



GNA

Committee on Federalism
Jon Songster, Deputy Division Administrator
Fall 2026



16 USC 2113A: GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY

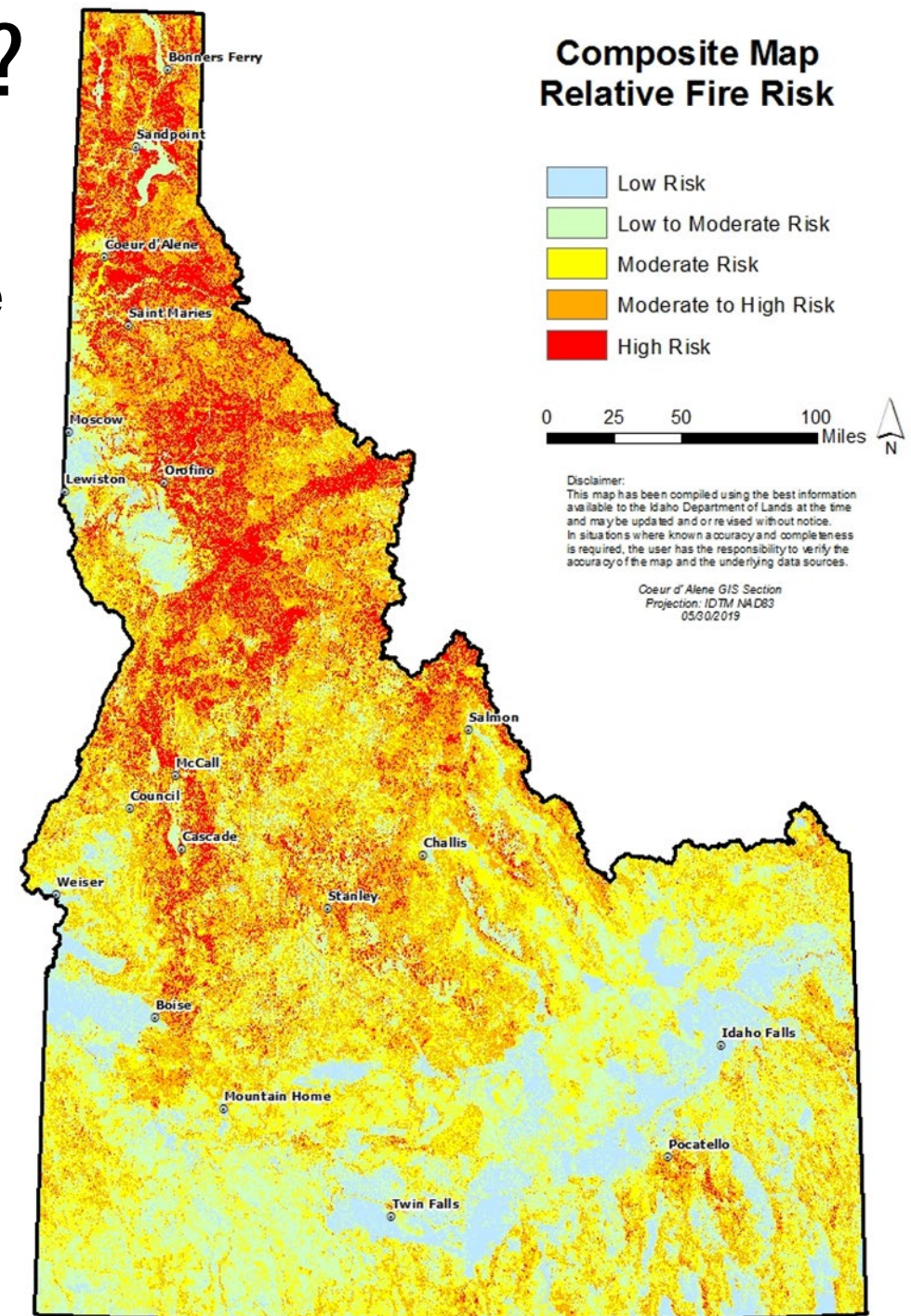
Allows federal agencies to enter into agreements with cooperative partners to plan and implement agreed upon *Authorized Restoration Services*.

Authorized Restoration Services: treatment of insect and disease infected trees, hazardous fuels reduction, or any other activities to restore or improve forest, rangeland, and watershed health, including fish and wildlife habitat and recreation.



GNA – WHAT'S IN IT FOR IDAHO?

- ✓ Reduced threats from wildfire, insect and disease
 - Public safety, forest health, habitat, air/ water quality
- ✓ Additional fiber to sustain Idaho's forest products industry & workforce
- ✓ State and local economic contributions
- ✓ Improved forest road infrastructure
 - Wildfire management, safe ingress, access to recreation, watershed protection



IDL'S GNA PROGRAM

Purpose

1. Increase the pace and scale of forest, watershed, rangeland restoration on federal land
2. Utilize revenues to sustain the program and minimize state costs
3. Provide additive fiber to markets through GNA timber sales

Agreements

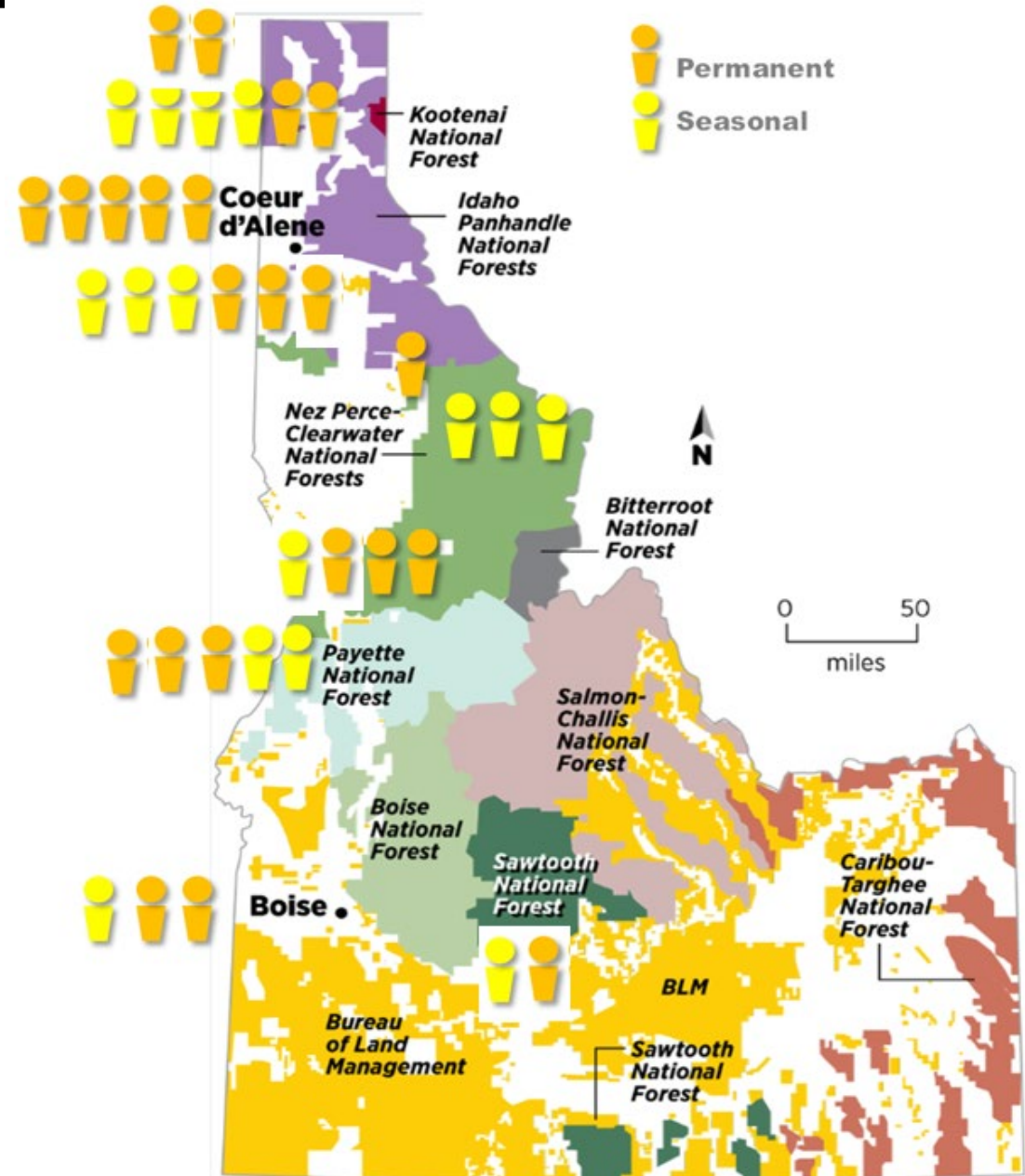
- All 7 National Forests
- BLM

Staffing

- 18 Full-time employees
- 10-15 seasonal employees

Budget

- \$1.7 M Personnel Expenses
- \$4.5 M Operating Expenses

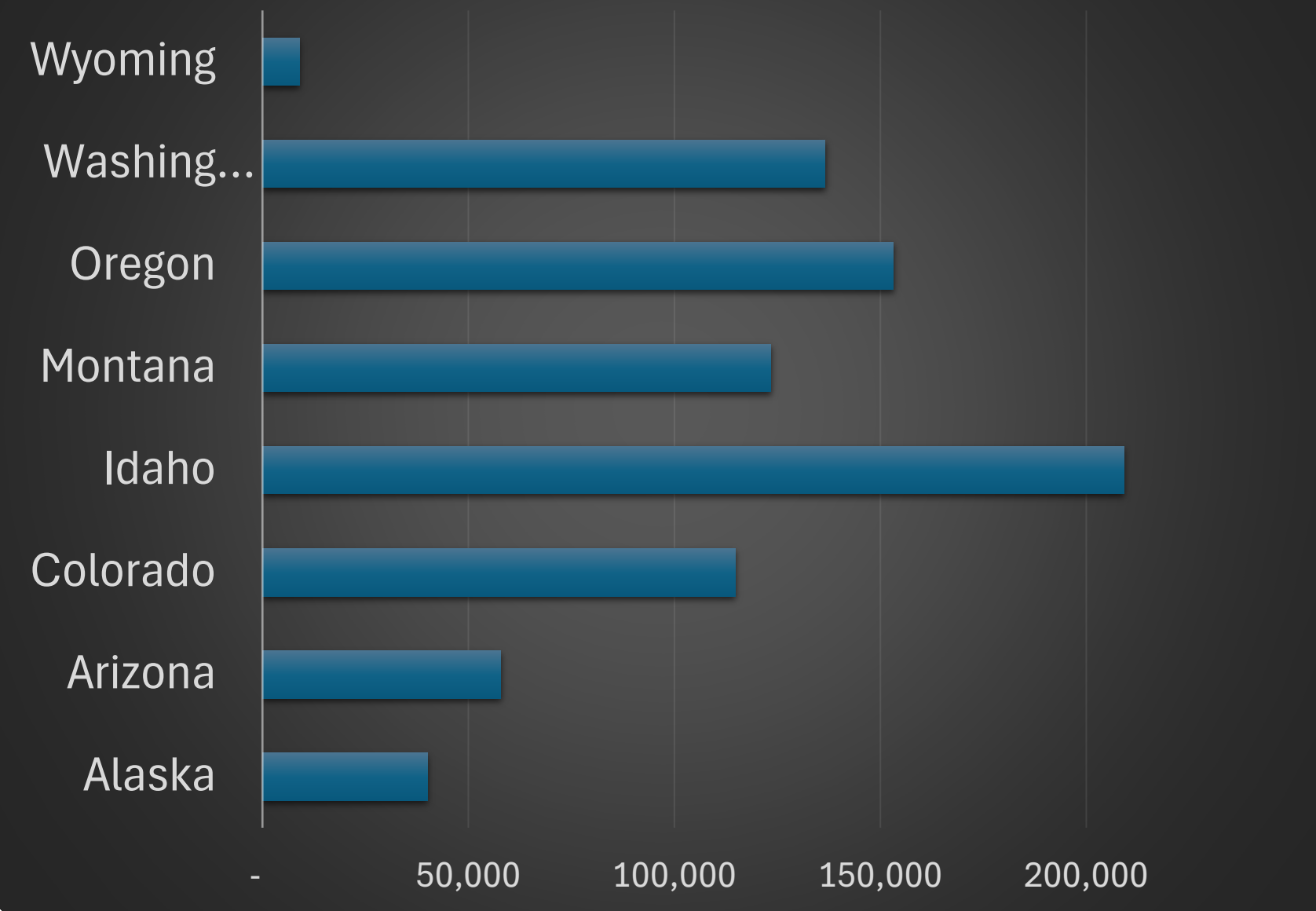




IDL GNA TIMBER SALES



GNA Timber Vol Sold (MBF) through FY25



IDL GNA TIMBER SALES

To-date:

- 74 Timber sales awarded
- 19,00 acres, 249 million BF
- \$29.7 M in revenues

Annually:

- 10-15 GNA Timber sales
- 3,000+ Ac harvest acres
- ~ 50 Million board feed sold
- 3,500 – 6,700 loads delivered

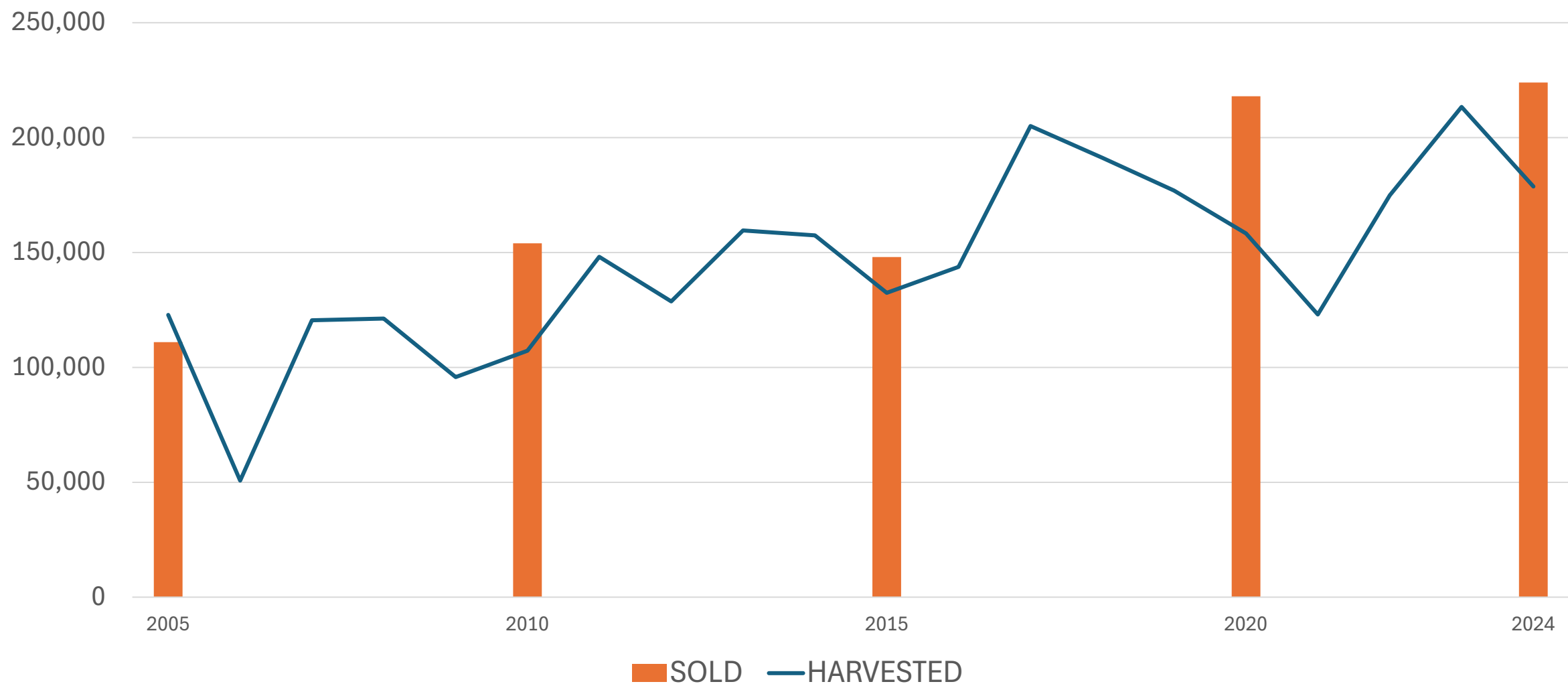
26 Active GNA timber sales



INCREASING USFS TIMBER OUTPUTS IN IDAHO



USFS TIMBER SOLD AND HARVEST IN IDAHO (MBF)

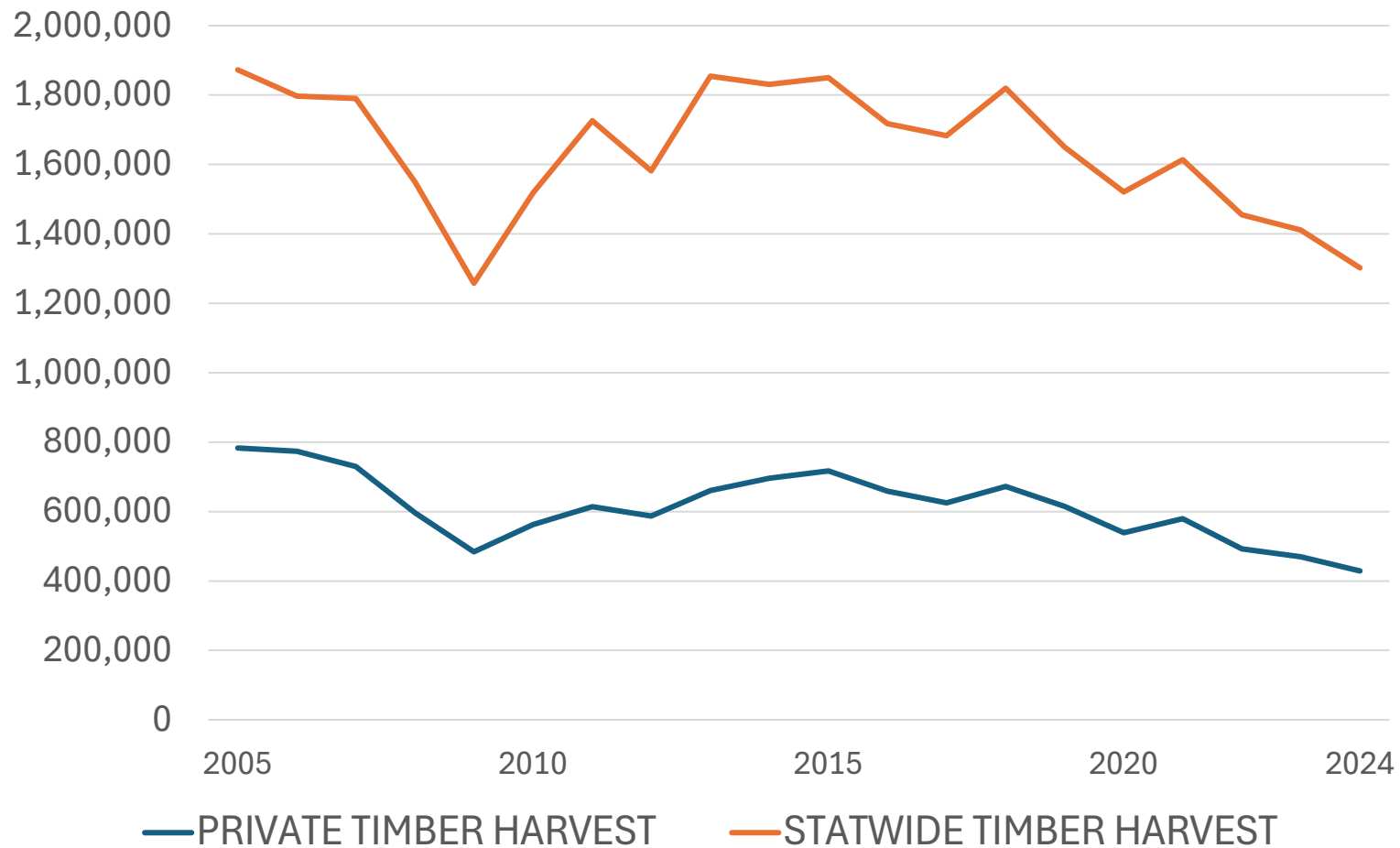




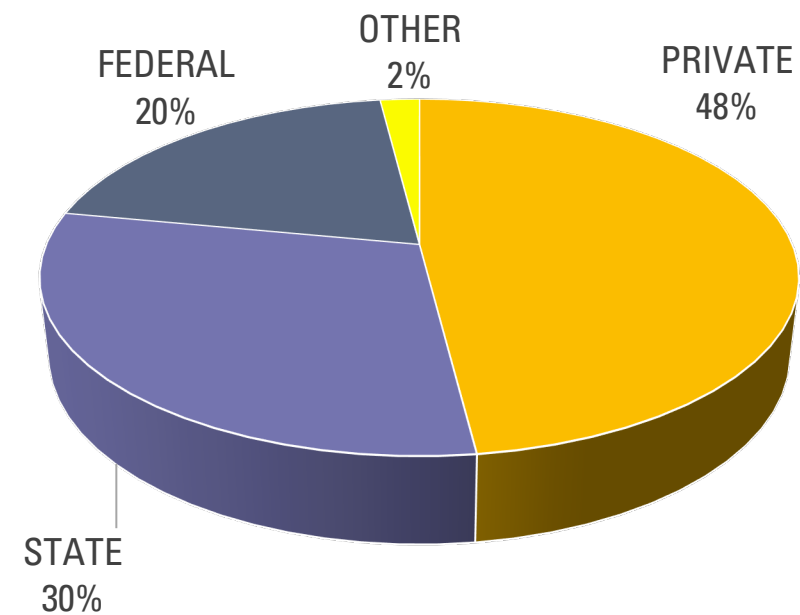
SUSTAINING IDAHO TIMBER SUPPLY



IDAHO TIMBER HARVEST



IDAHO TIMBER HARVEST BY OWNERSHIP



OTHER BENEFITS – RECREATION



Projects at Idaho Ski Areas

Lookout Pass, Blowdown
Salvage

Tamarack, Poison Rock Fire
Salvage

Bogus Basin Forest Health
Project



Lookout Pass Ski Area, Idaho Panhandle NF

OTHER BENEFITS – ROAD IMPROVEMENTS



GNA Roadwork

86 Contracts awarded to date

- \$6.6M in contract
- 1,103 miles of road work completed
- 2,000 mi roadside weed treatments
- 306 culverts replaced
- 3 bridges replaced

20 Contracts awarded in 2026

- \$900k
- 15 contractors



Lava Roadside Fire Salvage, Payette NF

OTHER BENEFITS – WILDFIRE RECOVERY



Swatooth NF Wildfire Recovery

- Hazard tree removal
- 12,958 ac regeneration surveys
- 2,555 ac tree planting
- 200 acres – mechanical site preparation



Wapiti Fire, Sawtooth NF

LITIGATION - HANNA FLATS GNA PROJECT

IDAHO PANHANDLE NF- PRIEST LAKE RANGER DIST



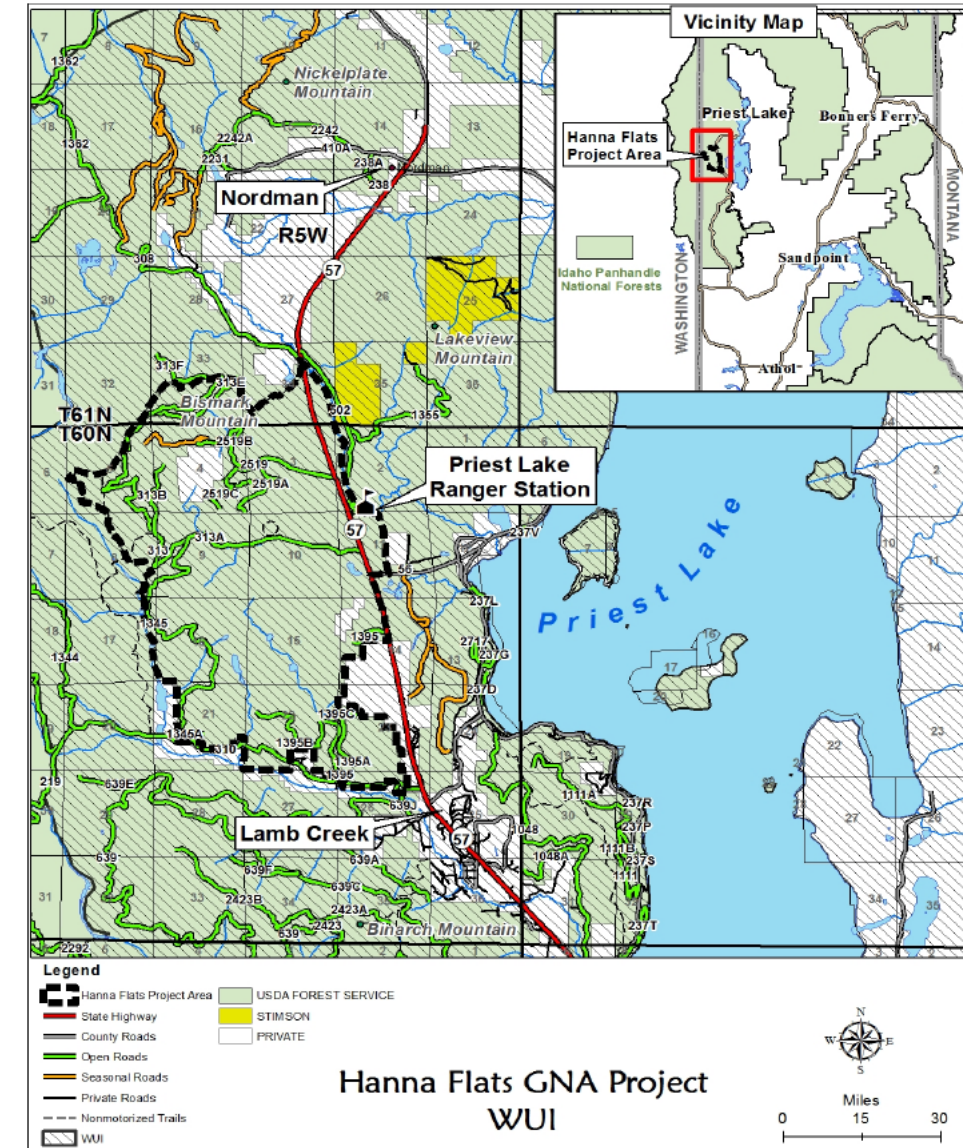
Project Objectives - address insect and disease concerns, hazardous fuels in the Wildland Urban Interface, road maintenance needs, recreation trail improvements, and contribute to the local economy

2,352 treatment acres

- 1,843 ac timber harvesting
- 362 ac thinning
- 149 ac prescribed burning
- 26 mi road maintenance

Decision Signed Date: 10/11/2018

2 IDL timber sales sold: 2019, 2020 (1,714 ac)





HANNA FLATS LITIGATION



Hanna Flats I — HFRA / Wildland-Urban Interface

- **Core issue:** Whether the Forest Service properly determined that the Hanna Flats project qualifies as a “**wildland-urban interface**” under the **Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA)** and therefore qualifies for a statutory categorical exclusion from more extensive NEPA review.
- **Status:** Remanded to the district court in July 2026

Hanna Flats II — Roads / Grizzly Bear Habitat

- **Core issue:** Whether the project complies with the **2011 Forest Plan Access Amendment**, which governs permanent road access in areas important to **grizzly bear habitat**.
- **Status:** Idaho District Court ruled that the project would violate the 2011 Forest Plan Access Amendment in March 2025. Forest Service appeal remains pending before the Ninth Circuit.

HANNA FLATS LITIGATION



What are the impacts?

- 4,000 hours IDL staff time
- \$108,000 State general funds
- \$200,000 federal grant funds
- 1,714 treatment ac
- \$715,000 In lost timber sale revenues
- 13.6 Million board feet of timber products
- 340 jobs sustained for one year



GNA UPDATES – AGREEMENTS AND STAFFING



2025 Shared Stewardship Agreement

- Double GNA timber outputs

New statewide GNA agreements

- 20 year commitment inclusive of all National Forests in Idaho
- \$12M in federal funding
- Fuel breaks, noxious weed treatments road improvements, fire recovery, commercial and non-commercial fuels projects

GNA staffing

- 3 additional GNA positions anticipated in FY27
- Program restructured to incorporate local operations leadership



Poison Rock Fire Salvage, Tamarack Resort, Boise NF



QUESTIONS

- **JON SONGSTER**
- IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS
- DEPUTY DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR
- JSONGSTER@IDL.IDAHO.GOV

<https://www.idl.idaho.gov/noboundariesforestry/>

GNA UPDATES - PARENTSHIPS



Cooperative Agreements

- Boundary County - NEW
- Shoshone County - NEW
- Idaho Transportation Dep - New
- Idaho Power
- Idaho Fish and Game
- Idaho Dep Environmental Quality
- Idaho County
- Latah County
- Idaho Forest Products Industry

25 New streamlined contracts

- Forestry consultants
- Heavy equipment operators



Salmon Municipal Watershed, Salmon-Challis NF

FOREST MANAGEMENT WORKS



Scattered
Lands GNA
Project -
before and
after treatment



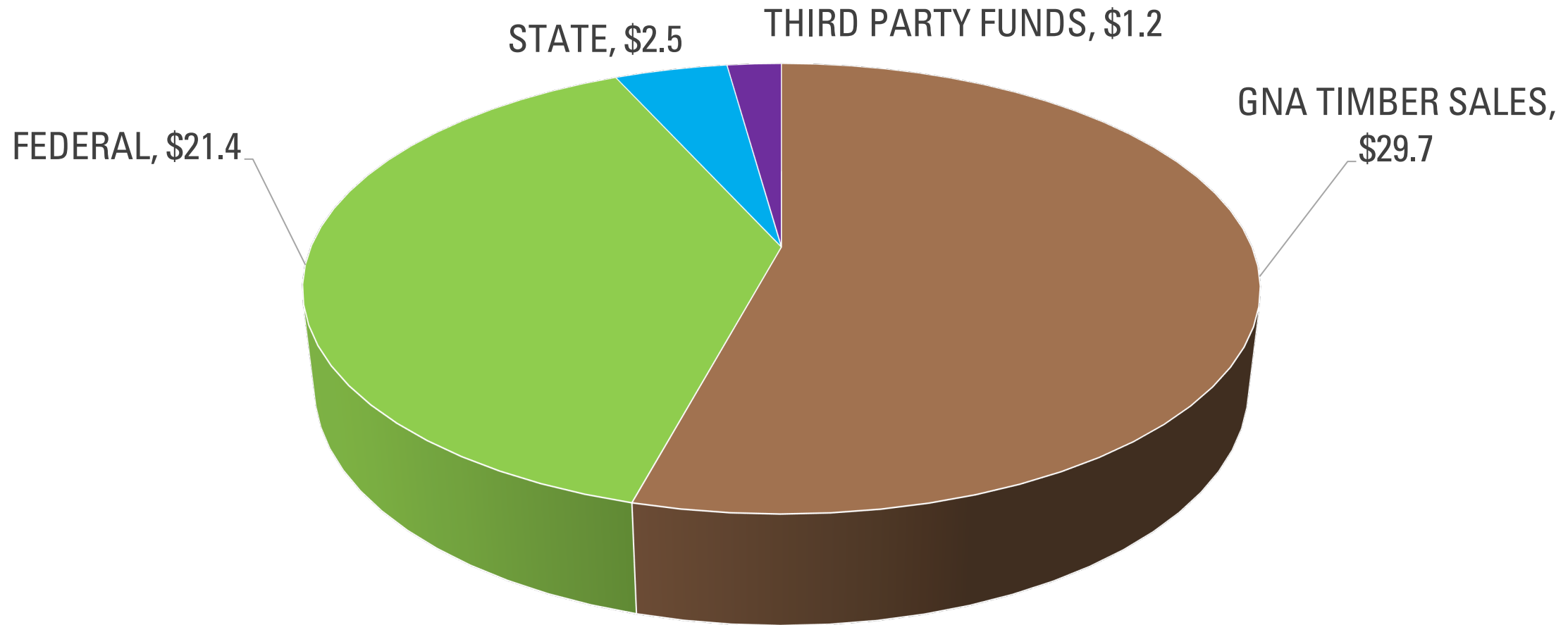
Mercy Lane Fire, Idaho
Panhandle NF



IDL GNA FUNDING



TOTAL IDL GNA FUNDING TO-DATE (Million \$)



GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY REQUIREMENTS



States, counties, and tribes eligible to work on behalf of the USFS or BLM



Excludes national wilderness preservation system & wilderness study areas



No new Permanent road construction is allowed, but temporary roads are permitted



All federal laws and regulations apply – NEPA, NFMA, ESA, HSA, Etc.



Silviculture and harvest designations must be approved by the federal agency



Receipts from GNA timber sales can be used fund cooperator expenses and fund additional restoration



GNA STAFFING IN THE WEST

