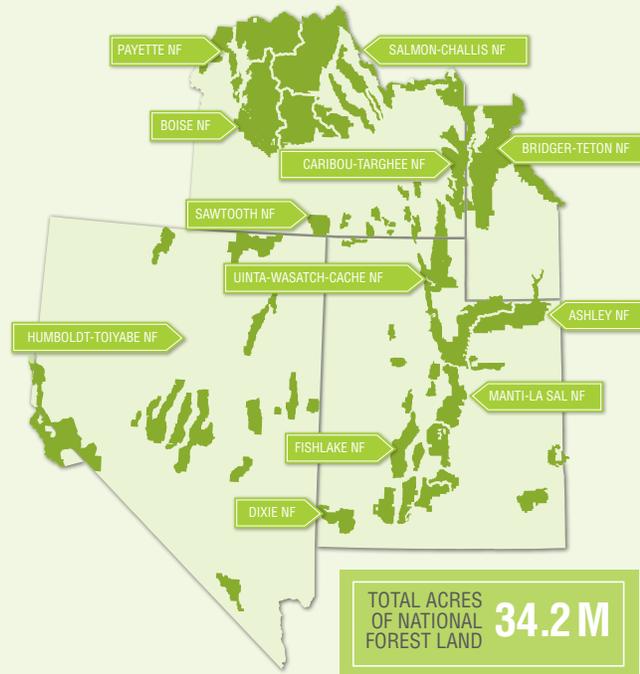


INTERMOUNTAIN REGION National Forests

The Intermountain Region of the Forest Service encompasses nearly 34-million acres of National Forest System lands. The Intermountain Regional Office in Ogden, Utah provides administrative oversight and support to 12 national forests and one national grassland in Utah, Nevada, western Wyoming, eastern California, and southern and central Idaho. More than 20 million people visit each year to hunt, fish, hike, ski, camp, drive, ride and enjoy the national forests and grasslands.

AT A GLANCE

The Intermountain Region contains 12 national forests, 44 wilderness areas, and 1 national grassland:



FOREST PLAN REVISIONS

Every National Forest operates under a land management framework called a forest plan. The Intermountain Region is taking a regional approach to updating these plans under the 2012 planning rule. These plans will be developed in a manner that encourages participation from publics, stakeholders, and other agencies to reflect a broad and inclusive vision for managing National Forests.

Early in the process, other federal agencies, state, county, local and tribal governments will be encouraged to seek cooperating agency status. Public meetings in communities near the Forests will provide an opportunity for individuals to learn about forest planning, stay current with the plan development, and provide input to the planning process. Public outreach and participation will be a priority for each phase of the Forest Plan Revision Process. Our goal is that each Forest will be able to complete these plans within four years of their start date.

Each individual Forest leads the process for its forest plan revision. Forests that have started or are anticipated to start the process in the next 5 years are the Ashley, Manti-La Sal, Salmon-Challis, Bridger-Teton, Dixie, Fishlake, and Humboldt-Toiyabe.

RECREATION

According to one recent national survey, more than half of Americans have visited a National Forest or Grassland in the past year, and nearly 90% of avid visitors (those who have gone three or more times in the last year) plan to visit again next year. The Intermountain Region gets a lot of repeat visitors. In the Region, a full 16% of our total visits are from people who enjoy their public lands more than 50 times a year. Here are some highlights:

-  **1600** DEVELOPED REC SITES
-  **21** SKI AREAS
-  **13.7K** MILES NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS
-  **28** SCENIC BYWAYS
-  **590K** VOLUNTEER HOURS
-  **11.5K** MILES MOTORIZED TRAILS

BIGHORN SHEEP

The National Forest Management Act requires that national forests provide for the diversity of plant and animal communities based upon the suitability and capability of the specific land area. The primary issue of concern for bighorn sheep herds is the risk of contact with and the potential for disease transmission from domestic sheep. Risk of contact assessments are complete for Wyoming and Utah, while Idaho's assessment is underway. As assessments are completed, the forests will work with the states, permittees, tribes and other stakeholders to address issues and find the best possible management practices for all involved.

INTERMOUNTAIN REGION National Forests

ACCELERATED RESTORATION

2015 Intermountain Region Accomplishments:

- 424,192 acres treated to sustain or restore watershed function and resilience.
- 175,512 CCF (100.1 MMBF) volume of timber sold from National Forest System lands.
- 144,775 acres treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire.

JOINT CHIEF'S AWARD

The Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership, involving both the both the Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service to restore landscapes, awarded 500 thousand dollars to a new restoration project in the Intermountain Region. The Curlew Area Restoration Project consists of several multi-faceted and interrelated projects for the Curlew National Grassland and adjacent private lands developed to improve watershed and natural resource conditions while benefitting local farmers and ranchers. Project activities will improve public safety, improve water quality and aquatic habitat, increase riparian and wetland habitat, remove invasive plants, protect sagebrush habitat, improve grazing and farming practices, improve recreation opportunities and increase public awareness about restoration activities.

FARM BILL

The Agricultural Act of 2014 is important legislation that provides authorization for services and programs that impact every American and millions of people around the world. The 2014 Farm Bill makes Stewardship Contracting Authority permanent, allowing the Forest Service to conduct restoration work and stimulate job growth, and also makes the Good Neighbor Authority permanent and available. In Idaho, a total of eight projects are proposed on three National Forests within the Intermountain Region. The Nevada State Forester worked closely with the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest supervisor to develop a list of ten landscapes. In Utah, the state forester proposed five landscapes based on watershed boundaries. Wyoming submitted nine landscapes for designation.

GRAZING

Much of the National Forest System lands in the Intermountain Region are working landscapes and livestock grazing within our Forests is an important contribution to the sustenance of local economies, maintenance of open space, and preservation of western culture. The benefits of livestock grazing on these lands within our region is important to local communities and ecosystems as a whole. A cornerstone in the successful management of forests and grasslands is our commitment to collaborate with a wide range of partners including communities, private landowners, special interest groups, and local, state, tribal and federal agencies. As differences arise regarding how to manage the public lands, communication and cooperation become crucial to consider viable and mutual solutions.

The Region is proactively addressing greater sage-grouse conservation concerns.



SAGE GROUSE

By proactively addressing greater sage-grouse conservation concerns on National Forest System lands, we hope to maintain the widest possible range of options for managing the public lands and for our neighboring landowners. This year our focus is on habitat mapping and evaluation, and monitoring to identify potential impacts to existing permits and/or operations. The Forest Service is collaborating with existing permit holders. Any needed changes to permits (grazing or special uses) will not happen until 2017 at the earliest.



Employees restore native vegetation on Mount Harrison on the Sawtooth National Forest, Idaho.

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