

Clearwater County







Welcome to Clearwater County



Some History

- Clearwater County was originally in Washington Territory so the Washington Territorial Legislature included this area in Spokane County. The Washington Legislature established Shoshone County in 1861 with Pierce City as the county seat.
- Discovery of gold brought thousands of people to Pierce and increased the need for a more centrally located government, independent of Washington Territory. March 3, 1863, Idaho was declared a territory with Lewiston as the first capital.
- Still standing in Pierce is Idaho's oldest courthouse. It was built in 1862 at a cost of \$3,500 to \$4,000. The structure was used until 1884. It was later sold for a mere \$50.
- Farmers and ranchers soon began moving onto the Weippe Prairie where the towns of Weippe and Fraser are today. Homesteading began on the prairie before the homesteading of land around the Clearwater River. The Nez Perce Reservation allotments were completed in November 1895 and homesteading on the unallotted land started Nov. 18, 1895. The town of Orofino on the Clearwater River was platted in 1898.
- The Northern Pacific Railroad began laying tracks up the Clearwater River and by 1899, the railroad had completed tracks and a depot in Orofino. The increase in population and promise of a transportation system encouraged more settlers to come.
- The original Shoshone County included parts of Montana, Idaho and Washington. Various proposals to split south Shoshone County to form a new county began. The area was annexed to Nez Perce County in December 1904 by a vote in a general election.
- February 1911, the Idaho Legislature voided the act and established Clearwater County with Orofino as the county seat.

What is County government?

Counties are creations of the State

- **CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF IDAHO**
ARTICLE XVIII COUNTY ORGANIZATION

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SECTION 5.SYSTEM OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT. The legislature shall establish, subject to the provisions of [this article](#), a system of county governments which shall be uniform throughout the state; and by general laws shall provide for township or precinct organizations.

Who is County Government?

County government is made up of nine elected officials and support staff.

Clearwater County employs 95 people

The Elected Officials are:

- Clerk
- Assessor
- Treasurer
- Prosecutor
- Sheriff
- Coroner
- Three Commissioners



In County government everyone must work together

County Clerk

- Auditor to Draw Warrants (Pay the bills)
- Balance accounts with Treasurer
- Prepare annual statement of financial condition
- Record instruments for the public (deeds, grants, transfers, mortgages, judgments, decrees, wills, water rights, marriage certificates, liens, mining claims, ect. ect. ect.
- Keep all county records (public information)
- Keep account of all county budgets
- Prepare budget with the Commissioners
- In charge of court operations
- Conduct county elections
- Keep the Commissioners in line(perhaps the hardest task)

Assessor

- Assess all taxable property in the County every year
- Prepare and maintain an accurate plat records of all taxable land in the county
- Keep track of changes in ownership
- Create new parcels and values when land is split
- Do homeowners exemption
- Do circuit breaker
- Determine which tax code area each parcel is in (we have 123 tax code areas)
- Run DMV (motor vehicle license)

Treasurer

- Receive all monies belonging to the County
- Certify money placed into the treasury
- Keep account of all receipts and expenditures
- Keep accounting of receipts and expenditures separate among fiscal years
- Pay county warrants as issued by the clerk and ordered by the Commissioners
- Collect all tax money for all the taxing districts in the County
- Reconcile all accounts monthly and annually with the Clerk

Prosecutor

- Prosecute or defend all actions in which the County or the State has legal interest
- Conduct preliminary criminal examinations
- Bring charges against people who violate state or local laws
- Prosecute all felony and misdemeanor criminal actions cited under state or county code **no matter where in the County they occur**
- Defend the County in all civil actions
- Give legal advice to the Commissioners and all other elected officials

Sheriff

- Preserve the peace
- Arrest and take before the nearest magistrate all persons who commit a public offense
- Prevent and suppress all affrays and breaches of the peace, riots and insurrections
- Attend all courts as ordered by the district judge
- Command the aid of as many inhabitants of the County as he may think necessary in the execution of these duties
- Take charge of and keep the county jail and keep prisoners therein
- Serve all process and notices in the manner prescribed by law
- Serve legal notices
- Sell drivers licensees
- **Enforce the law over all the land in the County**

Coroner

- The coroner must hold inquests as prescribed in the penal code(determine cause of death)
- Dispose of property found on corpse in manner prescribed by law
- Verify the amount of money or other property belonging to the estate of a deceased person which has come into the possession of the coroner
- Coroner to act as substitute to Sheriff
- Investigate unattended or suspicious death **everywhere in the County**

Commissioners

- The Commissioners are the legislative body of the County
- Make all ordinances necessary to provide for the safety, promote the health and prosperity, improve the morals, peace and good order and comfort of the County and its inhabitants
- Adopt the budget for all of the County officers
- Establish County tax rates necessary to levy to amount necessary to meet the County budget
- Make all the contracts required by all the offices in the County
- Serve as the Board of Equalization in matters affecting property value
- Supervise the performance and conduct of all County officers
- Provide for land use planning
- Enforce building codes

Sometimes County government is boring.
Please try to stay awake!

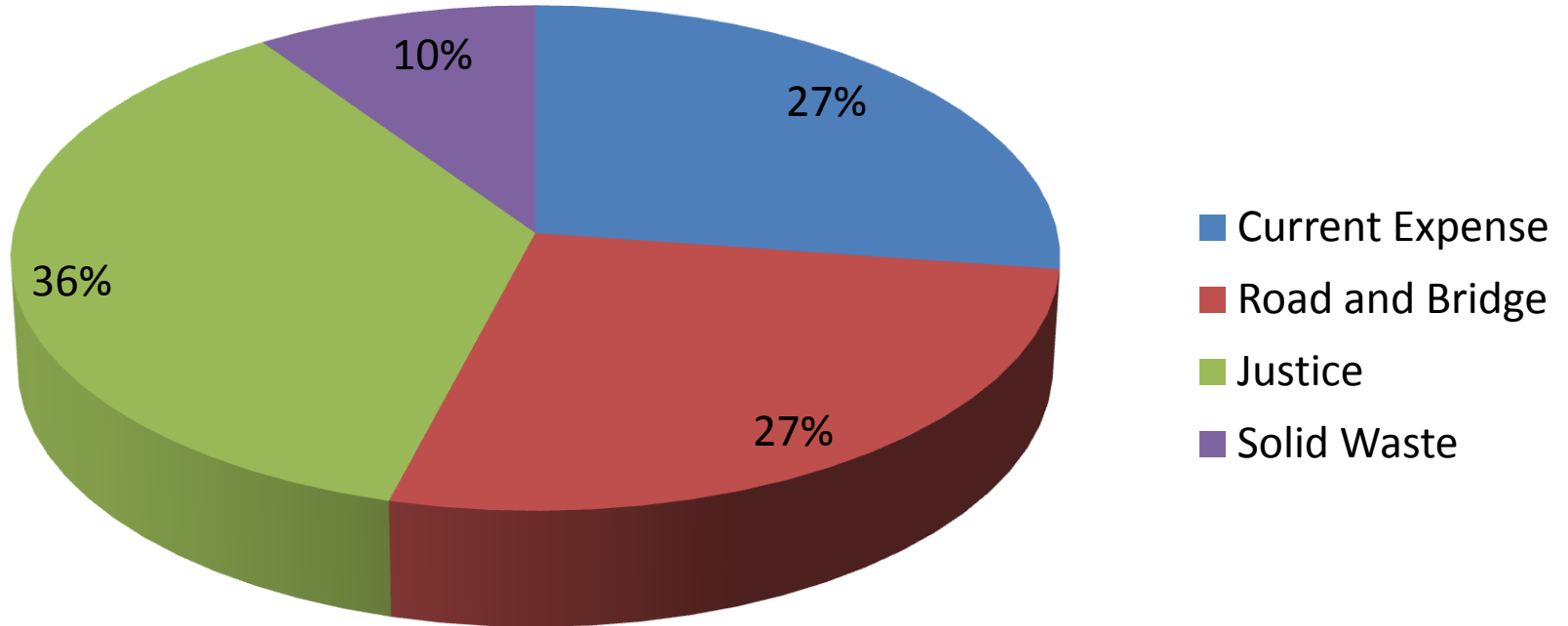


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County Services

- The Counties largest budget components such as law enforcement and the road department provide service to the adjacent forest
- The County also takes much of the solid waste generated by visitors to the forest

County Budget



Some history of the forest reserves

- The President of the United States was given the authority to create Forest Reserves by Presidential proclamation on March 3, 1891 in the Forest Reserve Act. In the next six years over 40 million acres of forest land was placed in Forest Reserves.

Across the west rural county commissioners, school superintendents and school boards expressed grave concerns over the withdrawal of large blocks of land from settlement, economic development, and taxation within their counties

Many communities were also highly dependent on these lands for grazing, timber, and water. Rural public concern was growing about :

- a) the purpose of these lands and how they would be managed
- b) the economic impacts of locking up these lands in forest reserves – especially the impacts on roads and schools.

In **1897**, Congress finally specified that the Forest Reserves would be used for three purposes:

Improve and protect the forests in the Reserve.

Secure favorable conditions of water flows.

Furnish a continual supply of timber for the use and necessities of citizens of the United States.

Beginning of USFS

- In 1905, the Forest Reserves were renamed the U.S. National Forests and the U.S. Forest Service was founded that same year to manage the lands set aside. Presidents continued to set aside more lands by proclamation and the concerns and oppositions of rural county commissioners and school superintendents continued to grow. By the mid 1900's over 153 million acres had been set aside as National Forests.

Founding Legislation and History of the Forest Service's Traditional Role

A century ago, the idea of conservation of Federal forests culminated with Congress' passing the Forest Reserve Act of 1891, creating forest reserves from public domain land. Six years later, Congress passed the 1897 Organic Act (part of the Sundry Civil Appropriations Act), giving the U.S. Department of the Interior General Land Office and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) three management goals for those forest reserves:

- Improve and protect the public forests;
- Secure favorable water flows; and
- Provide a continuous supply of timber, under regulation.

In 1905, these responsibilities were transferred to the U.S. Department of Agriculture to a newly created bureau, the Forest Service, and in 1907 the forest reserves were renamed as national forests.

Trust us, we're from the government



- in 1897, over 30,000 people gathered in Rapid City, South Dakota to protest the establishment of the Black Hills Forest Reserve on the grounds that it was disastrous to the economy of the Black Hills.

25% Fund

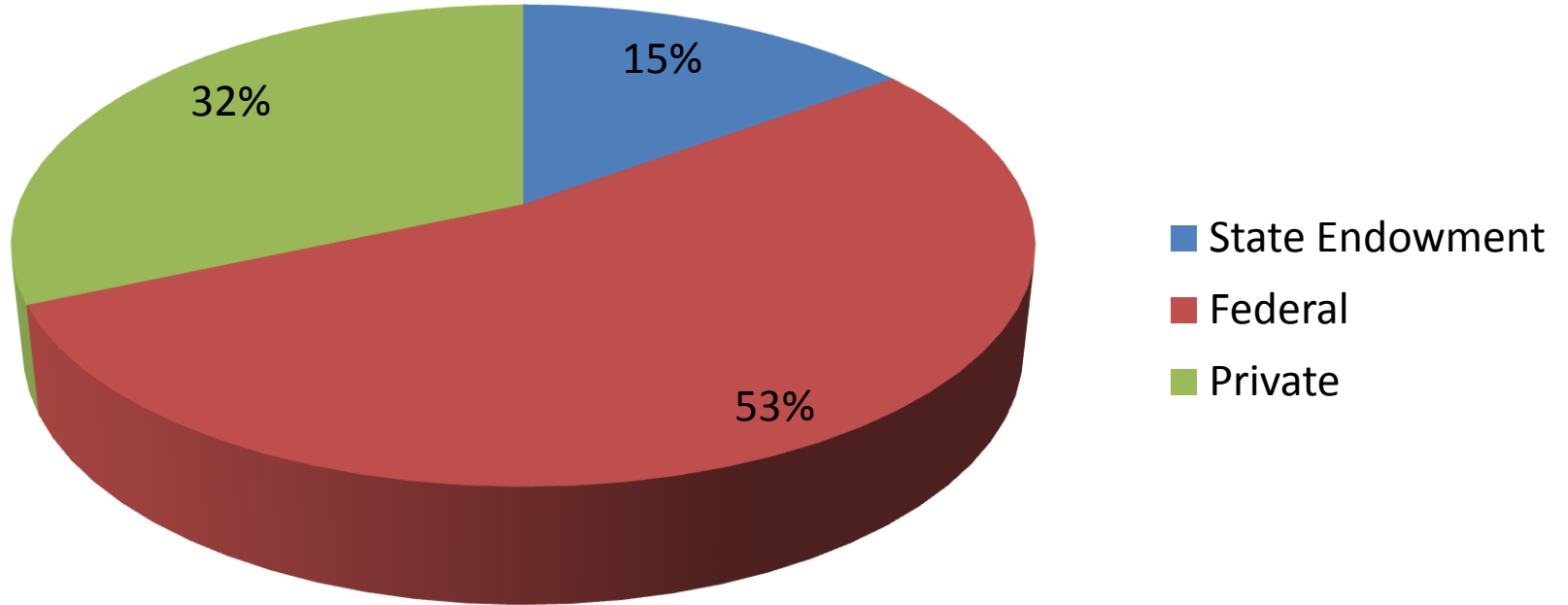
- President Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, Chief of the Forest Service were so concerned that rural county opposition would politically compromise the future of the U.S. National Forests, that they proposed a new concept – revenue sharing. In 1906 they proposed and Congress approved a bill that specified that 10% of all revenues raised on National Forests would be sent to counties which contained these forests to be used for county roads and public schools. In a classic showdown, county officials said “no deal” and in 1908 Congress increased the revenue to be shared with counties and schools to 25%. For 100 years, this 1908 revenue sharing act has been on the law books and provided revenues for rural counties and schools.

- **“The Compact”**
- It is important to remember that these funds are to mitigate for the removal of these lands from economic development and settlement – in order to form our National Forest system. This was a compact with the rural citizens of America to make possible the establishment of our National Forests.

County Land Ownership

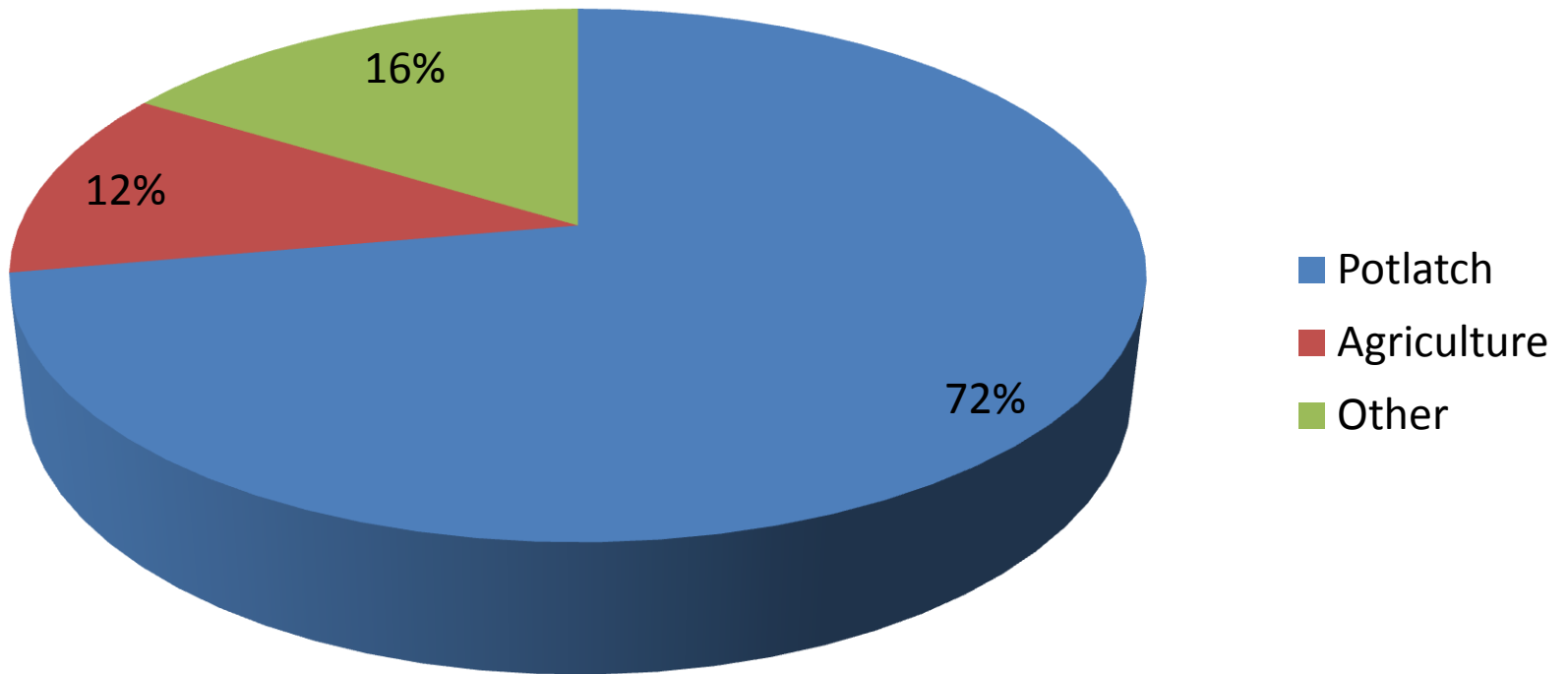
- 1,575,424 Total Acres
- 841,755 Federal (53%)
- 234,476 State Endowment (15%)
- 496,662 Private (32%)

Clearwater County Land Ownership



....of the private

Private Land



Tax Base

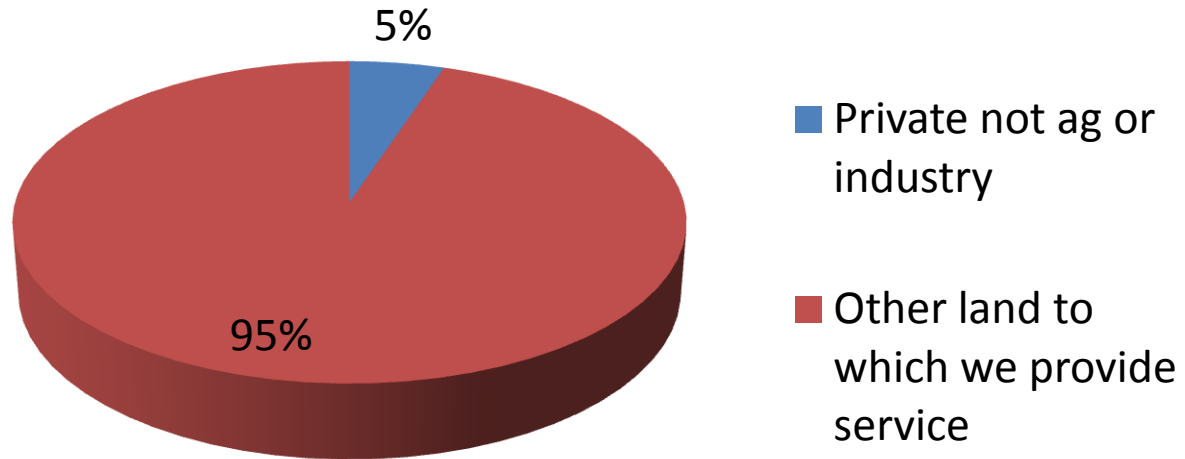
- Taxable private acres which are not ag or industry:

- **5%**

- Land this base provides services to:

- **100%**

Tax Base held by citizens



It's about balance



- When things are balanced, the relationship between Counties and forestland works pretty well.
- When our people can no longer depend on jobs provided by the land we serve, then things get difficult
- Commodities create a multiplier effect in our local economy
- National forest lands depend on us to provide service
- We depend on national forest lands to provide jobs and commodities
- Production of commodities from federal land is important to our economy because of the jobs and the multiplier effect
- We feel threatened when people who do not provide service to these lands work to limit or take our livelihood

When active management ceases, the promise to us has been broken.....



In the late 80's things began to change

- From 1908 until the late 1980's this "Revenue Sharing" system worked well for forest counties and schools by providing a steady and significant income stream. By the late 1980's national environmental laws and aggressive environmental organizations caused most national forests to discontinue or drastically cut grazing, timber management, and mining. As a result, U.S. Forest Service revenues declined very rapidly as did the 25% Forest Revenue receipts to counties and schools. By 1998 these revenues had declined by over 70%.



NO
HUNTING

The Secure Rural Schools and Communities Act (SRSCA) (aka Craig Wyden)

- In December 2000 the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Act was signed into law. This bill provided Title I payments to counties (for roads) and to public schools, it also provided payments to counties to invest in Title II Forest Improvement Projects on National Forests and Title III for specific projects and programs in counties. The Act also authorized the counties to create, in cooperation with the USFS, collaborative Resource Advisory Committees. This Act was enormously successful in that it restored county and school revenues to their 1980's and early 90's levels, resulting in restoration of public services and school programs. The 62 Resource Advisory Committees completed over 4000 projects on National Forest lands without a single lawsuit or appeal. The SRSCA expired in September 2006.
- The act was reauthorized in 2008 after we had set our budgets.
- We don't know what to expect after this one expires

What about this PILT thing

Payment in Lieu of Taxes

- **"Payments in Lieu of Taxes"** (or PILT) are Federal payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable Federal lands within their boundaries

- The key law that implements the payments is Public Law 94-565, dated October 20, 1976.

The Law recognizes that the inability of local governments to collect property taxes on Federally-owned land can create a financial impact.

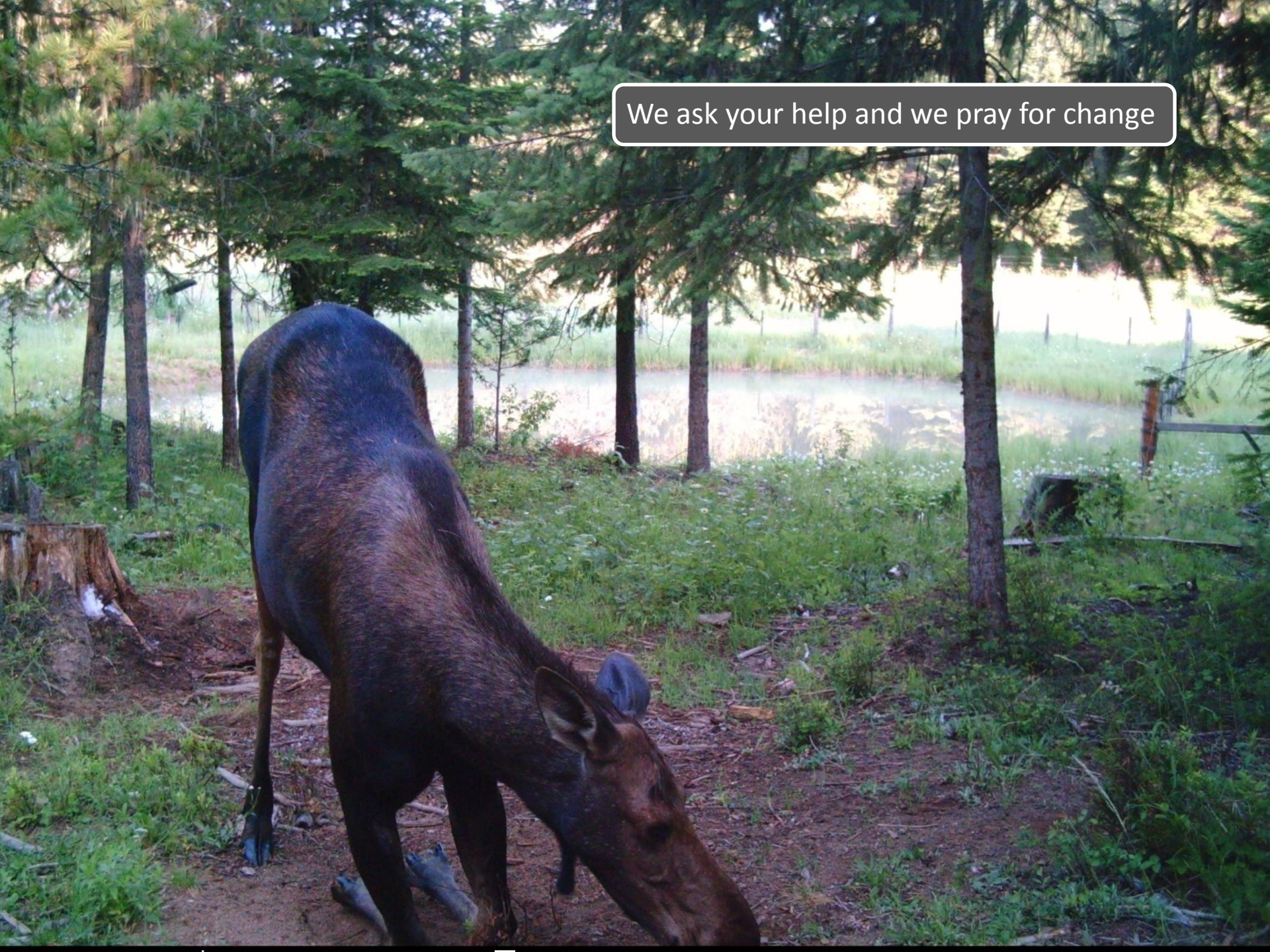
We realize it is a new day

- We all have an interest to protect our forest
- The forest belongs to all the people
- It is possible to satisfy multiple objectives if we all work together
- We are confident you all will see our need for jobs and production as we see your need for conservation

...a new day



We ask your help and we pray for change





I know we can do it if we just stick together



Thank You