



USDA FOREST SERVICE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST



Payette Forest Supervisor



Linda Jackson is currently the Forest Supervisor on the Payette National Forest in McCall, Idaho. Prior to working on the Payette, Linda was the Forest Supervisor on the Ottawa National Forest in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan since 2014. Linda has worked as a district ranger, public affairs specialist, NEPA coordinator, and geologist in Pennsylvania, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Oregon, and Wyoming. Linda is a coach for the Middle Leader Program and strongly believes in improving and sustaining a workplace culture where employees feel valued, respected, listened to, supported, and safe.

ABOUT THE FOREST

The 2.3 million acre Payette National Forest is bordered by two of the deepest canyons in North America. The Salmon River Canyon defines its northern boundary, and Hells Canyon of the Snake River borders its western boundary. The Forest also includes a portion of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. The Payette National Forest is known for its winter recreation, dispersed camping, and majestic lake and river recreation opportunities.

Recreation on the Forest also includes hiking, backpacking, horse and trail bike riding, motorcycle and ATV riding, camping, hunting, fishing, rockhounding, canoeing, kayaking, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and alpine skiing on two developed ski areas.

Features include everything from the deep recesses of Hells Canyon to peaks reaching elevations of almost 9,500 feet. The Forest has emphasis areas in forest health restoration, recreation, timber, mining, and wildlife.

The Payette was selected to provide the 2016 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree. For more than 50 years, a tree has graced the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol, and since 1970, a national forest has been selected during the winter holiday to provide the honored tree. Through involvement from people across the entire state, the Christmas tree became a gift from the entire state of Idaho.

Southwest Idaho Wildfire Crisis Strategy Landscape Project

The Payette, together with the Boise National Forest, was selected as one of the 10 Initial Landscape Investments under the Wildfire Crisis Strategy in April of 2022. Of the 15 identified Firesheds within the project area, 8 of them have been deemed as high priority for the immediate implementation of fuels reduction projects. The landscape size is 1,720,00 acres with 800,000 acres of federal lands. The goal is to treat 250,000 acres on NFS lands over the next 5 to 7 years. In FY2022, \$17.4 million was allocated to the project with a total of \$59.5 million projected over the term of the project.



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The Payette has been very successful with the implementation of prescribed fire having completed nearly 17,000 acres in FY2023. Current and future Commercial Thin and Non-Commercial Thin projects are underway now. The Forest recently awarded a 6,000-acre NCT contract as opposed to small scale contracts of the past. Shared Stewardship, Good Neighbor Authority and all other tools are actively being used within the project area. The Forest has met with local communities at risk and assisting these communities in developing Wildfire Community Protect Plans and assisting with fuels reduction grants.

Weiser - Little Salmon Headquarters Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program

The Forest was fortunate to have been a CFLRP Forest since 2012. This landscape-scale approach at managing an area of more than 970,000 acres across three ranger districts sets the Forest up for continued success in implementing the Wildfire Crisis Strategy. This project was the only CFLRP project within the Intermountain Region and was a shared effort with the Payette Forest Coalition, a local collaborative group.

Thanks to the project's timber sales, Evergreen Mill added a second shift, created 35 full-time jobs, and is functioning at full operational capacity, and a new mill opened in the Treasure Valley using timber from this project.



On average, the Payette has 65 to 70 wildfires per year with two large fire events. Proactive wildfire and fuels management is a main stay on the Forest.



The Payette has an active commercial timber management program that provides direct economic benefits to local communities.



The Payette is a primary focus of local area residents and thousands of visitors per year - the Payette is a destination area for recreation.



The Payette uses horses and mule pack strings extensively throughout the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness.



The Payette works with three Native American Tribes to ensure their input is included in all Forest stewardship projects.



The Payette manages grazing permits across the Forest and is actively pursuing adaptive management to assist in fuels reduction.