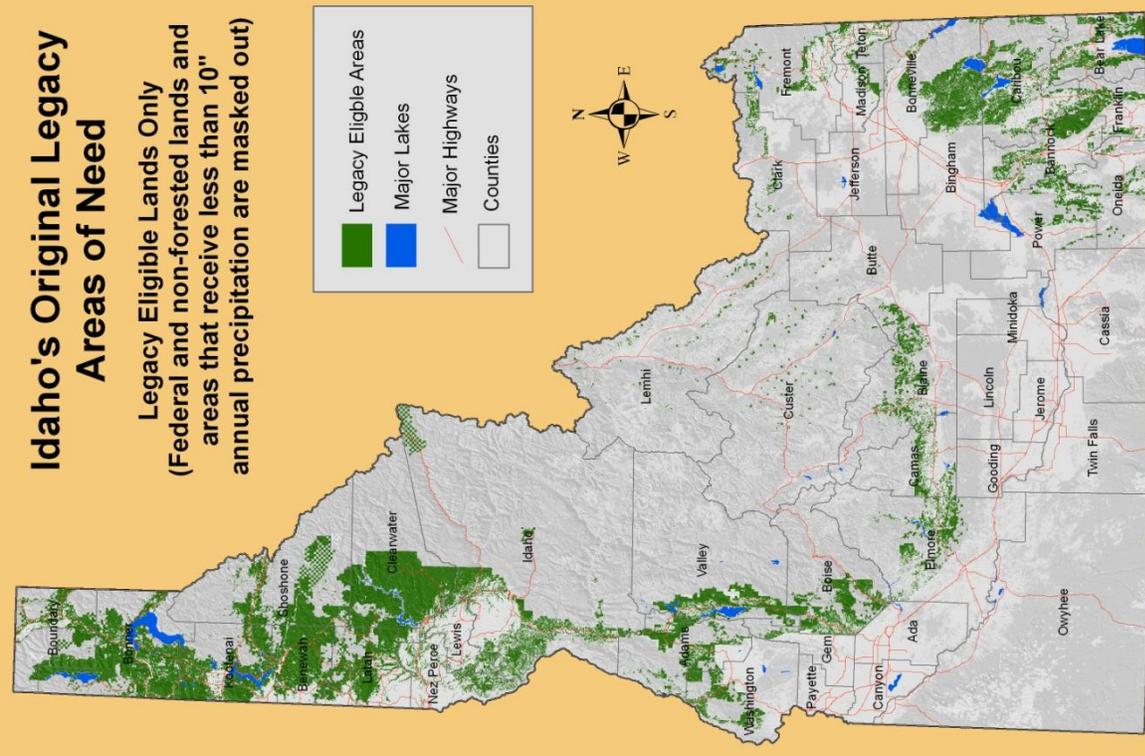


- Legacy Eligible Areas
- Major Lakes
- Major Highways
- Counties

Map Produced by D. Stephenson  
Idaho Department of Lands  
May 30, 2012

# Idaho's Original Legacy Areas of Need

Legacy Eligible Lands Only  
(Federal and non-forested lands and  
areas that receive less than 10"  
annual precipitation are masked out)



- Legacy Eligible Areas
- Major Lakes
- Major Highways
- Counties

Map Produced by D. Stephenson  
Idaho Department of Lands  
May 30, 2012

## Appendix H – Cohesive Strategy Guiding Principles and Core Values

Early in the planning process, stakeholders involved in developing the Cohesive Strategy collaboratively established the following guiding principles and core values for wildland fire management to guide fire and land management activities:

- Reducing risk to firefighters and the public is the first priority in every fire management activity.
- Sound risk management is the foundation for all management activities.
- Actively manage the land to make it more resilient to disturbance, in accordance with management objectives.
- Improve and sustain both community and individual responsibilities to prepare for, respond to and recover from wildfire through capacity-building activities.
- Rigorous wildfire prevention programs are supported across all jurisdictions.
- Wildland fire, as an essential ecological process and natural change agent, may be incorporated into the planning process and wildfire response.
- Fire management decisions are based on the best available science, knowledge, and experience, and used to evaluate risk versus gain.
- Local, state, tribal, and federal agencies support one another with wildfire response, including engagement in collaborative planning and the decision-making processes that take into account all lands and recognize the interdependence and statutory responsibilities among jurisdictions.
- Where land and resource management objectives differ, prudent and safe actions must be taken through collaborative fire planning and suppression response to keep unwanted wildfires from spreading to adjacent jurisdictions.
- Safe aggressive initial attack is often the best suppression strategy to keep unwanted wildfires small and cost down.
- Fire management programs and activities are economically viable and commensurate with values to be protected, land and resource management objectives, and social and environmental quality considerations.