

STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

January 16, 2024
Information Agenda

Subject

Idaho Shared Stewardship Updates

Background

This is Idaho Department of Lands' and the USDA Forest Service's 2023 progress report showing annual updates and the accomplishments of the **No Boundaries Forestry** programs—including Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) projects—under Idaho's Shared Stewardship Initiative.

Discussion

- History and origins of the Idaho Shared Stewardship Initiative
 - Shared Stewardship master agreement between the State of Idaho and the USDA Forest Service (USFS) was signed in December 2018.
 - This is an interagency agreement to manage forestlands, across ownership boundaries, with a collaborative, all-lands-all-hands approach to increase the pace and scale of fuels-reductions treatments and active management in high-risk landscapes across the state.
 - Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and the USFS designated two high-risk priority landscapes in which both agencies focus money and resources towards cross-boundary forest treatments.
 - NRCS joined the Shared Stewardship Initiative as a financial supporter and project collaborator in 2020.
- Changes in the South-Idaho Shared Stewardship Priority Landscape
 - Under the Wildfire Crisis Strategy (WCS), USDA designates the Southwest Idaho Landscape (SIL) which closely overlaps with the South-Idaho Shared Stewardship Priority Landscape.
 - Upon request of the USFS, Shared Stewardship partners met to discuss how the Shared Stewardship Priority Landscape boundary could more closely match the SIL boundary.
 - The resulting change of the South-Idaho Shared Stewardship Priority Landscape was approved by the two USFS Regional Foresters and Idaho's State Forester in 2023.

- Statewide progress in completing harvesting, thinning and fuels-reduction treatments on federal, state and private forestlands in Idaho in the last year to year-and-a-half:
 - Acres treated on Idaho Panhandle, Payette and Boise National Forests: **53,675**
 - Acres treated on State Trust Lands: **10,703**
 - Acres treated on non-industrial private forestlands: **2,111** (*that have utilized one of IDL's funding sources*).
- 2023 Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) progress of active management and fuels-reduction treatments on federal forestlands:
 - Acres treated on the Idaho Panhandle, Payette and Boise National Forests, *in the two Shared Stewardship Priority Landscapes*, administered by GNA foresters: **3,313**
 - Statewide, in 2023:
 - GNA now has agreements with six national forests in Idaho.
 - New agreements signed in 2023 will provide \$3 million in funding for restoration activities on forestlands administered by the BLM, the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, and the Salmon-Challis National Forest.
 - GNA foresters administered 20 active timber-sale operations
 - **3,557** truckloads of logs delivered
 - **11** GNA timber sales were awarded, consisting of:
 - **45.6** million board feet
 - **3,000** total treatment acres
 - **\$5.4 million** total net sale value
 - **3,100** acres of fuels-reduction treatments completed
 - **102** miles of road improvements
 - Replacements of **71** culverts and **1** bridge
- Progress and project work in the North-Idaho Shared Stewardship Priority Landscape, including new funding opportunities
 - Acres harvested, thinned or otherwise treated in the Priority Landscape:
 - Idaho Panhandle National Forests: **12,348** acres
 - GNA administered **1,152** of these acres
 - State endowment forests—IDL: **7,081** acres
 - Non-industrial private forestlands, through Boundary, Bonner and Kootenai Counties: **737** acres
 - Non-industrial private forestlands, through NRCS EQIP: **876** acres
 - 2022 Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership award
 - ***Scattered Lands Hazardous Fuels*** project
 - Originally focused on almost 175,000 acres of high-risk forestlands in Bonner County

- 2023 Joint Chiefs application
 - **North Idaho Highway 95 Hazardous Fuels** project
 - Focuses on almost 800,000 acres of high-risk forestlands across Boundary, Bonner and Kootenai Counties
 - Overlaps the USDA WCS designation of the Kootenai Complex Wildfire Crisis Strategy Landscape
- Progress and project work in the South-Idaho Shared Stewardship Priority Landscape, including new funding opportunities
 - Acres harvested, thinned or otherwise treated in the Priority Landscape:
 - Payette and Boise National Forests: **41,327** acres
 - GNA administered **2,161** of these acres
 - State endowment forests—IDL: **3,622** acres
 - Non-industrial private forestlands, through Valley, Adams and Boise Counties: **419** acres
 - Non-industrial private forestlands, through NRCS EQIP: **79** acres
 - Four new county GNA agreements with national forests, to support fuels-reduction projects on adjacent private forests
 - Idaho County (\$200,000)
 - Adams County (\$795,000)
 - Valley County (\$495,000)
 - Boise County (\$600,000)
 - Boise Front Focal Area
 - Project coordinator: National Forest Foundation
 - Application to acquire NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) funds
 - \$24 million dollars over 5 years to support treatments on the Southwest Idaho Landscape (SIL)
 - Cross-boundary treatments across the Idaho City District of the Boise National Forest and surrounding high-risk, hard-to-access private forestlands
- Words of support for Idaho's Shared Stewardship programs and projects, from Forest Service Regional Foresters, Leanne Marten (Region 1) and Mary Farnsworth (Region 4)
- 5 years after the signing of the Shared Stewardship master agreement, an overview of the progress in reaching the target of "doubling the acres treated" on all of Idaho's seven national forests:
 - On average, per year, there has been a **54%** increase in national forest acres treated, between the five-year period prior to the Shared Stewardship agreement and the five-year period afterward.