

# Landscape Scale Restoration Project Report



**Project Name:** Valley County WUI Protections Development

**Funding Year:** 2013

## Stakeholders

Forest Service Region: USDA Forest Service - R1

Sponsoring Organization: Idaho Dept. of Lands

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Participating Organizations:

Grantee: Idaho Dept. of Lands

## Project Funding

Agreement(s): 13-DG-1101000-003

## Project Design

### Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to identify and prioritize subdivisions at greatest risk to fire in Valley County; develop Wildland Urban Interface Fire Protection Plans (WFPP) for those subdivisions; and treat hazard fuels on private lands identified in the plans. Additionally, the project will educate diverse stakeholders regarding the new County ordinance requiring development and implementation of WFPPs as a requirement for subdivision approval and raise awareness of the need for planning and hazard fuel treatments before development occurs. Grant funds will also be used to continue supporting the SW Idaho Woody Biomass Utilization Partnership (WBUP) in their efforts to develop markets for the local biomass product.

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## National Themes & Outcomes

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

#### **Protect Forests from Threats**

- Fire-adapted lands are restored and risk of wildfire impacts is reduced.
- Threats to forest and ecosystem health are identified, managed and reduced.

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

- Communities plan for and reduce their risks from wildfire.

## Strategic Issues

Idaho's Forest Action Plan (FAP) indicates conversion of Valley County's productive forestlands to development as a critical issue. Large fires in 2007 and 2010 spurred the County to create, in 2010, an ordinance requiring subdivision applicants to submit & implement WUI Fire Protection Plans (WFPP), which address forest health and fire risk management actions. Subdivisions approved before 2010 lack this requirement. Due to a down economy, many of these subdivisions are not yet constructed, creating an opportunity to address future issues today. This project identifies and prioritizes pre-2010 built and approved subdivisions at greatest risk to fire to develop 30 WFPPs treat strategic private and public acres on and adjacent to lands identified in these plans, and the County Wildfire Protection Plan, and educates diverse stakeholders on a greater understanding of the 2010 ordinance and the need for planning and treatments before development occurs.

## Collaboration & Partners

Valley County (VC), Cities of McCall and Cascade (M/C), Yellow Pine Fire Department & Donnelly Cascade Rural Fire Protection Districts (RFDs), Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), Payette and Boise National Forests (FS), multiple Forest Landowners (LO), SW Idaho Woody Biomass Utilization Partnership (WBUP), Fire Working Group - which includes reps from federal, state and local agencies and landowners (FWG); Payette Forest Coalition (PFC). The FS will treat 4,700 acres on adjacent lands to further protect these subdivisions. Valley County is leading efforts with participation of all partners.

## Integrated Delivery

This project was developed and coordinated by local, state and federal organizations resulting in expanded partnerships.

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## Influence on Positive Change

Valley County has already taken steps to mitigate future problems associated with new development through their new subdivision ordinance, a model for most other Idaho counties that are grappling with the same issues. Bringing older developments into compliance addresses the gap between newly planned projects and those approved prior to the new legislation w/in a limited window of opportunity. Training and educational tools for P&Z professionals, legislators, and fire districts will help these stakeholders implement the ordinance and WFPPs as intended. Training and education for developers and landowners will help them understand the purpose of and comply with the new ordinance. Not only can these elements be replicated elsewhere, doing so would make a significant positive difference in the ability of local fire departments and residents to protect homes and other assets.

## **Accomplishments**

### Deliverables

- New GIS layer linking all approved subdivisions not yet constructed with the 150,000 acre County Wildfire Protection Plan WUI Risk Assessment, used to prioritize planning and treatments within and adjacent to these WUI subdivisions
- 3-4 one-day workshops, repeated every other year, for planning administrators, staff, legislators and fire district professionals
- Two manuals developed (one for agency staff that work with developers; one for landowners/developers that are preparing a WFPP) on how to create and implement WFPPs
- Complete 30 WFPPs for highest priority subdivisions
- 100 private acres treated across ownerships in highest priority subdivisions identified in newly created WFPPs to enhance subdivision protection
- WBUP facilitates utilization of woody material / biomass generated from treatments by forest-based businesses

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## Accomplishments to Date

IDL has developed an MOU with Valley County to administer the project.

2016:

The County Fire Working group began working with a Biomass Utilization group to complete feasibility study. Additionally, two Community Wildfire Protection Plan templates have been developed to work with various communities within the county.

2017:

The Biomass Utilization group finalized the feasibility study and also provided a supply assessment. Additionally, 10 acres have been completed to improve stand health and reduce wildfire risk.

2018:

A two day workshop was held to introduce residents and planners within Valley County to wildland fire concepts, to include ecology, planning and neighborhood networking. Additionally, 111 acres were completed to improve stand health and reduce wildfire risk.

## Deliverables in Progress

All project deliverables are complete.

## Challenges

2016

With a down turn in the economy the project has not progressed as anticipated due to lack of new community development. With new direction and many interested communities the project will soon be back on track, completing several new plans for existing developments within the county.

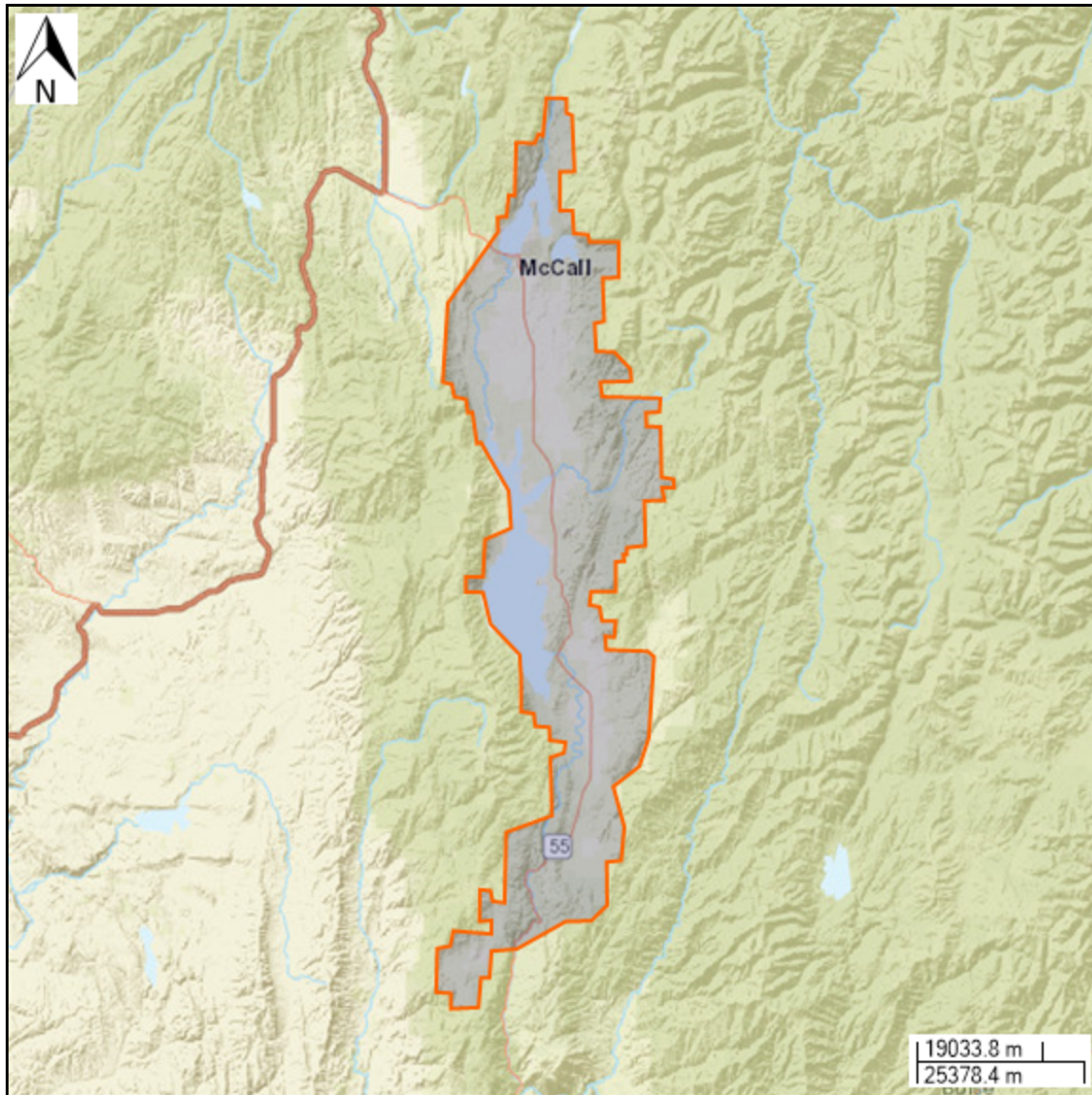
2017

A Shorter than normal work season has delayed full implementation of the fuels reduction efforts, progress is being made to complete the acres prior to winter shutdown.

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## Impact Area



**Information Last Updated**  
12/14/2018