

Landscape Scale Restoration Project Report



Project Name: Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality
(Multi-State Project Proposal)

Funding Year: 2012

Stakeholders

Forest Service Region: USDA Forest Service - R1

Sponsoring Organization: Idaho Dept. of Lands

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Participating Organizations: Montana Forestry Division

Grantee: Idaho Dept. of Lands

Project Funding

Agreement(s): 12-DG-11010000-004

Funding Sources

Project Design

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Project Purpose

The Idaho and Montana Forest Action Plans identify water quality as a critical forestry issue. Broad strategies for addressing this issue include targeted education, increasing forest resilience, and ensuring forest management activities maintain and enhance water quality and other forest values while supporting a vibrant timber economy. Each state has developed forestry best management practices (BMPs) to guide forestry activities to help meet these goals.

However, BMPs are only effective if understood and followed. Targeting education to forest managers, contractors, landowners and youth, this project will develop: 1) two professional, field-durable illustrated BMP guides; 2) an instructional 40-minute professional quality video addressing the concepts and practices outlined in the field guides; 3) a web site to host BMP education, publications, videos and forums; and 4) curricula integrated into Project Learning Tree education and a host of other educational workshops and courses.

National Themes & Outcomes

Conserving and Managing Working Forest Landscapes

- Forests are actively and sustainably managed.

Protect Forests from Threats

Enhance Public Benefits from Private Forests

- Water quality and quantity is protected and enhanced.
- The economic benefits and values of trees and forests are maintained and enhanced.
- Wildlife and fish habitat is protected, conserved, and enhanced.
- Trees and forests are managed and restored to help mitigate and adapt to changing conditions.

Strategic Issues

Idaho and Montana's Forestry BMP educational tools will teach audiences how to accomplish timber harvest while protecting wildlife, soils, fisheries, silviculture, and above all water quality. Healthy forests, water quality, air quality, and healthy ecosystems are important statewide issues in both Idaho and Montana.

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Collaboration & Partners

The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is partnering, through an agreement, with the University of Idaho-- to develop a Best Management Practices (BMP) field guide for Idaho and an educational companion video, as well as develop and host a website to disseminate BMP education. The Idaho Forest Products Commission (IFPC) will incorporate new BMP education and materials in to forestry tours and workshops like Project Learning Tree.

The Montana Department of Natural Resource Conservation (DNRC) is partnering with the Montana Forestry BMP Working Group – this group will coordinate the revision of the MT BMP book. Members are also working directly on the revision process. Match requirements are being met from numerous members through in-kind contributions.

Integrated Delivery

Idaho and Montana coordinated efforts to update each state's educational tools on best management practices. Various agencies, organizations, and landowners use these tools.

Influence on Positive Change

Forestry BMP materials are presented in a user friendly format so that landowners, organizations and loggers have a clear understanding on what BMPs are necessary and how to implement them. When BMPs are implemented correctly, our natural resources are protected.

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Accomplishments

Deliverables

Idaho will professionally design, develop and reproduce an illustrated durable Best Management Practices (BMP) field guide and an educational companion video, as well as develop and host a website to disseminate BMP education. Under agreement with IDL, the Idaho Forest Products Commission (IFPC) will incorporate new BMP education and materials into forestry tours and workshops like Project Learning Tree for youth educators while disseminating and promoting the use of the field guides to a wider audience.

Montana will revise, update, and upgrade the current MT Forestry BMP book. This will entail a cover-to-cover revision that will also update the book to be current with timber harvest methodologies, including biomass applications, as it applies to water quality, wildlife, soils, and other resources. 7,500 copies of this comprehensive and upgraded book will be available for public distribution.

Accomplishments to Date

The University of Idaho completed the BMP book, two videos and developed a BMP website. Idaho printed 18,000 books and began distributing these at forest landowner and logger conferences, workshops, tours and by direct mail. Over 500 copies of the videos were made and are being distributed to forest landowners and loggers. The Idaho Department of Lands and the University of Idaho have a supply of the books and videos to meet future needs. All products are found on the University of Idaho Forestry Extension Best Management Practices website at <http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/idahoforestrybmps>

Montana completed the update of their BMP book and was able to print 13,600 copies. Cost savings within the project allowed Montana to print more copies than originally planned. The BMP books have been widely distributed at conferences, workshops, tours and by direct mail. Both states have received positive feedback from landowners, loggers, organizations, and other agencies on the quality of information provided in the books, videos, and website. These tools now allow users to have a clear understanding of Idaho and Montana forestry BMPs. As people use these tools to help implement practices, forest resources in both states will be protected.

Deliverables in Progress

This project is complete.

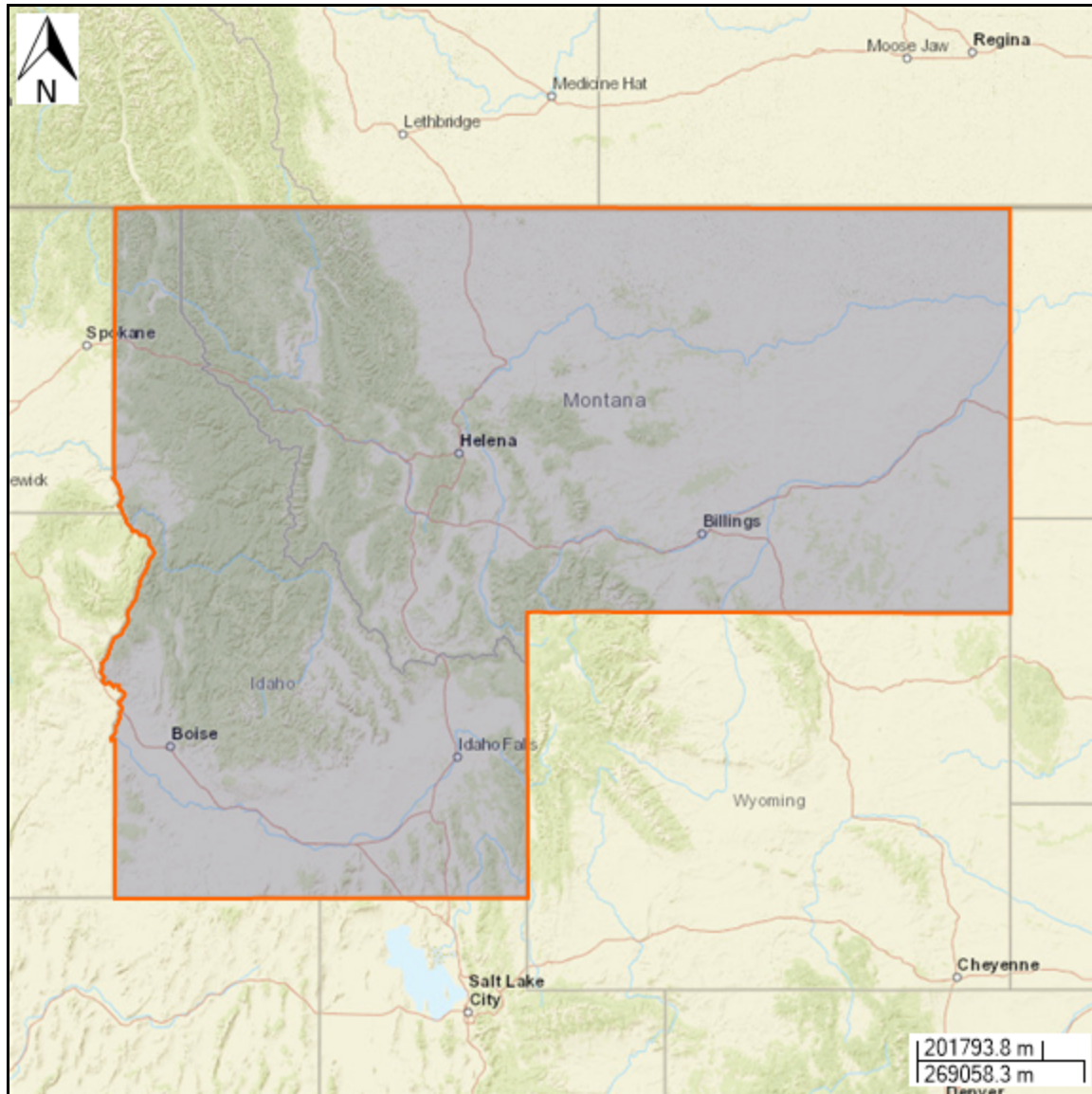
Challenges

Not applicable.

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Impact Area



Information Last Updated
12/19/2017