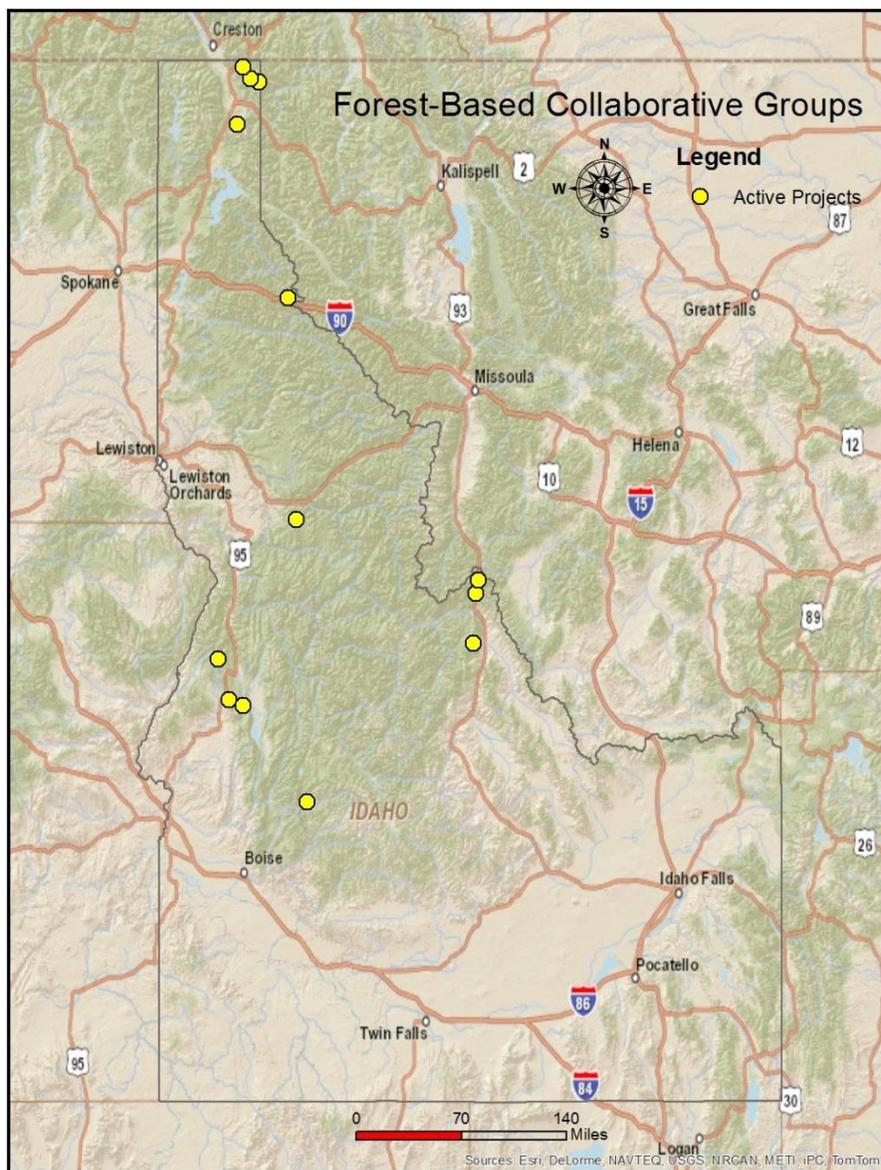




Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership

COLLABORATIVE FOREST RESTORATION IN IDAHO APPENDIX

SUMMARY OF COLLABORATIVE FOREST RESTORATION GROUPS AND PROJECTS IN IDAHO



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Overview

Nine groups were selected to be profiled in this report because they have relatively stable memberships and are working on forest restoration at a medium to large scale. As explained in more detail below, these groups are highly diverse in the membership, geographic scope, objectives and level of activity.

Collectively, these collaborative groups have achieved significant, tangible results. Projects developed by the Forest Service with collaborative group engagement include well over 130 million board feet of timber harvested, sold, or planned as well as restoration actions influencing many tens of thousands of acres. These projects are quite varied, like the groups themselves. They range from the proposed Clear Creek Integrated Project on the Clearwater National Forest that envisions a multi-faceted restoration program on a 50,000 acre landscape with total timber harvests ranging between 62 and 85 million board feet to relatively small scale efforts designed to protect specific communities from wildfire.

These groups do not represent the only efforts at collaboration on national forests in Idaho. Individuals, communities, and interest groups regularly participate in the Forest Service’s public involvement process and are often deeply engaged in helping design forest management projects.

The Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership tracks the progress of collaborative forest restoration projects at its State of the Forest website. For specific information on the project status, go to: http://idahoforestpartners.org/sotf_intro.html

Selected Projects Developed or Supported by Collaborative Groups in Idaho

Collaborative Group	Project Name	Assessment & Design	Environmental Review	Implementation
Boise Forest Coalition	Clear Creek Integrated	Completed	Decision issued	
BFC	Emmett District/Squaw Cr.	In process		
Clearwater Basin Collaborative	Clear Creek Integrated Restoration	Completed	DEIS issued	
CBC	Interface Fuels	Completed	Completed	Contract awarded
CBC	Lodgepole Point	Completed	Completed	Contract awarded
CBC	Iron Mountain	Completed	Decision affirmed	
Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative	Hellroaring	In process		
KVRI	East Fork Stewardship	Completed	Completed	Sold, on-going
KVRI	Meadow Creek	Completed	Completed	Sold, on-going
KVRI	Idaho Buckhorn	Completed	Completed	
KVRI	Kreist Creek	Completed	In process	
KVRI	Twenty Mile Creek	Completed	Completed	
Lemhi County Forest Restoration Group	Hughes Creek	Completed	Completed	Completed
LCFRG	Jesse Creek	In process		
LCFRG	Upper North Fk Restoration	In process	In process	
Payette Forest Coalition	Mill Creek-Council Mountain	Completed	Completed	Contracts awarded
PFC	Lost Creek-Boulder Creek	Completed	DEIS issued	
PFC	Middle Fork Weiser River	In process		
Shoshone County Forest Health Collab.	Mullan Forest Health Collaborative Project	Completed	Completed	Completed

Boise Forest Coalition

The BFC was formed in late 2010 and initially focused on restoration in a 25,000-acre area in the Clear Creek watershed north of Lowman. Members include conservationists, timber industry, motorized and non-motorized recreationists, and USFS leaders. Information on the Boise Forest Coalition is online at: http://www.idahoforestpartners.org/SOTF_Search.html

Soon after it formed, the Coalition partnered with the Forest Service on the Clear Creek Integrated Project. The Coalition’s offered recommendations addressing the following resource,

economic, recreational, and societal needs: (1) bull trout recovery, (2) forest health, (3) ecological restoration, (4) fish and wildlife habitat, (5) a variety of trail-related recreational pursuits, (6) fuel hazard reduction around summer homes, and (7) job opportunities and production of forest products.

In September 2013, the Forest Service issued a decision document to proceed with the Clear Creek project, including vegetation management on roughly 1,830 acres. Not all of the BFC's recommendations were adopted. 1.7 million board feet (mmbf) of wood products will be removed. These treatments include thinning, commercial logging, and other treatments. Treatments include hazardous fuels reduction to protect summer homes and the Park Creek Campground temporary roads that are reclaimed after project completion, according to the recommendations. The project includes creating three new trailheads, constructing new trails, closing and decommissioning certain roads, creating a new interpretive trail, converting an authorized road that provides access to inholdings to a USFS road, removing or replacing culverts to improve stream habitat, and road improvements for sediment reduction. The U.S. Forest Service's Clear Creek Integrated Project decision is available online at: http://a123.g.akamai.net/7/123/11558/abc123/forestservic.download.akamai.com/11558/www/nepa/82381_FSPLT3_1455539.pdf

The coalition is currently working with the Emmett District of the Boise National Forest to develop a project or projects in the Squaw Creek drainage.

Boise Forest Coalition's website is: boiseforestcoalition.org.

Clearwater Basin Collaborative

The CBC was convened by Senator Mike Crapo in May of 2008 to address ecological, wildlife, land management, and economic issues on the four million acres of the Clearwater and Nez Perce national forests. The CBC is made up of more than twenty members representing tribal, local government, conservation, hunting and outfitting, timber industry, community, and recreation interests. The Clearwater group has the broadest geographic scope of any of the Idaho collaborative groups. In addition to addressing forest health and function, the group also works on rural economic development, recreation, and land designations. The CBC's website is: <http://www.clearwaterbasincollaborative.org>.

Early in its history, the CBC collaboratively developed a restoration program for the 1.4 million acre Selway-Middle Fork Clearwater landscape. The multi-faceted effort involves active timber management as well as a range of aquatic and wildlife habitat restoration projects. In 2010, the Forest Service provided special funding for the project in the first round of competitive grants awarded under the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP).

The CBC helped develop and has actively supported several harvest and prescribed fire projects aimed at restoring forest health in the Clearwater Basin. The Interface Fuels Project, a component of the Selway-Middle Fork Clearwater project, was sold in 2011 and is nearing completion. The project will provide about 7.5 million board feet (mmbf) of wood to the Blue North Forest Products mill in Kamiah. Other projects supported by CBC include but are not limited to the Lodge Point (sold; about 3.5 mmbf) and the Iron Mountain (decision affirmed, about 7.5 mmbf). CBC has agreed to review, participate in and provide input on several vegetation management projects in the two national forests.

CBC takes an active role in monitoring the results of the collaborative projects. Its online geoportal includes an interactive map showing the type and location of projects it is tracking. See http://50.22.146.10/flexviewer_CBC/

The Selway-Middle Fork Clearwater CFLRP project's results for through the end of Fiscal Year 2012 are diverse and far reaching. They include 36,000 acres treated for hazardous fuels reduction, 256 miles of road improved or maintained, 35 miles of stream habitat improvements, 2,000 miles of trails improved or maintained, 13,166 acres of wildlife habitat improved, and 10,000 acres in weed treatments. Roughly 30,000 mmbf of timber has been sold. The report on the CBC's Fiscal Year 2013 accomplishments is due out soon. A report on the CBC's 2012 CFLRP results is online at: http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/documents/cflrp/2012Reports/CFLRP_AnnualReportFY2012_SelwayMiddleFork_20130102.pdf.

In recognition of the CBC's effective collaborative efforts, the Forest Service devoted additional resources to the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests and increased its estimates of future timber harvest from the two national forests by 50%, from 40 million to 60 million board feet.

The proposed Clear Creek Project is the flagship of the Selway-Middle Fork Clearwater CFLRP effort. In accordance with CFLRP principles, the project represents a new way of doing business by seeking to act at a larger scale, be more efficient, and to expand the integration of ecosystem restoration with vegetation treatments.

Last April, the Forest Service released the draft environmental impact statement for the project that proposes 1,371 acres of prescribed burning, 1,887 acres of pre-commercial thinning, 119.8 miles of system road reconstruction and replacement of 77 undersized culverts. The commercial timber harvest associated with the project ranges from 62 to 85 mmbf. Other project elements include weed treatments, aquatic habitat restoration, trail improvements, and appropriate use of natural fire in the landscape. The DEIS is available online at: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=38021

Island Park Sustainable Fire Community

The Island Park Sustainable Fire Community (IPSFC) focuses on decreasing fire risks to communities and increasing the resilience of forests to fire, insects and other disturbance in and near Island Park. The group formed in June 2012 with the purpose to: “develop a sustainable fire-adapted social and ecological community that is resilient and accepting of fire, insect and disease disturbances.” This project encompasses roughly 400,000 acres with a mix of private, federal and state ownership in the Island Park and West Yellowstone, Montana areas.

IPSFC includes participation from Forest Service, BLM, Idaho Department of Lands, Fremont County fire officials, Island Park Mayor, Fremont County Commissioners, Idaho Congressional Representatives, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security, community members, homeowner associations, Farm Bureau Insurance, The Nature Conservancy, Idaho Fire Marshal, State Parks, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Hebgen Lake Fire Department, Montana DNRC, High Country RC&D, and Fall River Electric

The group has reached out to landowners and subdivision communities to conduct planning, education, and risk assessment activities. Three hazardous fuels reduction projects on national forest land surrounding communities are in the planning stage. Two projects to reduce fuels in the WUI have gone through planning and are ready to be implemented in the summer of 2014. The group’s objectives include:

- Restore and maintain resilient landscapes:
 - Reduce Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine densities to those that are less likely to support bark beetle attacks and crown fire.
 - Release and promote aspen clones.
- Create fire adapted communities:
 - Treatments strategically placed on the landscape. Involve researchers from fire science lab to identify treatment areas and treatment intensities based on fire weather/fuels conditions.
 - Provide incentive to homeowners to treat their property.
- Strengthen wildfire response:
 - Update RedZone data within the Island Park community.
 - Develop evacuation plans for subdivisions within the community.

IPSFC’s proposed plan is online at:

http://www.wflcenter.org/spf_grants_13/idaho/ID_IslandPark.pdf

Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative

KVRI was formed in 2001 through a joint powers agreement among the Kootenai Tribe, Boundary County and City of Bonners Ferry. The mission of the KVRI is to improve coordination of local, state, federal and Tribal programs to restore and maintain social, cultural, economic, and natural resources. An advisory committee involves a range of groups in developing projects and advising the joint powers. The KVRI provides a forum for discussion, proposal development, and inter-governmental coordination on a wide range of issues affecting cultural, social, economic, and natural resources values in the Kootenai Valley. KVRI subcommittees address water quality, listed species recovery, wildlife habitat protection, and forest management. KVRI's website is: <http://www.kootenai.org/kvri.html>.

KVRI takes a "hands-on" approach to forest management issues. Working closely with the Forest Service, KVRI has helped develop and support a series of projects to improve forest health and habitat while sustaining the area's timber industry infrastructure. In 2011, KVRI was included in the CFLRP program, enhancing its position and access to additional funds. 2012 CFLRP accomplishments include over 10 million board feet of thinning and other harvest, culvert upgrades, and contracts for road maintenance and decommissioning. KVRI is on track to accomplish its 2013 and 2014 targets, including additional harvest, prescribed burning, and fish habitat and passage projects.

A summary of its CFLRP accomplishments and future opportunities is online at: http://www.kootenai.org/documents/KVRI_CFLRP_Opp_Treatments_FY136.17.13.pdf

Lemhi County Forest Restoration Group

The Lemhi Forest Restoration Group's mission is to enhance forest health and local economies in Lemhi County through stewardship contracting and restoration activities. Membership includes 17 organizations and individuals, including representatives of country government, timber industry, conservation, hunting, landowners, economic development and agency interests. The group's objectives are to:

- Work collaboratively on projects on public and private lands that will restore forest health and create economic opportunities and benefit in Lemhi County;
- Prioritize projects that will reduce the impact and risk of wildland fire that may cause adverse impacts to the long-term ecological health of public and private lands, and economic vitality of communities in Lemhi County;
- Support defensible space and Firewise programs, and assist in the implementation of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan; and

- Share information between collaborative members and the public to increase the shared understanding about forest restoration issues.

The group's first major project focused on the Hughes Creek area of the Salmon-Challis National Forest. The Forest Service adopted the collaborative group's consensus recommendation for the Hughes Creek Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project using a combination of prescribed burning, commercial timber harvest and non-commercial thinning. The project went forward without formal objections or appeals. A stewardship agreement provided for the commercial harvest of 1,970 acres of timber and thinned another 1,950 acres of hazardous fuel, as well as the implementation of prescribed fire on roughly 6,700 acres. Approximately one mile of Hughes Creek adjacent to private land was restored for listed ESA fish habitat.

The Hughes Creek stewardship agreement provided a revenue stream into Lemhi County and the surrounding region. Between 2008 and 2012, \$1,046,200 earned in Hughes Creek went to 250 private sector workers, 135 of these from the local workforce, and 25 students. A project fact sheet is at: http://www.salmonvalley.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Hughes_Fact_Sheet2.pdf

In 2012, the thinning and other treatments in the Hughes Creek drainage played a role in the suppression strategy for the 350,000 acre Mustang Complex Fire. The project area provided safe access to the fireline, enhanced structure protection, and provided the opportunity to take indirect action on this large fire with back burning and aerial ignition operations.

The group is currently supporting two projects in development, the Upper North Fork Restoration Project and Jesse Creek Watershed Project. Additional information is at: <http://www.salmonvalley.org/forest-restoration/>

Panhandle Forest Collaborative

The Panhandle Forest Collaborative (PFC) brings together conservation, community and agency representatives to develop balanced approaches to timber harvest, wild ecosystem protection, and recreation. PFC focuses primarily on the Sandpoint, Priest Lake and parts of the Coeur d'Alene ranger districts of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest (IPNF). The group's goals include: the goals of reducing litigation, promoting sustainable operations, enhancing travel and recreation opportunities, maintaining infrastructure for timber, ranching and recreation, and conserving native ecosystems.

The Panhandle Forest Coalition is working with Panhandle National Forest staff to develop the forest's five-year Vegetation Action Plan and a collaborative alternative for the Bottom Canyon project in the Fernan District, which is planned for implementation in 2015. The project will

combine vegetation treatment, fuels reduction, and watershed restoration. This project area is heavily roaded and there are a number of watershed concerns that will be addressed through measures such as road decommissioning, culvert removals and other road improvements. Additional information is found at: <http://communityforests.com/forest-collaborative/>

Payette Forest Coalition

The Payette Forest Coalition (PFC) was formed in June 2009 to promote implementation of restoration projects on the ground. The goals since that original meeting have evolved to address five restoration themes: to improve wildlife habitat, reduce wildfire hazards, improve water quality and watershed health, enhance the road and trail network, and contribute to community economic vitality.¹ For more information: <http://www.spatialinterest.info/PayetteForward.html>.

The coalition's initial focus was on restoring terrestrial habitat conditions through the removal of small diameter trees and the use of prescribed fire on the west side of the Payette National Forest. The group has 20 members representing local government, community, conservation, recreation, and business interests.² The Secretary of Agriculture selected the Weiser-Little Salmon Headwaters Project in 2012 to receive funding through the U.S. Forest Service's Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program. The Coalition collaborated with the Forest Service to design the landscape-scale proposal.

Within the 800,000 acre Weiser-Little Salmon Headwaters Landscape, the Payette National Forest manages 500,000 acres. The PFC is working on three projects: Mill Creek-Council Mountain (50,000 acres), Lost Creek-Boulder Creek (80,000 acres), and the Middle Fork Weiser River (50,000 acres). The Forest Leadership Team anticipates two additional projects if Congress continues to appropriate funds to CFLRP.

The coalition share their consensus priorities and ideas with the line officer during each of the four project phases: project design, environmental review, implementation, and monitoring. The recommendations have the potential to influence the line officer's allocation of funds to two major categories of actions: vegetation treatments, and rehabilitation of road and trail systems. Coalition priorities reflect the five goals adopted by the members. Table 1 summarizes the status of the three projects as of the publication of this report.

¹ The Payette Forest Coalition's website is hosted by Spatial Interest at: <http://www.spatialinterest.info/PayetteForward.html>

² The Payette Forest Coalition's Statement of Goals is found at under the Project Design heading on this web page http://www.spatialinterest.info/LCBC_Status.html:

Project Name	Design	Environmental Review	Implementation	Monitoring
Mill Creek-Council Mountain	Completed	Completed	Awarded three contracts	
Lost Creek-Boulder Creek	Completed	DEIS published		
Middle Fork Weiser River	In process			

Each project restructures a portion of the CFLRP landscape in order to move the forest towards desired conditions. Two of the three projects have progressed enough to characterize the scale of restoration action for three major elements: vegetation, roads and trails, and stream habitat.

Mill Creek-Council Mountain

The project has progressed into the contracting phase. The implementation makes use of several contract types: stewardship, public works (roads), and small timber sales. Forest staff anticipates that the volume of timber sold will be 22-25 million board feet over the duration of the project.

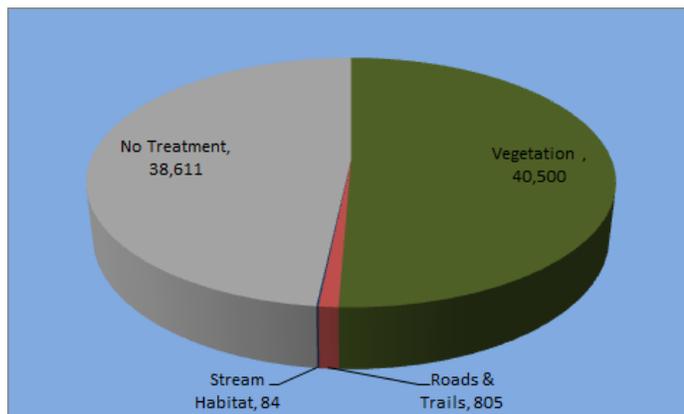


Figure 1: Mill Creek-Council Mountain Restoration (acres)

Lost Creek-Boulder Creek

The proposed action was initiated in February, 2013. The overall magnitude of restoration actions may change during the environmental due diligence. The proposal includes vegetation treatments covering 40,500 acres, as well as rehabilitation of roads and trails. Road related work will improve fish passage to over 20 miles of stream. Vegetation treatments that address wildlife habitat and fuels management will offer over 20 mmbf feet of sawlog volume to local markets.

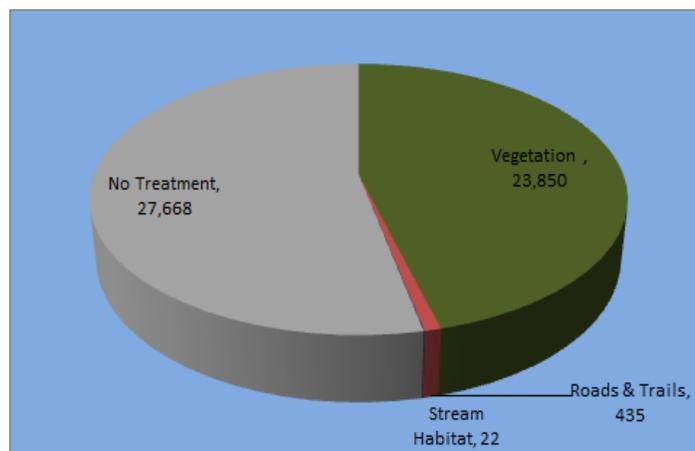


Figure 2: Lost Creek-Boulder Creek Restoration (acres)

A Forest Service report documenting the PFC's accomplishments through FY 2012 is online at: http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/documents/cflrp/2012Reports/CFLRP_AnnualReportFY2012_WeiserLittleSalmonHeadwaters.pdf.

Sawtooth Valley Wildland Fire Collaborative

The Sawtooth Valley Wildland Fire Collaborative (SVWFC) was formed after the Halstead Fire burned 179,000 acres north of Stanley and the Salmon River Canyon during July through October 2012. The Collaborative is composed of a group of stakeholders including city and county government, private land owners, businesses, local organizations interested in land management issues, emergency response organizations, and other concerned citizens. The Collaborative's goal is to identify and recommend the location, type, and scale of fuel treatments and other wildfire risk reduction strategies, such as FIREWISE, that will significantly reduce the risk of a catastrophic wildfire within the Sawtooth Valley, Stanley Basin, and nearby areas.

SVWFC is preparing recommendations to submit to the U.S. Forest Service addressing six protection zones between Banner Summit and the Sawtooth Valley. Within these zones, the group recommends that cost-effective wildfire hazard mitigation strategies be employed to break up continuous stands of living and dead fuels. Actions should focus on the strategic placement of fuel modification areas, primarily created through prescribed burns and point protection of structures and other values at risk. SVWFC also recognizes the responsibility of private landowners to protect their own properties as well as the important roles for state and local governments.

SVWFC's recommendations are posted on the Sawtooth Society's website at: http://www.sawtoothsociety.org/docs/sawtooth_valley_wildland_fire_collaborative_strategic_recommendations.pdf

Shoshone County Forest Health Collaborative

The Shoshone County Forest Health Collaborative focused on improving forest health and reducing wildfire threat to communities in the Silver Valley – an area that was devastated by the 1910 fires. The effort was led by the Shoshone County leaders concerned that hazardous fuels conditions put local communities at heightened risk of damaging fires. In September 2010, 34 stakeholders signed a letter of commitment to support the group's mission focused on improving forest health, reducing wildfire threats and rebuilding a forest economy. A brochure on the group's is at: http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5341786.pdf

The helped design the Mullan Forest Health Collaborative Project to protect valuable resources, improve infrastructure and forest health on federal public lands near Mullan, Idaho. Vegetation treatments consist of biomass utilization, piling and burning, thinning, hazardous fuels reduction, slashing, and prescribed burning on 531 acres (BLM – 494 acres and USFS – 37 acres. Tree harvest on 331 acres will produce roughly 3 million board feet. 50 acres will be reforested with western white pine. The Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service issued the decision on the project in August 2012. The Collaborative also sponsored outreach and education programs with private landowners and the State of Idaho. The Collaborative has not been active for about a year. Contact: Jon Cantamessa, silver@cebridge.net.