

# Landscape Scale Restoration Project Report



**Project Name:** COMMUNITY BASED HAZARD PLANNING AND MITIGATION

**Funding Year:** 2015

## Stakeholders

Forest Service Region: USDA Forest Service - R1

Sponsoring Organization: Idaho Dept. of Lands

State Project Contact: TYRE HOLFELTZ | 208-666-8653 | [tholfeltz@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:tholfeltz@idl.idaho.gov)

Participating Organizations:

Grantee: Idaho Dept. of Lands

## Project Funding

Agreement(s): 15-DG-11010000-010

## Project Design

### Project Purpose

Many Idaho Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas are threatened with high rates of development and Idaho's smaller local governments often lack knowledge, planning and legal resources to develop land-use policies that mitigate WUI fire risk. This project increases planning capacity by providing ordinance guides for rural communities, conducting risk-perception assessments & hosting outreach programs tailored to local issues, services, & legal environments to decrease wildland fire risk.

# Landscape Scale Restoration Project Report



## National Themes & Outcomes

### **Conserving and Managing Working Forest Landscapes**

- High priority forest ecosystems and landscapes are identified and conserved.

### **Protect Forests from Threats**

- Fire-adapted lands are restored and risk of wildfire impacts is reduced.

### **Enhance Public Benefits from Private Forests**

- Communities plan for and reduce their risks from wildfire.
- People are connected to trees and forests and are engaged in environmental stewardship activities.

## Strategic Issues

Local governments do not have the knowledge, planning or legal resources to develop land-use policies that address wildfire risk in the ever-expanding development of the wildland urban interface (WUI). Additionally, property owners often see hazard mitigation efforts as negatively impacting their property, limiting local governments' ability to enact sensible land-use policies to reduce fire risk. Project will address two of the five overarching goals of the Idaho Forest Action Plan and will implement three of the plan's strategies.

## Collaboration & Partners

Primary partners to this project include: Boise State University and the University of Idaho who will provide technical experts, workshop development and deployment, legal review, facilitation and coordination; and the Idaho Department of Lands who will provide technical expertise and project oversight.

## Integrated Delivery

The partners in this project will work to maximize the value of their combined efforts to reach across WUI jurisdictions. This will include the establishment of a baseline set of information related to wildfire perception. The group will use this information to create materials and presentations to train local governments on policies and codes and inform citizenry throughout the state about mitigation actions.

## Influence on Positive Change

The University of Idaho will coordinate outreach to local governments and organizations to facilitate, strengthen and expand partnerships and community relations. The ordinance review and the survey data will inform the development of the resource guide and workshop content, thus providing planners and community partners with specific tools to increase risk-planning capacities.

# Landscape Scale Restoration Project Report



## Accomplishments

### Deliverables

- . Comprehensive review of development and risk-management regulations & policies for all counties and communities in Idaho
- . Policy/regulation guides developed and scaled to community needs
- . Two risk-perception surveys. Total residences=40,000. Spatially analyzed with baseline & changes/impacts
- . 12 one-day workshops in areas of highest need
- . Survey findings, products and outreach efforts presented at conferences/workshops (APA Idaho, Fire Mitigation Forums, AIC events, Forestry Forums)
- . Reports and guides available on UI, BSU, and IDL's web pages & social media
- . Science-based publications to raise national awareness level
- . Comprehensive and ongoing awareness and outreach program for planners, leaders, risk managers, commissioners and policy makers on land-use planning regulations respective of local risk and policy perceptions, coordinated and delivered by all partners

# Landscape Scale Restoration Project Report



## Accomplishments to Date

2015: A Memorandum of Understanding was completed in late Fall 2015 with the University of Idaho, College of Law, who will be the principle lead for the project.

A baseline survey was sent to 20,000 Idaho residents seeking their knowledge and feelings about wildfire.

2016:

Initial survey was completed with approximately a 5% response return. Initial review of responses has resulted in a better understand of the perception of wildfire in Idaho and the role that an individual must take to prepare themselves.

A working draft of "Planning for Wildfire in the Wildland-Urban Interface: A Guide for Idaho Communities," was completed compiling best management practices (four step planning process) and representative codes (i.e. land use, planning & zoning, development) from Idaho cities, counties and neighboring states.

12 formal and informal presentations have been given to date at various conferences, organizations and homeowner groups about the Guide and how it can be used to implement best practices for communities, cities and counties.

2017:

Survey responses were compiled and are being used to develop a workshop/seminar.

Additionally, a virtual classroom has been developed to house the "Guide" and other reference materials and will be used to augment the workshops.

2018:

Presentations were given by University of Idaho Cooperating partners at two conferences, presenting the planning process as outlined in the guide. Additionally, a one day symposium was hosted to bring together planners, lawyers and emergency services to discuss "Law, Planning and Wildfire in the Wildland-Urban Interface." The symposium was attend in person or by remote view by approximately 150. The symposium was recorded and will be available through a yet to be determined platform.

2019: 4 regional workshops were conducted reaching over 200 government and private citizens. Workshops were used to impart information about wildfire. 3 targeted fishbowls were completed reaching over 100 local partners, cooperators, and private citizens the shared more tailored messaging about how the specific communities could come together to engage in planning and preparing for wildfire in their 'communities'.

2020: 2 targeted fishbowls were completed reaching over 100 local partners, cooperators, and private citizens the shared more tailored messaging about how the specific communities could come together to engage in planning and preparing for wildfire in their 'communities'.

Presentations were given at 3 professional conferences. Final "Guide" was completed and published. Developed and published 7 single sheet handouts highlighting key elements of the "Guide." Presentations given at 3 conferences/seminars.

# Landscape Scale Restoration Project Report



## Deliverables in Progress

2019: 2 additional fishbowls are planned for completion in Latah County and Montpelier, ID. The guidebook is being updated based on feedback from workshop and fishbowl participants. Additionally, 5 one-page leaflets are being drafted along with a 'golden nuggets' handout about the guide to help inform potential users about the guide as a planning resource.

2020: All project deliverables are complete

## Challenges

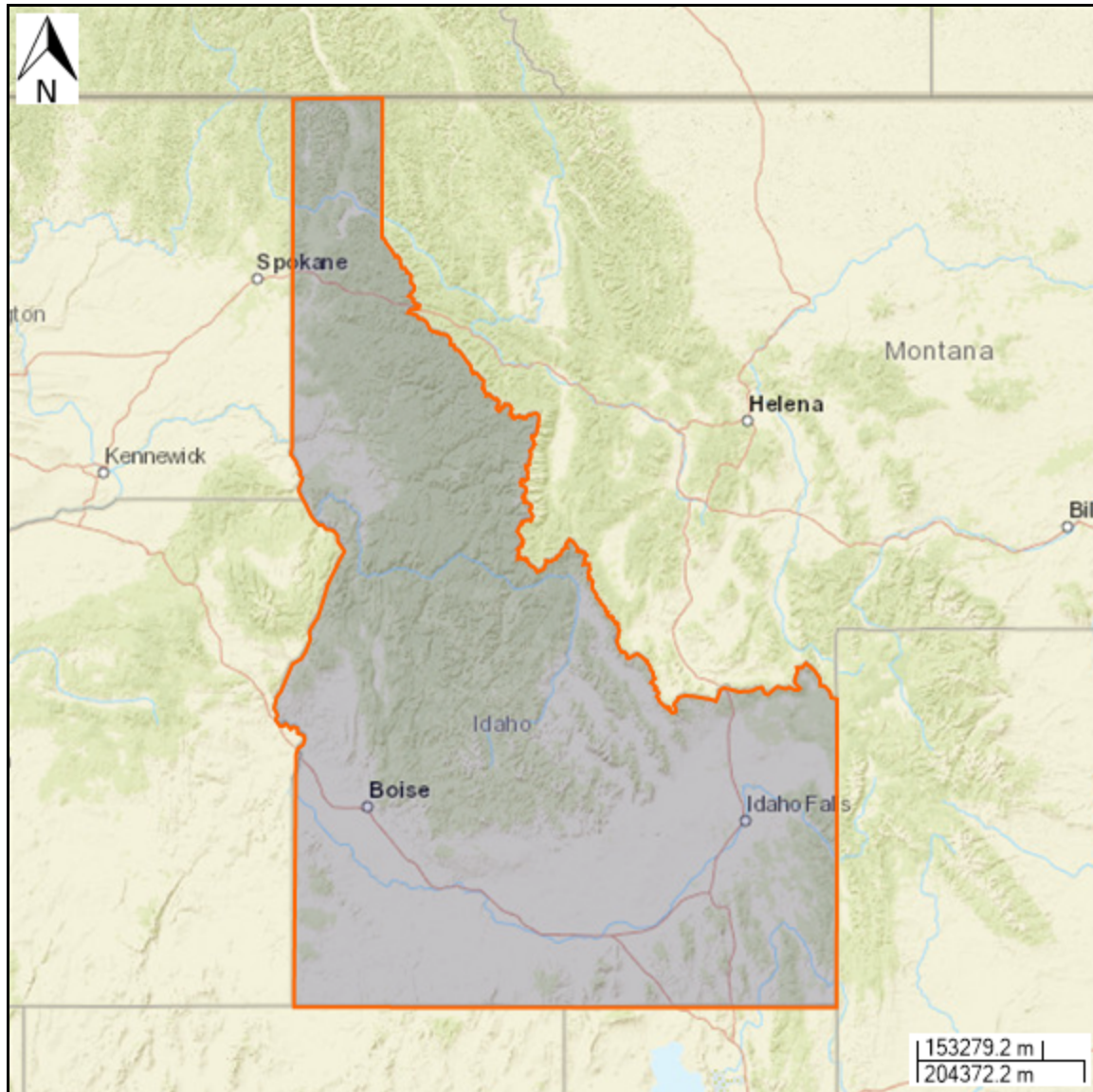
A change in leadership from the University of Idaho caused an unforeseen delay in completing some of the workshops thus resulting in not as much progress as anticipated. A new agreement with Idaho Smart Growth to facilitate the workshops should help to provide the necessary stability to complete the workshops before fall of 2019.

2019: Having communities self nominate for the fishbowls was not as robust as anticipated.

# Landscape Scale Restoration Project Report



## Impact Area



**Information Last Updated**  
1/12/2021