Northern & Intermountain Regions
State & Private Forestry

USDA Forest Service
April 2010

Northern & Intermountain Regions

REDESIGN Checkpoint

REDESIGN: Shaping and influencing forest land use on a scale and in a way that optimizes public benefits from trees and forests for both current and future generations.

"Redesign integrates the interests & needs of people with the challenges & opportunities created by natural resources and natural events. The resulting convergence of social, economic and environmental factors clarifies priorities and generates a more unified call to action. It's impressive to see the decisive responses – and the resulting accomplishments – of State Foresters, our Forests and other stakeholders."

— Mike Dudley, Director R1-R4 State & Private Forestry

Redesigning
State & Private Forestry

We said we would **FOCUS . . .**

on national issues and sustaining diverse public benefits.

With projects ranging from aquifer protection to economic development, and from hazardous fuels & invasive species treatments to the conservation of open space & traditional working forests, nowhere are the national priorities identified through Redesign more relevant than in the northern Rocky and intermountain states of North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Utah and Nevada. In addition to the environmental benefits these projects are enhancing job opportunities for hundreds of people in these rural, western states.

"The Redesign effort provides an opportunity for us to approach a multitude of resource issues within the areas we've prioritized as critical landscapes. In doing so, we take a holistic approach using funding and authorities from multiple state and federal programs to provide comprehensive treatments on the ground. As a result, the benefits to landowners and communities are compounded and far-reaching. This is the essence of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act."

— Bob Harrington,
State Forester, Montana Department of
Natural Resources & Conservation

This picture is typical of overgrown forests in Montana and northern Idaho that will be treated as part of R1-R4 Redesign projects.

	2008	2009
Idaho	**1 Project — $248,000** Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer GIS Analysis.	**3 Projects — $480,565** ID-WA Prairie Aquifer Improvement. Grimes & Mores Creeks' Watershed Restoration. Silver Valley Ecological Restoration & Economic Development.
Montana	**3 Projects — $900,000** Butte Watershed Restoration. Blackfoot Watershed Forest Health. Swan Valley Planning, Outreach & Conservation.	**2 Projects — $600,000** Yellowstone Watershed Biomass, Infrastructure & Restoration. South Helena Watershed Stewardship, Restoration & Protection.
Nevada	**3 Projects — $703,795** Mt Rose Fuels, Fire & Forest Health Cooperative Outreach. Spring Mtn Range Forest Health-HazFuels-Biomass Utilization & Conservation Education. Storey County Fuels, Fire and Forest Health Cooperative Outreach.	**4 Projects — $915,000** Meadow Valley Native Plant Restoration, Fuels Reduction & Public Recreation Enhancement. Las Vegas Valley Urban Forestry Collaborative. Tahoe Multi-State Health Forests – Health Lake Cooperative. UT-NV Virgin River Watershed Initiative.
North Dakota	**1 Project — $300,000** Missouri River Forestry Initiative.	**1 Project — $300,000** ND Conservation Forestry Initiative.
Utah	**1 Project — $300,000** Jordan River Forest Watershed Initiative.	**2 Projects — $550,000** Cedar Mtn Aspen Initiative. UT-NV Virgin River Watershed Initiative.
TOTAL	**9 Projects — $2,451,795** Federal Funds Invested.	**12 Projects — $2,845,565** Federal Funds Invested.

We said we would **PRIORITIZE . . .**

using best available information to assess conditions & identify opportunities.

Redesign inspired a much needed State Assessment process for State Foresters, federal forest and tribal forest managers, and other natural resource-related stakeholders to discuss, map and prioritize both concerns and opportunities, then leverage resources so that the priorities identified for action are achievable.

ND '08-10: Urban forests are important components of North Dakota's forests, and improve the environment and quality of life for community residents. Urban forests, just like forests in more open country, are at risk of severe winds, heavy late season snows, and insects & disease. Upper photo shows trees sheared off by sever winds.

2010

3 Projects — $641,579
Treasure Valley Air Quality Canopy Assessment.
Ties to the Land Succession Planning for Family Forest Landowners.
Online Urban Forestry & Interface Forestry Technology Transfer.

2 Projects — $600,000
South Bozeman Watershed Protection, Restoration & Enhancement.
Whitefish Watershed Restoration & Protection.

1 Project — $250,000
NV-UT Virgin & Muddy River Watershed Initiative.

1 Project — $272,300
Web-based Forest Resource Mapping & Reporting System.

3 Projects — $625,000
Wasatch Front Watershed Sustainability Partnership.
Colorado River Tamarisk Eradication & Native Tree Restoration.
NV-UT Virgin & Muddy River Watershed Initiative.

10 Projects — $2,388,879 Federal Funds Invested.

"Redesign has enabled us to move in directions we would never have been able to go with strict programmatic funding. We're now developing and implementing projects that cross program boundaries and ownerships to benefit Idaho's forest resources and communities within high priority landscapes."

— George B. Bacon
Director, Idaho Department of Lands

Here are the **OUTCOMES . . .**

achieved through collaboration, partnerships & working at appropriate scales.

Montana's Swan Valley Project
Redesign 2008

Home to populations of threatened and endangered species such as grizzly bears, Canada lynx and bull trout, the Swan Valley watershed has been identified as a priority watershed in Montana, and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (MT DNRC) is making significant investments to ensure long-term health and productivity of the watershed. Finding partners wasn't difficult; the Swan Ecosystem Center, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Forest Service, MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Trust for Public Lands and other agencies, private landowners and groups enthusiastically contributed significant matching resources to:

- Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health on 410 acres,
- Treat noxious weeds on 600 acres, and
- Host landowner stewardship field trips and workshops to promote development of at least 10 private forest stewardship plans.

MT '08-'10: Nearly all of Montana's Redesign projects include biomass utilization as one of the primary outcomes.

MT '08: Neighboring landowners and coordinating agencies' staff members discuss stewardship planning on recent field trip.

NV & UT '09: Native rushes are beginning to thrive after eradication of tamarisk in this riparian area. Restoration of native riparian species along the Virgin River will continue with the '10 Redesign project.

Nevada's Spring Mountain Range Project
Redesign 2008

The NV Division of Forestry, NV Fire Safe Council, Forest Service, Univ of NV Extension Service, homeowners and others joined forces, working in the wildland interface near Las Vegas, to:

- Treat hazardous fuels,
- Assess and prioritize actions for improved forest health,
- Utilize biomass generated by fuel and forest health treatments, and
- Design & deliver a series of workshops, interpretive tools demonstration projects and even 'block parties' to increase over 300 area landowners' awareness and understanding of forest stewardship and fuel reduction management options.

(Above) NV '08: Slash piles ready for burning in foreground; completed treatments in background show progress of treatments.

(Below) NV '08: Hazardous fuel treatment on Mt Charleston, within the Spring Mountain Range Project.

"The ability to integrate programmatic tools of urban forestry, forest health, stewardship, fuels mitigation, biomass and conservation education allows my staff to be more responsive to the complex needs of natural resources as well as the landowners & communities with whom we work. The resulting outcomes are a better fit, and a more sustainable solution, for our landscapes and our people.

— Larry Kotchman
State Forester, North Dakota Forest Service

(Larger image) ND '09: Agency Staff provides technical assistance, helping landowner evaluate a windbreak.

ND '09: Aerial view of windbreaks surrounding farmhouse.

North Dakota's Conservation Forestry Initiative Redesign 2009

Partnering with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Forest Service, and the ND Conservation Districts, the North Dakota Forest Service spearheaded a new forestry initiative to increase opportunities for private landowners to receive forestry-related conservation assistance. This project is enhancing the agencies' abilities to deliver technical and financial assistance to private landowners, and is already resulting in improved:

- Training for technical assistance providers,
- Private forest stewardship planning, practice design and reporting,
- Windbreak establishment and renovation to protect highly erodible soils,
- Hazardous fuel treatments on high priority areas on farms, ranches and tribal homesites,
- Woodland improvements, and
- Firewise practices.

Redesign Priority #1:
Conserving Working Forest Landscapes

With emphasis on …

- Reducing forest conversion, and
- Informing landscape decisions.

Redesign Priority #2:
Protecting Forests from Harm

Intent of work is …

- Reducing threats to forest health and productivity caused by uncharacteristic wildfire, insects & disease, and invasive species

Redesign Priority #3:
Enhancing Benefits from Trees and Forests

Work focuses on …

- Enhancing public benefits associated with trees and forests, and
- Reducing risks to communities from wildfire

ND '09: Hazardous fuel treatments on private ranch.

(Larger Image) UT '08: Well-established invasive plants within Jordan River watershed.

UT '08: Treating stumps of a large salt cedar like this one is just one step in eradicating the extensive invasive plants and restoring native vegetation throughout the multi-state river corridor.

Utah's Jordan River Forest Watershed Initiative Project Redesign 2008

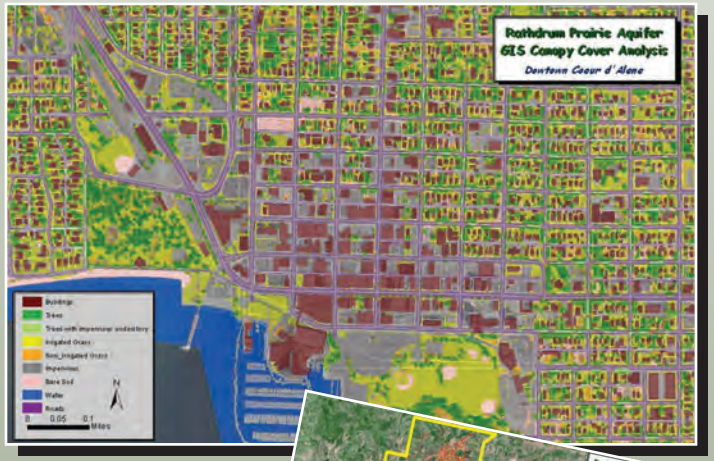
The community of North Fork is situated in the upper reaches of the Jordan River Watershed, adjacent to designated Wilderness and provides a gateway to recreational opportunities for hundreds of thousands each year. While a beautiful setting, it comes with risks of wildland fire in the interface, impacts from Douglas-fir beetles and impacts to the ecosystem from high human use. The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands facilitated partnerships with the Sundance Preserve, local homeowners, and neighboring communities to successfully:

- Complete 2 miles of fuel break treatments,
- Develop a community wildfire protection plan,
- Provide beetle prevention technical assistance to neighboring communities, and
- Host wildfire and ecology awareness town meetings.

Idaho's Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Improvement Redesign 2009

Dependency on a sole-source aquifer that serves more than a half-million people inspired a consortium of private, public and non-profit entities to consider innovative solutions to protect and enhance water quality and quantity in eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. One aspect of concern – and the subject of this project - is the health of the forest canopy. Bark beetles, root diseases, wildfire and property development threaten the thousands of acres of dense, drought-stressed forests. This project is:

- Developing an integrated, prioritized forest risk assessment,
- Designing & delivering education & outreach programs that emphasize the relationship between healthy forests and health aquifers/water supplies, and
- Providing cost-share for forestry practices that benefit the watershed.



ID '08-'09: Maps illustrate canopy types as part of the canopy cover analysis.

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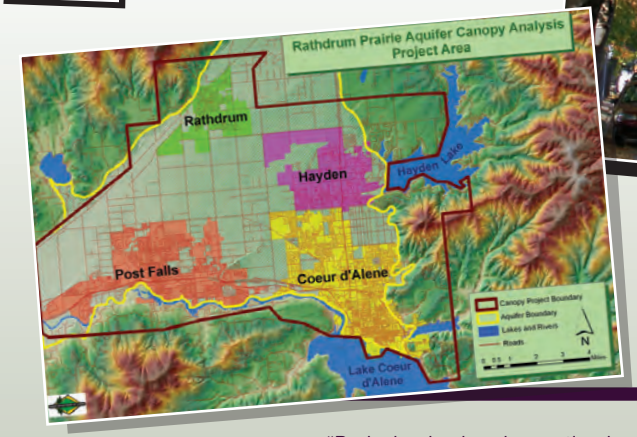

(Above) ID '08-'09: Canopy cover like this is the goal of many communities.

(Below) ID '08-'09: Map illustrates canopy types as part of the canopy cover analysis.

"Redesign is already creating benefits beyond the associated competitive grant program. As a result of their extensive assessment efforts, State Foresters in intermountain and northern Rocky Mountain states were well-poised for a quick and impressive response to the call for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) project proposals. R1-R4 State & Private Forestry received $40 million in ARRA funds that State Foresters were able to invest projects responsive to the recovery act goal of creating jobs while accomplishing high priority resource work."

— Peg Polichio
Deputy Director R1-R4 State & Private Forestry

Redesigning
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