THE ROAD TO HEALTHY, RESILIENT FORESTS

What can we do to secure the future of OUR forests?

Increase Use of Management Tools

“Good Neighbor Authority” allows the Forest Service to enter into cooperative agreements or contracts allowing States to help increase the pace and scale of forest management and watershed restoration projects on National Forest System lands. Projects may include treating insect and disease infected trees, reducing hazardous fuels and other activities to restore or improve forest, rangeland, and watershed health, as well as fish and wildlife habitat. Timber sales are allowed and the Forest Service approves how the harvesting is done.

“Categorical Exclusion” allows the Forest Service to streamline restoration projects by not requiring the agency to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS). Categorical Exclusions expedite forest restoration projects and greatly reduce costs to taxpayers.

Nine locally-driven Collaborative Groups across Idaho are bringing together timber industry, community, and conservation interests to resolve long-standing conflicts over land use on public forests. They seek to balance the interests of forest ecology, local jobs, and long-term stewardship of the national forests. All are committed to respect each other’s interests in the search for practical on the ground solutions. Many collaborative groups are finding a promising level of agreement on employing active forest management as a tool to achieve ecological goals at a landscape level and provide local jobs.

“Stewardship Contracts” provide a way to work with communities on longterm landscape projects that improve, maintain or restore national forests and offset costs with profits from timber harvested as part of the project.