

# SELWAY-MIDDLE FORK OVERVIEW

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## COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROGRAM

- Created under Title IV of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009
- The program is designed to encourage science-based restoration on high priority landscapes
- The Secretary of Agriculture can request up to \$40 million annually for fiscal years 2009-2019
- Up to \$4 million can be awarded to any one project on an annual basis. This funding can be used for up to 50% of the costs associated with restoration treatments and monitoring.
- Up to two projects per region and ten projects nationally can be funded on an annual basis

## COLLABORATIVE JOINS WITH FORESTS TO DEVELOP RESTORATION PROPOSAL

The Clearwater Basin Collaborative, Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests, and other partners have produced a comprehensive restoration strategy which has been submitted for funding through the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program.

The proposal is a science-based approach designed to restore and maintain ecological conditions within the 1.4-million-acre Selway-Middle Fork ecosystem in Idaho.

The Selway-Middle Fork area was selected because the needs are great. The area is identified as a top priority for restoration in national, regional, state and county plans and a forest subbasin assessment.

If funded, critical restoration work can begin immediately. Mechanical fuel reduction treatments, road decommissioning, weed treatments, landscape burns and culvert replacements are already planned and approved in accordance with National



The beautiful lower Selway River. Scenic Rivers are a hallmark of the Selway-Middle Fork project area.

Environmental Policy Act procedures.

Additional collaborative planning will be needed to complete the strategy.

Restoration activities will benefit both the land and local communities, providing job and contracting opportunities in an area that has been

hard hit by the downturn in the woods products industry.

The Selway-Middle Fork plan signifies a change in the way business is conducted in the Basin. It marks a departure from traditional public involvement processes to collaboration, paving the way for a new era of cooperation.

## PROPOSAL GOALS

1. Protect communities, private lands and Wild and Scenic River corridors from uncharacteristic wildland fires.
2. Re-establish and perpetuate landscapes that are diverse and resilient.
3. Restore forest structure, function and ecologic processes that promote aquatic health.
4. Restore forest structure, function and ecologic processes that promote habitat for big-game and other terrestrial species.
5. Contain or eliminate noxious weeds.
6. Promote landscape conditions that allow fire to function as the primary restoration agent.
7. Contribute to the economy and sustainability of rural communities.

## THE AREA

The Selway-Middle Fork area is massive —1.4 million acres, the majority of which are national forest system lands.

The area is nationally renowned for its pristine water, anadromous and resident fisheries, big-game species and scenic vistas.

Included within the proposal area is the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, one of the first to be designated under the Wilderness Act of 1964, and one of the largest in the lower 48.

The area boasts the Middle Fork Clearwater Wild and Scenic Rivers system, and the O'Hara Research Natural

Area, one of the largest Research Natural Areas in the country.

The area has a rich fire history including the first deployment of a smokejumper and the first Wilderness fire management program.

Vegetation ranges from remnants of coastal species to dry Ponderosa pine forests.

While some of the land has been intensely managed, there are large tracts of unmanaged, "wild" lands.

Past management, fire suppression, the invasion of exotic species and increasing human settlement in the wild-land urban interface have

altered the landscape and threaten the unique ecological values of the area.



The Selway-Middle Fork area is a landscape shaped by fire.

*This proposal is a product of collaboration. It is based on sound science and restoration strategies developed at the forest, county, state, regional and national levels. All outputs are a product of ecological restoration activities.*

## THE PEOPLE

This region is the traditional homeland of the Nez Perce Tribe. It was explored by Lewis and Clark. The discovery of gold in the 1860s triggered a large in-migration.

Over the years, agriculture and the wood products industries have dominated the economy. Recreation is gaining as an important economic component.

The recent downturn in the economy hit people and businesses hard. The region's two largest counties—Idaho and Clearwater—have April 2010 unemployment rates of 11.1 and 16.7 percent respectively. Unemployment has been as high as 19.8 percent.

Economic challenges include net outmigration, below-average economic

growth and long-term decline in the wood products industry.

People in the Clearwater Basin have strong ties to public lands. They are a place to work, play and renew. Many choose to live in the region because of a high quality of life associated with the vast expanse of public lands.

## THE PROPOSAL



Many stands could be improved through thinning.

- Apply prescribed fire and mechanical treatments on the landscape in a way that emulates natural patterns.
- Reduce fuels in the wild-land urban interface.
- Allow natural fire to restore the landscape where appropriate.
- Improve and maintain forest composition and structure.
- Improve wildlife habitat across summer, winter and transitional ranges.
- Improve road drainage, decommission problem or unnecessary roads and replace culverts.
- Treat noxious weeds and restore native vegetation.
- Create jobs and promote emerging technologies such as biomass facilities.

# THE BENEFITS

Proposed management activities will:

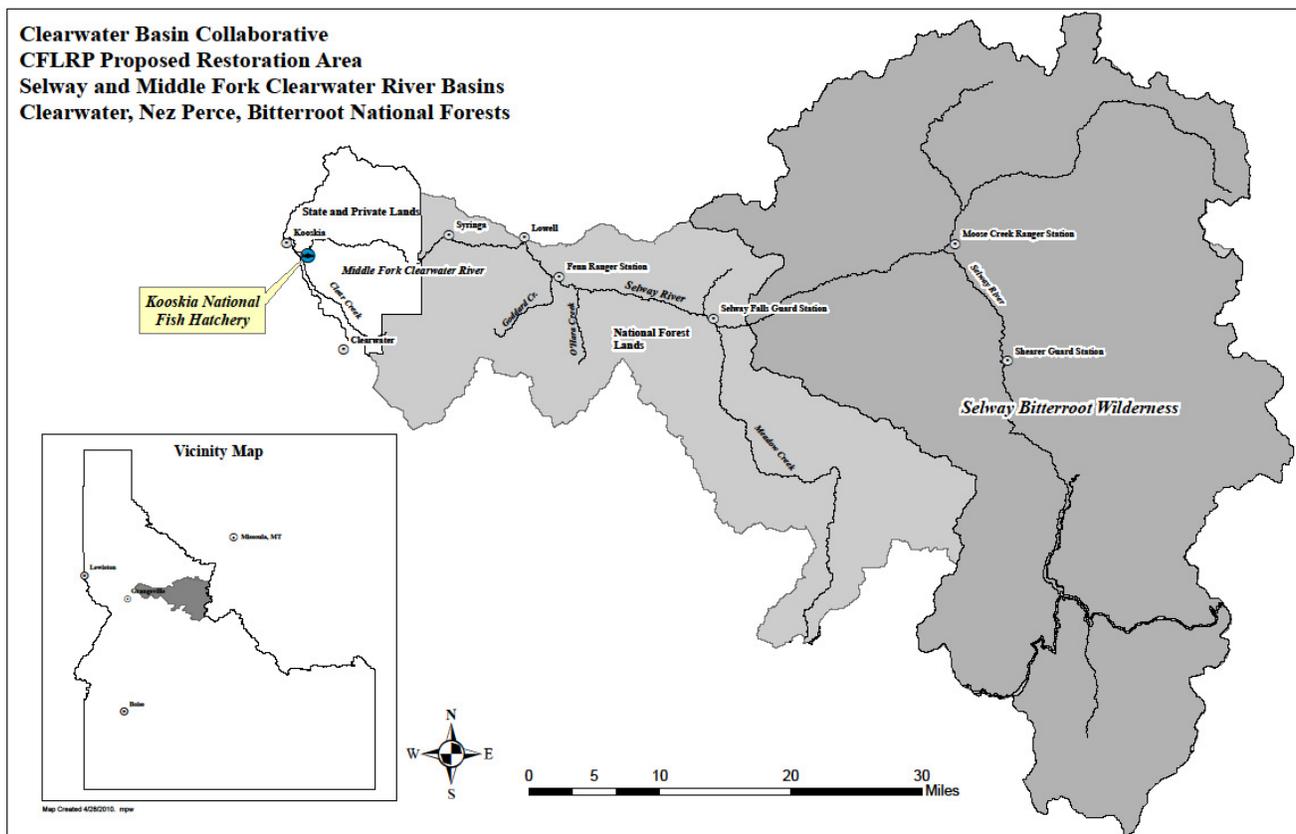
- Reduce the risk of high severity fire, especially in the wildland urban interface.
  - Minimize the potential scale and severity of wild-fire, reducing firefighting costs.
  - Promote vegetation that is resilient to insects, disease and wildfire.
  - Improve water quality .
  - Improve conditions for big-game species by stimulating growth of forage and promoting wildlife security.
  - Improve conditions for fish
- by improving passage and connectivity.
  - Reduce/eliminate non-native species and promote the growth of native species.
  - Enhance recreation opportunities for those who fish, hunt or view wildlife.
  - Promote opportunities for emerging technologies such as biomass facilities.
  - Improve trust between the Forest Service, the Collaborative, partners and others with an interest in Forest management.



Weed treatments will improve allow native vegetative to return, restoring the land.

- Create jobs. It is estimated more than 380 full- and part-time jobs will be maintained and/or created through the ten-year plan.

# SELWAY-MIDDLE FORK MAP



Clearwater Basin  
Collaborative  
P.O. Box 9576  
Moscow, ID 83843

We're on the web!

[www.clearwater basin  
collaborative.org](http://www.clearwaterbasin<br/>collaborative.org)

### Clearwater Basin Collaborative Vision

*Enhance and protect the  
ecological and economic  
health of the forests, rivers  
and communities within the  
Clearwater Basin by work-  
ing across a diversity of  
interests.*



Nez Perce  
National Forest  
104 Airport Road  
Grangeville, ID 83530  
(208)983-1950  
[www.fs.usda.gov/nezperce](http://www.fs.usda.gov/nezperce)

Clearwater  
National Forest  
12730 Highway 12  
Orofino, ID 83544  
(208)476-4541  
[www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater)

*The USDA is an equal opportunity  
employer.*

## THE COLLABORATIVE

The Clearwater Basin Collaborative is a diverse group of individuals who work collaboratively to provide recommendations concerning the use and management of lands within the Clearwater Basin in north-central Idaho.

The Collaborative was born of conflict. After a decade of direct action protests, appeals and litigation, individuals began talking about a better way of doing business. Those discussions broadened, resulting in the Clearwater Basin Collaborative being formally convened by Idaho Senator Mike Crapo on May 30, 2008. He asked the group "... to work together toward a better future for the residents and resources of north-central Idaho."

The Collaborative has reviewed and supported land management projects, worked behind the scenes to resolve appeals and changed the tone of the dialogue regarding natural resources management in the Basin.

Four subcommittees work to "find solutions" regarding four issue areas: landscape restoration, recreation, rural economies and land allocation.

The public is welcome at all Clearwater Basin Collaborative meetings, which are posted on the Collaborative's website —  
[www.clearwaterbasincollaborative.org](http://www.clearwaterbasincollaborative.org).



Clearwater Basin Collaborative

*finding solutions*

## THE MEMBERS

The Clearwater Basin Collaborative consists of 24 members from diverse interests including the following organizations:

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Framing Our Community  
Local Business

### CITIZENS AT LARGE

### CONSERVATION INTERESTS

Idaho Conservation League  
Idaho Rivers United  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
The Great Burn Study Group  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Wilderness Society  
Trout Unlimited

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Clearwater County  
Idaho County

### STATE GOVERNMENT

Idaho Department of Commerce  
Idaho Department of Fish & Game

### TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

Nez Perce Tribe

### MOTORIZED RECREATION

Lewiston Off-highway  
Vehicle Club  
Public Lands Access Year-round

### SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN

Idaho Backcountry Hunters  
and Anglers  
Idaho Outfitters and Guides

### WOODS PRODUCTS

Clearwater Paper  
Idaho Forest Group  
Independent Loggers  
Intermountain Forest Association

