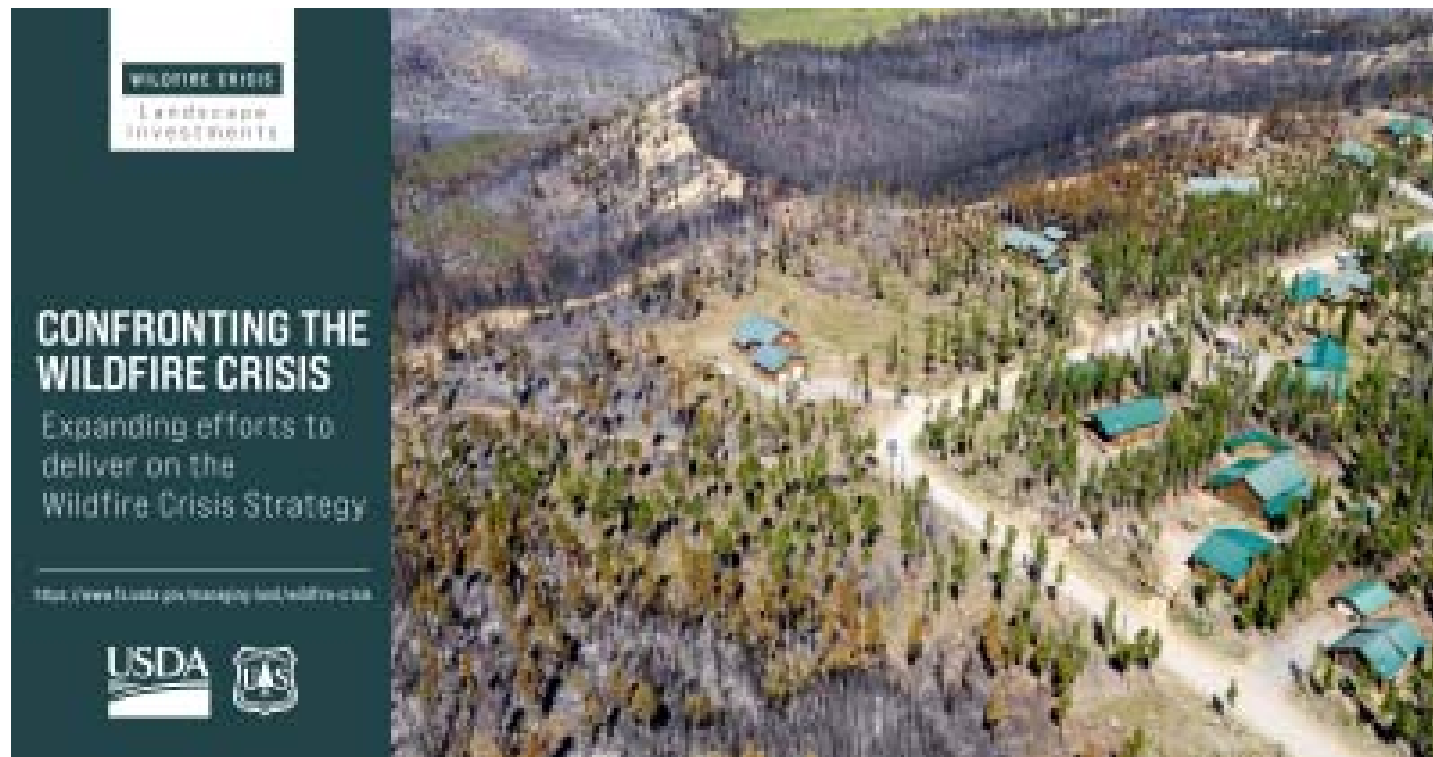




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Wildfire Crisis Strategy





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Wildfire Crisis Strategy – What’s in it for McCall?

- **High Priority/High Risk Firesheds**
 - **Not a list desirable to be on, but...**
- **Overgrown Forests, a warming climate, and a growing number of homes in the Wildland Urban Interface, coupled with more than a century of rigorous fire suppression, have all contributed to what is now considered a full-blown wildfire and forest health crisis.**





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Wildfire Crisis Strategy – What is it?

- [National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy](#) “Cohesive Strategy” – April 2002
 - Address the nation’s wildfire problems
 - Restore and Maintain Landscapes
 - Fire Adapted Communities
 - Response to Fire
- Wildfire Crisis Strategy focuses on two of these areas.
 - Restore and Maintain Landscapes
 - Fire Adapted Communities





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Wildfire Crisis Strategy – What is it?

- **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (December 2021)**
- **Ten year Wildfire Crisis Strategy (January Of 2022)**
 - **Restore and Maintain Landscapes**
 - **Fire Adapted Communities**
- **Dramatic increase in fuels and forest health treatments – 4X.**
 - **Aims to reduce severity of wildfires through an ALL LANDS approach.**





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WILDFIRE CRISIS
STRATEGY
CONFRONTING
THE
WILDFIRE
CRISIS



Wildfire Crisis Strategy – What is it?

- Restoring and maintaining landscape through No Boundaries Forestry – Federal, State, County, Private Lands.
- No one organization can work alone to change severe fire conditions. We must work together to shape the future of our forests and communities.
- The funding paradigm shift needs to be matched with a partnership paradigm shift that results in work being done on the ground to truly make a difference.



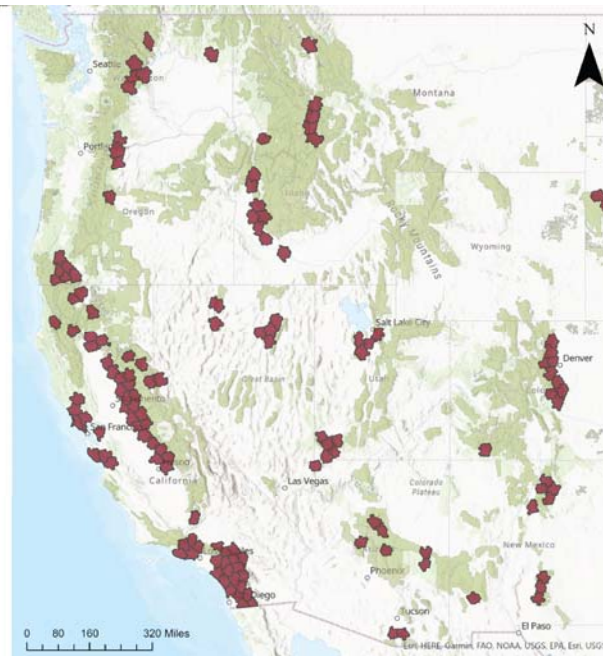
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Wildfire Crisis Strategy – What is it?

- Initial Investment Landscapes
 - High Risk Firesheds and **High Priority Firesheds**

HIGH-RISK FIRESHEDS

Community exposure is a central factor in the strategy to confront the wildfire crisis. Other factors include Tribal and State plans, watersheds, equity, climate forecasts, and partner priorities.

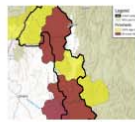




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Wildfire Crisis Strategy – What is it?

- Southwest Idaho Wildfire Crisis Landscape



SOUTHWEST IDAHO

Intermountain Region | Region 4

NATIONAL FOREST
Boise and Payette National Forests

STATE(S)
Idaho

LANDSCAPE SIZE
1,720,000 acres

EXPECTED COMPLETION OF INITIAL TREATMENTS
2027 - 2029

EXPECTED BIL FUNDING
FY 2022: \$17.4 million
TOTAL FY 2022 - 2024: \$59.5 million

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS
ID-1, ID-2

TRIBAL CONNECTION
Nez Perce, Shoshone-Paiute, Shoshone-Bannock

PARTNERS
Idaho Department of Lands; The Nature Conservancy; National Forest Foundation; Bureau of Land Management; Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association; Valley, Adams, Gem, Boise, and Ada Counties; Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership; Boise Forest Coalition; and Payette Forest Coalition

LANDSCAPE HIGHLIGHTS

The goal of Southwest Idaho Fuels Reduction Project is to treat approximately 250,000 acres of hazardous fuels on National Forest System lands over 5 to 7 years. Collaborative efforts to treat the national forests and adjacent Federal, State, and private land through a shared stewardship approach will decrease the risk of catastrophic wildfire to communities, improve watershed health, sustain industry, protect recreation, and improve forest resilience.

The investments made in this landscape will significantly reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire while increasing the resiliency of the landscape to climate change and other stressors.

The project will amplify and accelerate forest restoration and wildfire risk reduction work already occurring through use of Good Neighbor Authority and Shared Stewardship.

Well-established and effective partnerships with Tribes, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the State of Idaho, the Boise and Payette Forest Coalitions, and other groups will help the Forest Service and partners achieve desired outcomes in this landscape.

MECHANISMS FOR EXECUTION

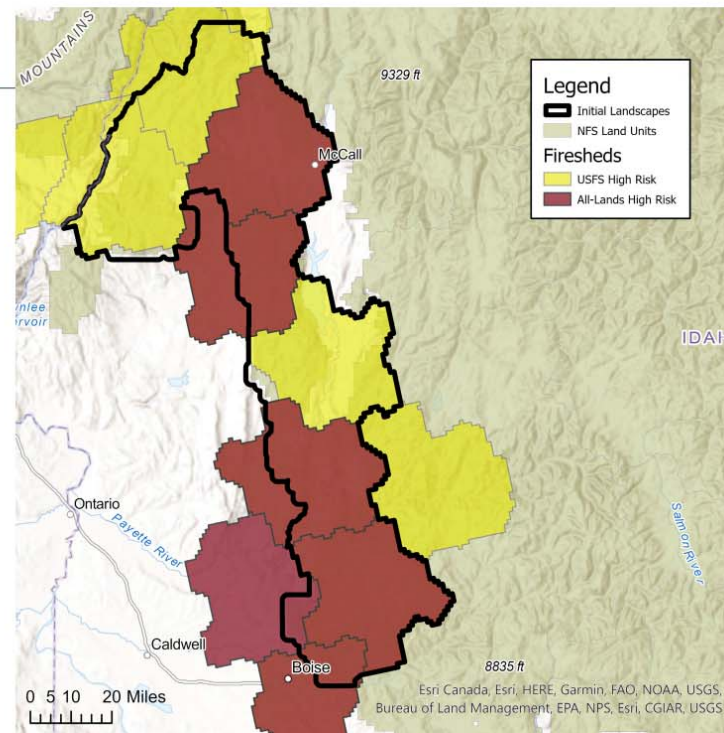
Since 2016, the Boise and Payette National Forests and State of Idaho have been using Good Neighbor Authority to increase the pace and scale of forest and watershed restoration activities on National Forest System lands. In December 2018, the State of Idaho and USDA signed the Nation's first Shared Stewardship Agreement, memorializing a commitment to expand critical treatments beyond national forests onto all ownership boundaries. The forests also have contracts in place for noncommercial thinning work and cooperative agreements with other agencies to aid in prescribed fire implementation.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS
FY 2022: 18,000 acres
FY 2022 - 2024: 55,000 acres

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The risk of catastrophic wildfire to the cities of Boise, Horseshoe Bend, Idaho City, Garden Valley, McCall, Cascade, Donnelly, New Meadows, Council, and Cambridge will be reduced by incorporating an all-lands approach to forest management and achieving long-term results based on science and socioeconomic.

Implementation of this project will improve watershed conditions and terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem health in major watersheds, including the Boise, Payette and Weiser subbasins. These river basins include habitat for important species, including threatened steelhead, Chinook salmon, and bull trout populations.





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How can we work together to reduce fuels?

Who?

Each organization needs to look internally first.

- The funding paradigm shift needs to be matched with a partnership paradigm shift that results in work being done on the ground to truly make a difference.

How? – No Boundaries Forestry

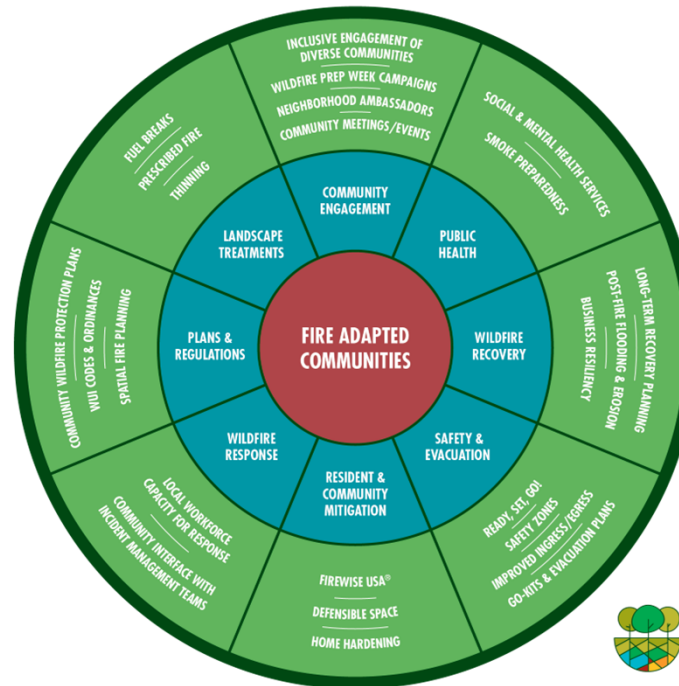
- Shared Stewardship -
- Good Neighbor Authority – cooperative management agreement
- Wyden Authority
- Partnership Agreements



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Wildfire Crisis Strategy – What is it?

- Fire Adapted Communities & CWPPs





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A photograph of a sunset over a forest landscape. The sky is filled with large, billowing clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and red. In the foreground, several tall, dark evergreen trees stand prominently. The background shows rolling hills and a dense forest under a hazy sky.

Granite Goose Landscape Restoration Project Payette National Forest McCall and New Meadows Ranger Districts

Depicts a sunset photo that was taken south of Goose Lake on NFS Road 273 looking east.
Photo credit Mandy Villwock.

Granite Goose Project Area

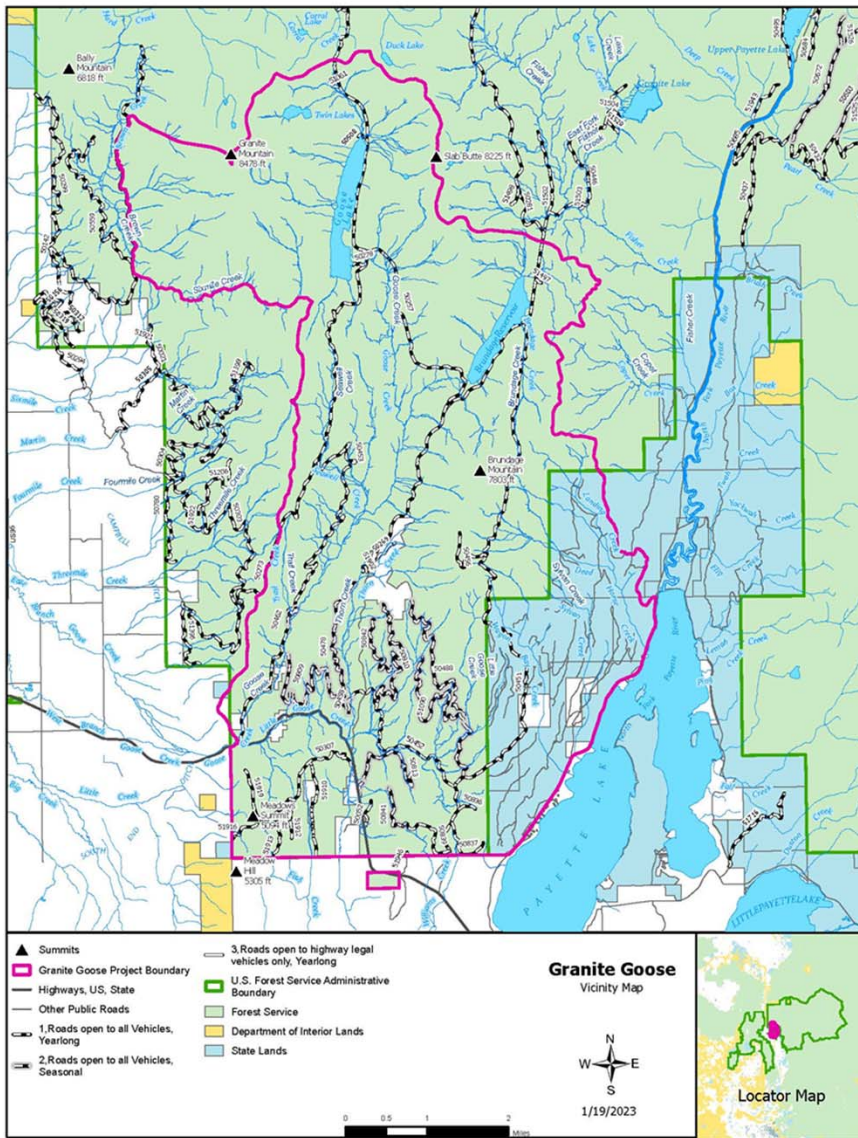
McCall and New Meadows Ranger Districts, north & east of New Meadows and north & west of McCall, within Adams, Idaho, and Valley counties.

Approximately 39,918 acres:

- 33,346 acres of National Forest
- 5,371 acres of State of Idaho lands, and
- 1,105 acres of private lands.

Through Wyden Amendment (P.L. 109-54, Section 434) proposed treatment activities may occur on State and private lands within the project area boundary provided there are agreements between the PNF, the Idaho Department of Lands, and/or willing private landowners.

Note: The boundary includes a seasonal extension on an existing 3,713 acre winter area closure at Granite Mountain. No other treatment activities are proposed within this area.



Summary of the Purpose and Need

The In order to move the project area toward desired condition as described in the Payette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, purpose and need of the Granite Goose Landscape Restoration Project is to

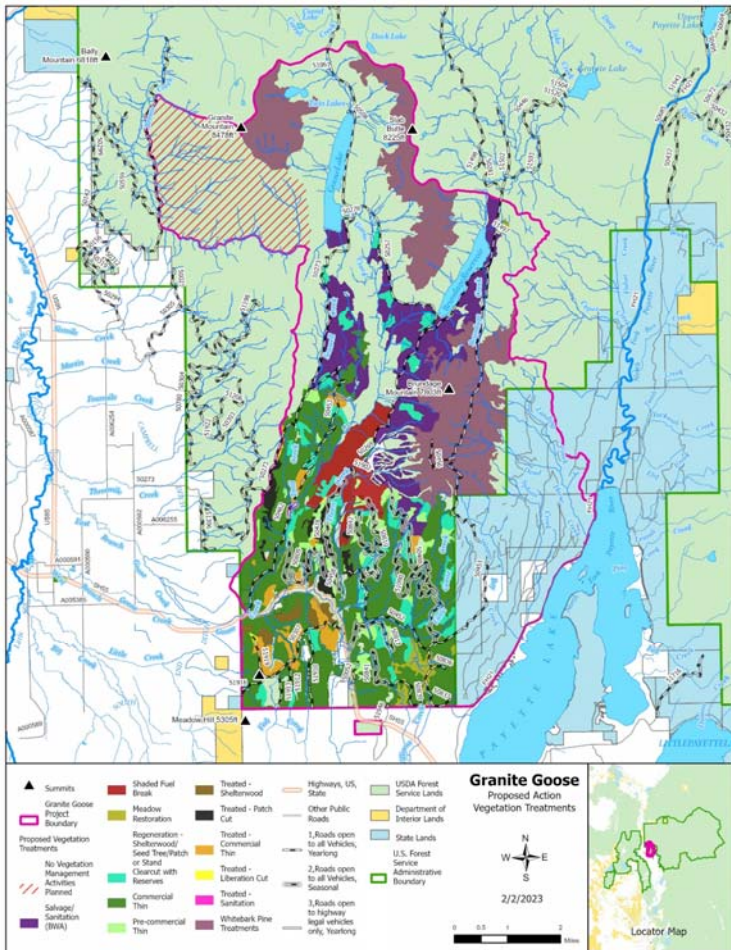
- Reduce fuel loading adjacent to communities to reduce fuels and catastrophic wildfire risk and support the development of fire-adapted rural communities,
- Maintain and improve conditions for forest vegetation,
- Provide for a safe and efficient NFS transportation network,
- Move subwatersheds toward forest plan desired conditions for soil, water and riparian areas to maintain and improve watershed conditions,
- Maintain and improve recreation opportunities and experiences to address user safety, recreation conflicts, and reduce negative effects to resources while continuing to maintain a range of recreation opportunities.

Proposed Action Summary

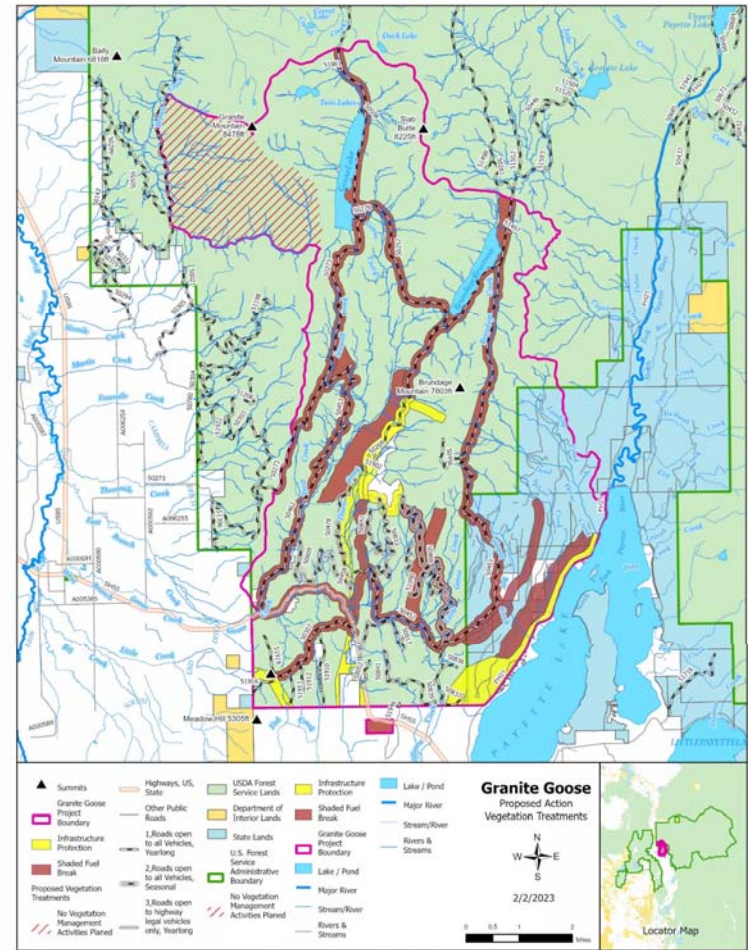
1) **Vegetation treatments:** All of the proposed treatment types are broadly classified as either **mechanized or non-mechanized** and may include both commercial, non-commercial activities.

- **Mechanized Activities** may include commercial thin, salvage/sanitation, regeneration, shaded fuel breaks, infrastructure protection, meadow encroachment treatments and whitebark pine restoration.
- **Non-Mechanized Vegetation Treatments** may include thinning of hazardous fuels, prescribed fire, pre-commercial thinning and whitebark pine treatments
- **Vegetation treatments to Treatments on state and private land with willing landowners** may include mechanized treatments, non-mechanized treatments, prescribed fire, chipping, planting and seeding of native vegetation, and road repair. Mutual agreements would seek to:
 - Reduce the risk of uncharacteristic and undesirable wildland fire;
 - Promote more resilient forests; and
 - Promote fire-adapted communities.

Vegetation Management Proposed Actions



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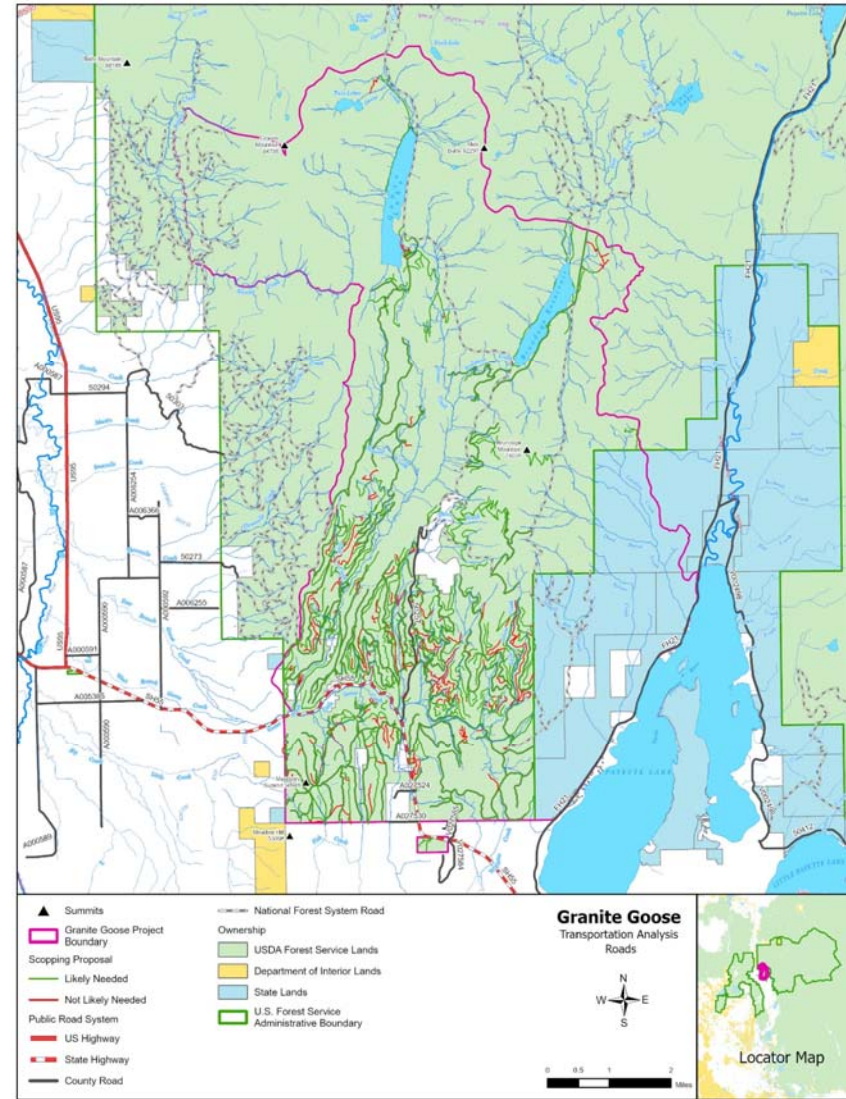
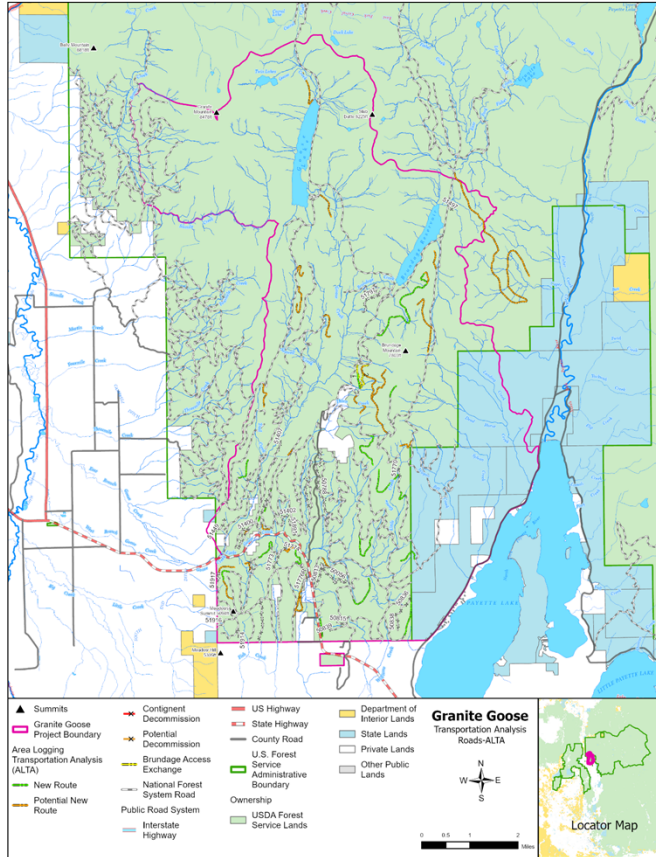
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2) Road Management – The Payette NF will complete a travel management process to inform the range of road, route and travel related actions.

Initial Roads Needs Analysis: Does not include State, county or private roads in the project area. Identifying risks is the next step in the process.

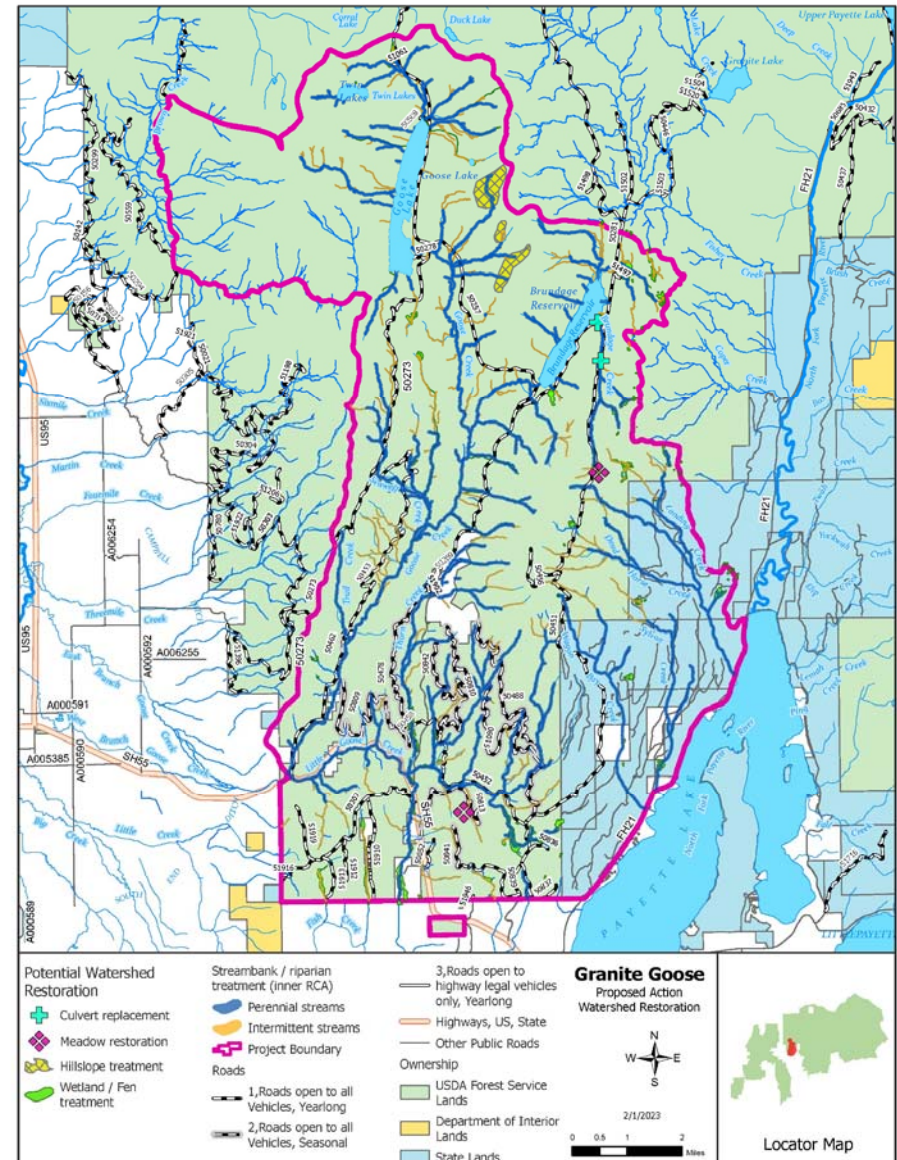
Roads and Routes in the Project Area ¹	Miles Likely Needed	Miles Likely Not Needed
Existing National Forest System Roads (NFSR)	131.3	0.3
Road Open to Highway Legal Vehicles, Yearlong	0.4	0.0
Road Open to All Vehicles, Yearlong	51.8	0.0
Road Open to All Vehicles, Seasonal	22.0	0.0
Administrative Use Only	25.1	0.0
Basic Custodial Closure	32.0	0.3
Existing Undetermined Routes	74.5	27.0
Planned NFSR (From past decisions)	2.1	0.0
Converted Routes	0.3	0.1
Decommissioned Routes (Excluding NFSR)	22.3	12.9
Decommissioned NFSR	4.6	0.4
Needs Analysis Total Miles	235.0	40.6
Area Landscape Transportation Analysis	31.3	12.5

Road Management



3) Watershed Restoration

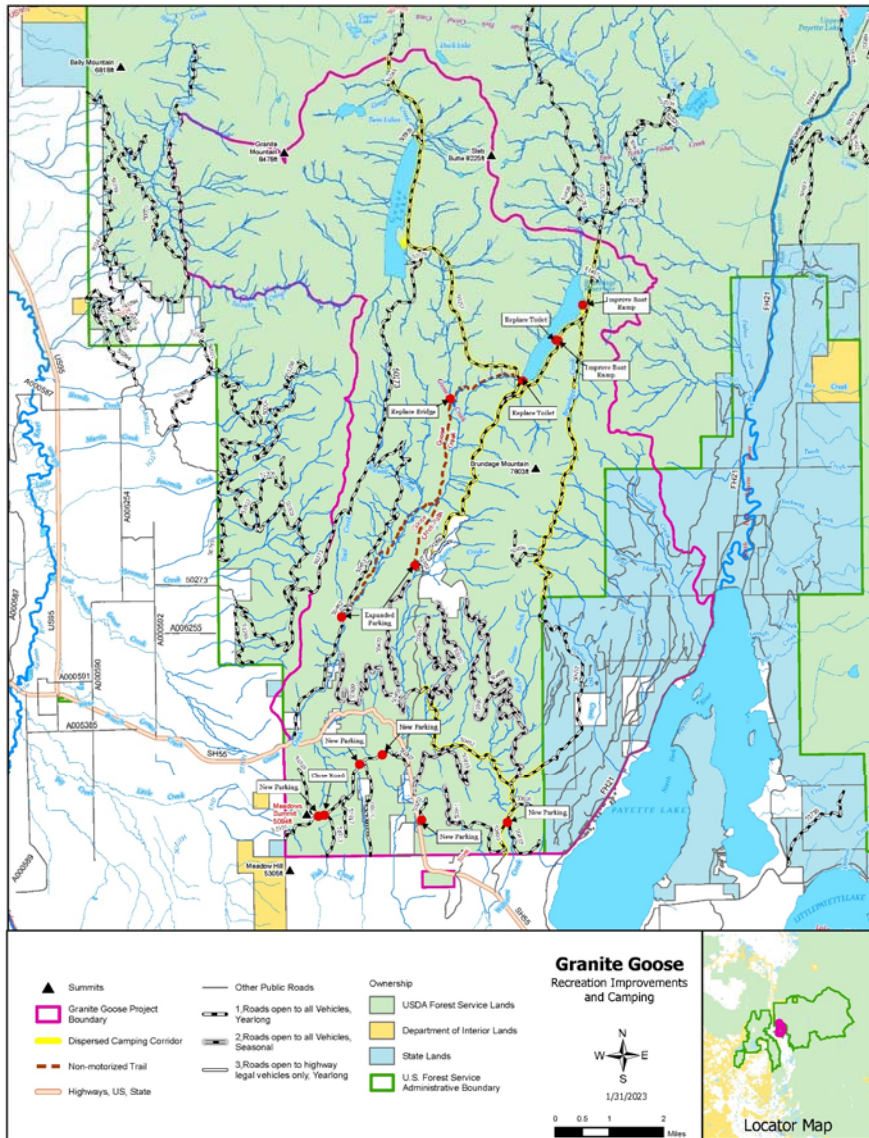
- Road and route treatments including maintenance, long-term closures, road realignment graveling and decommissioning to reduce overall road density and road-related impacts to water quality and fish habitat, improve habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species, and improve long-term soil productivity
- Streambank, wetland, meadow, and riparian restoration actions are proposed to address degraded conditions. Some specific actions identified includes decompaction and meadow restoration at Hartley and Bear Basin Meadows



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- In the Ecks Flat area:
 - Establish 5.6 miles of motorized trails by incorporating user-created trails, existing routes or new construction.
 - Provide closure mechanisms (signs, berms, fencing, and/or obliteration) on routes not open to motorized use.
 - Construct 2 parking lots in the area: 1) on the north side of FS road 50307 near the intersection with FSR 51775 (for approximately 15 vehicles, or fewer with trailers), and 2) at the junction of FS Roads 50307 and 51777/51778 (for approximately 18 vehicles, or fewer with trailers).
 - Address Recreational shooting concerns by adding a kiosk at the proposed parking area near NFS Road 51777 and post information signs addressing Forest rules, regulations, and user safety.
 - Close NFS Road 51913 near the junction of NFS Road 50307 and post information signs addressing Forest rules, regulations, and user safety.
 - Post information signs on the existing gates for NFS Road 51914 and NFS Road 51913
 - At the gravel pit along FS Road 50307 consider potential recreational use of the area and establish parking for approximately 18-20 vehicles, north of the gravel pit
- Other Recreation improvements include
 - Replacing and moving the restroom at Brundage Reservoir which is currently located midway on the eastern side of NFS Road 281 to the western side of NFS Road 281.
 - Replace the restroom at the Brundage Reservoir Dam
 - Improve the two boat ramps at Brundage Reservoir.
 - Expand the Gordon Titus winter parking lot by up to 3.5 acres.



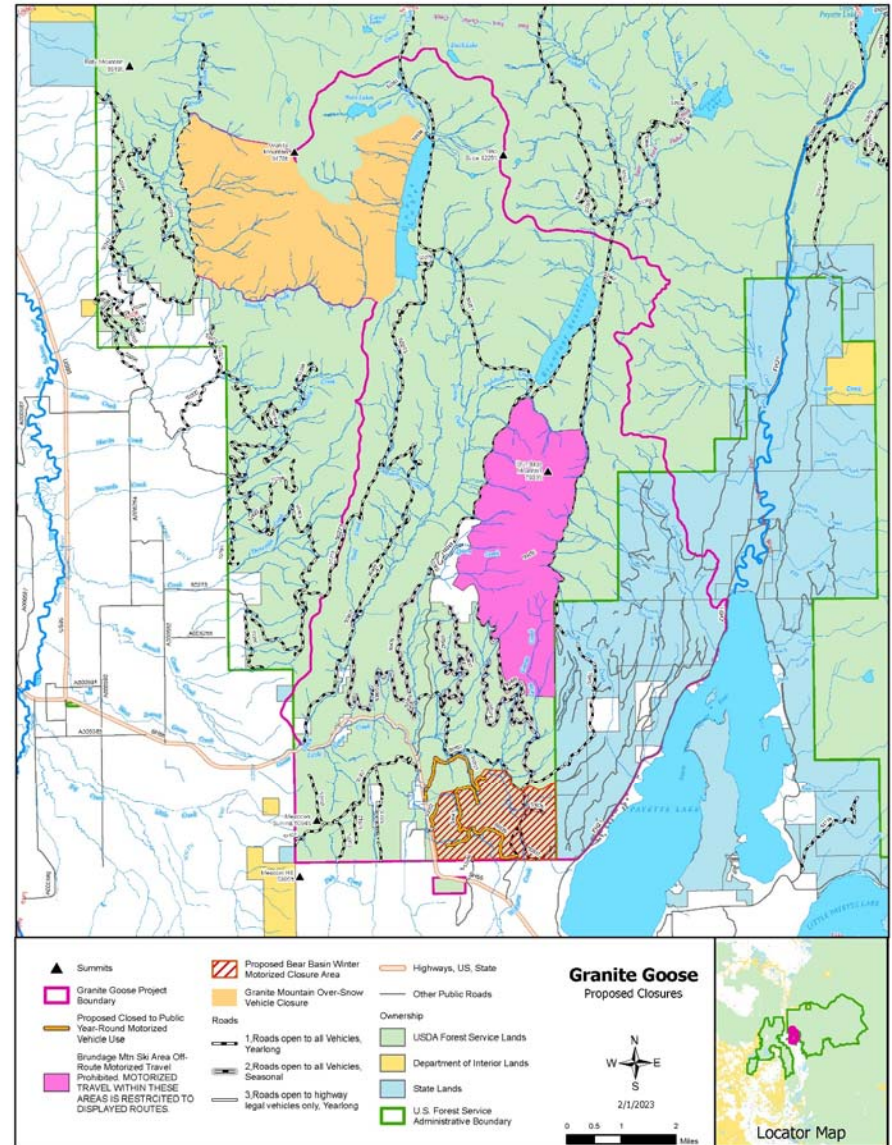
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Several actions related to managing existing dispersed camping sites are proposed in addition to change in the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) (i.e. Travel Management)

- Hardening and delineating campsites to limit impacts to the environment. Approximately 35-40 sites.
- Close and/or relocate sites that are contributing to soil degradation and erosion
- Change the MVUM to allow parking for the purpose of dispersed camping within one vehicle length of open routes or designated roads instead of 300 ft along the Goose Lake Road (50257), Brundage Reservoir Road (50281), 451 north of Bear Basin and 452 .
- Install tent symbol signs to identify sites where appropriate camping may occur beyond the one vehicle length.
- Change the boat launch (midway along reservoir, near the restroom) at Brundage Reservoir to a day-use only facility..

Additional proposed Travel Management changes include:

- Change motor vehicle use map to show the Goose Lake Dam access (502575000) as open.
- In Bear Basin Area, close roads 50056, 50839, 50052, and 50841 to public motorized use.
- Formalize the over-snow motorized use closure for the Granite Mountain area but extend the closure for the full winter season. Area would not be expanded
- Formalize an over-snow vehicle use closure near the Bear Basin Nordic Ski area to include the Payette Lake Ski Club permit boundary (approximately 1,399 acres). The closure would not affect over-snow use permitted for operation and maintenance of the nordic ski area.



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Thank you for your time and a copy of our proposed action can be found on our project webpage located at:

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63507.](https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63507)

