



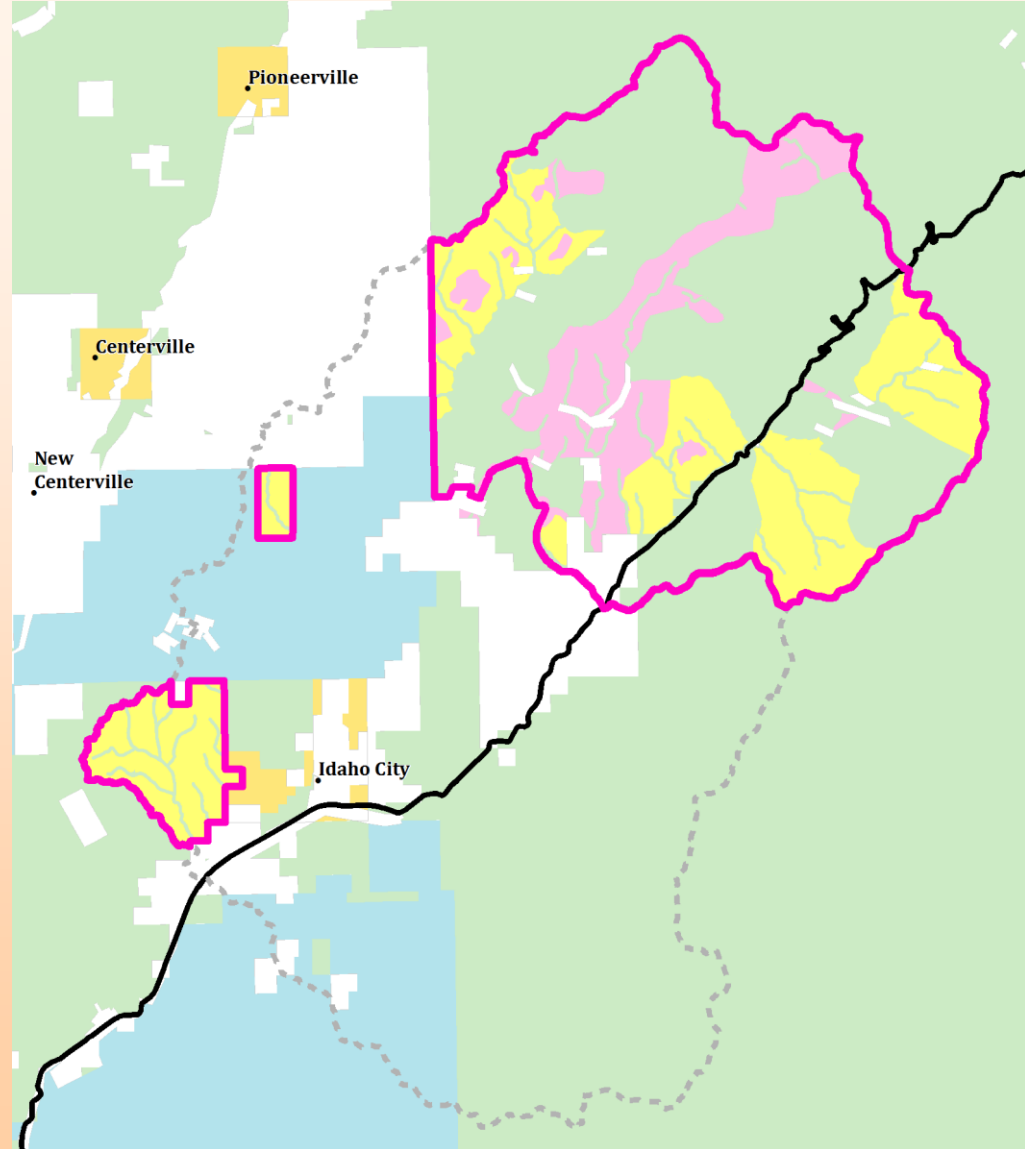
Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Upper Mores Project

Boise National Forest, Idaho City Ranger District

Where is the Upper Mores Project?

Forest Service lands in the Upper Mores Watershed, not including recently treated areas such as Boise Basin Experimental Forest and Mores South.



Forest Health Conditions

- Much of the project area is in the Warm Dry Douglas-Fir/Mixed Ponderosa Pine PVG and exhibit a high fire risk. Most communities in the project area are adjacent to these areas.
- Stands suffer from dwarf mistletoe and bark beetle mortality caused by high density and fire exclusion



Forest Health Conditions

High mortality of subalpine fir in higher elevations caused by balsam wooly adelgid, an introduced non-native forest pest. Results are highly visible along Highway 21 towards Mores Summit.



Watershed Conditions

- Headwaters Mores Creek subwatershed is an ACS priority subwatershed; the entire Upper Mores watershed is a high priority for active restoration. Impaired waterbody, 303(d) listed for sediment – state and EPA requires us to improve upon this indicator.

Watershed Conditions

- High road density in the project area, mixture of authorized and unauthorized routes. This system is contributing to water quality issues in a municipal watershed.



Opportunities on the Landscape

There are several areas designated for both potential commercial and non-commercial treatment. In these areas, and potentially outside, there may be opportunities to benefit several resources. Benefits to resources will be achieved using commercial and non-commercial treatments.

Long-Term Resource Benefit: Vegetation Landscape Resiliency

- Increasing early seral species ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and aspen
- Promote whitebark pine where it has historically occurred
- Support landscape resilience through a variety of individual, clump, and openings for tree structure in this disturbance-driven ecosystem.
- Achieve a balanced conservation of high canopy cover wildlife habitat while reducing relative tree densities.
- Removal of dead/dying subalpine fir, especially along Highway 21 for hazard tree safety and a fuel breaks.

Long-term Resource Benefits: TEPC

- Whitebark pine facing several threats. Would benefit from reforestation, removal of encroaching conifers, and fuel reduction.
- Bull trout not recently found in Headwaters Mores Creek. Considered for restoration activities since this area has supported them in the past. Potential activities include AOPs at existing culverts, decommissioning unauthorized routes and trails that impact streams.
- Lynx habitat at higher elevations (Pilot Sunset LAU). Treatments could seek to maintain / improve. Decommissioning unauthorized routes and trails would also improve habitat.

Long-term Resource Benefits: Sensitive Species

- Sacajawea's Bitterroot (LESA) – found in several spots in the project area. Opportunities to improve habitat by removing/reducing unauthorized routes, conducting prescribed burns.
- LESA and other forest sensitive botanical species would benefit from treatments aimed at restoring HRV, such as aspen enhancement.
- Sensitive wildlife species – Upper Mores Creek watershed identified as important to the recovery of Forest sensitive species using late-seral forests with low canopy conditions – project activities would seek to achieve watershed restoration for these species.

Long-term Resource Benefits: Recreation / Transportation System

- Opportunities to identify and improve authorized motorized routes (treadwork, bridge replacement or repair, culvert installation/repair, trailhead info signage).
- Reduce/remove unauthorized motorized routes from the landscape
- Reduce dispersed camping adjacent to developed recreation areas to reduce user conflict and resource damage at high density rec areas.
- Opportunity to work with partners to identify recreation opportunities, meet user demand, and improve partnerships.

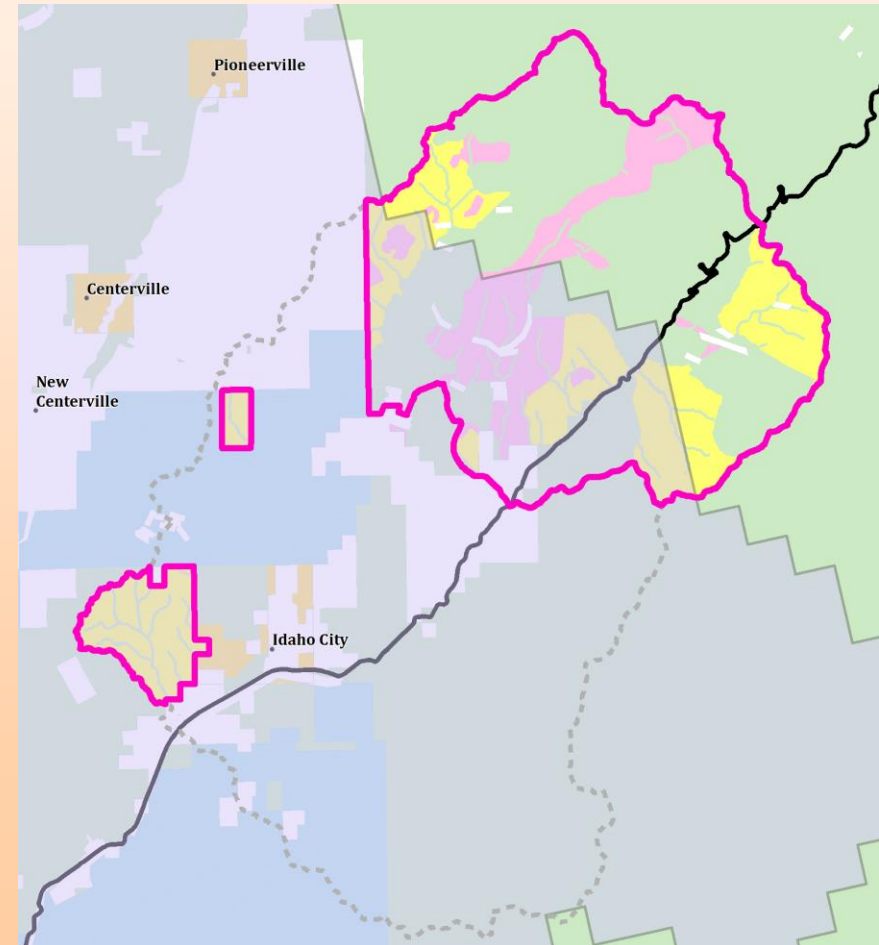
Long-term Resource Benefit: Watershed/ Hydrology

- Opportunity to reduce damage to meadows, riparian habitat, and water quality
- Opportunities to address factors that add sediment and water quality issues to the watershed



Southwest Idaho Priority Landscape

- Projects within the SIL are being prioritized for planning and implementation
- Additional funding available for implementation
- In-person Regional Forester Review emphasized the high priority of this project



Access Issues and Conditions

- Shortest route to a mill is thru Boise to Emmett (82 miles).
- Access and easement issues exist in the project area – potentially affecting project viability.
- No road construction has yet been identified.

Potential Harvest Systems

- Evaluating traditional operations – tractor and off-road jammer logging.
- Evaluating for tethered logging – less impactful than other logging forms.
- Utilize temporary roads and skid trails to harvest timber.

Environmental Analysis Tools and Opportunities

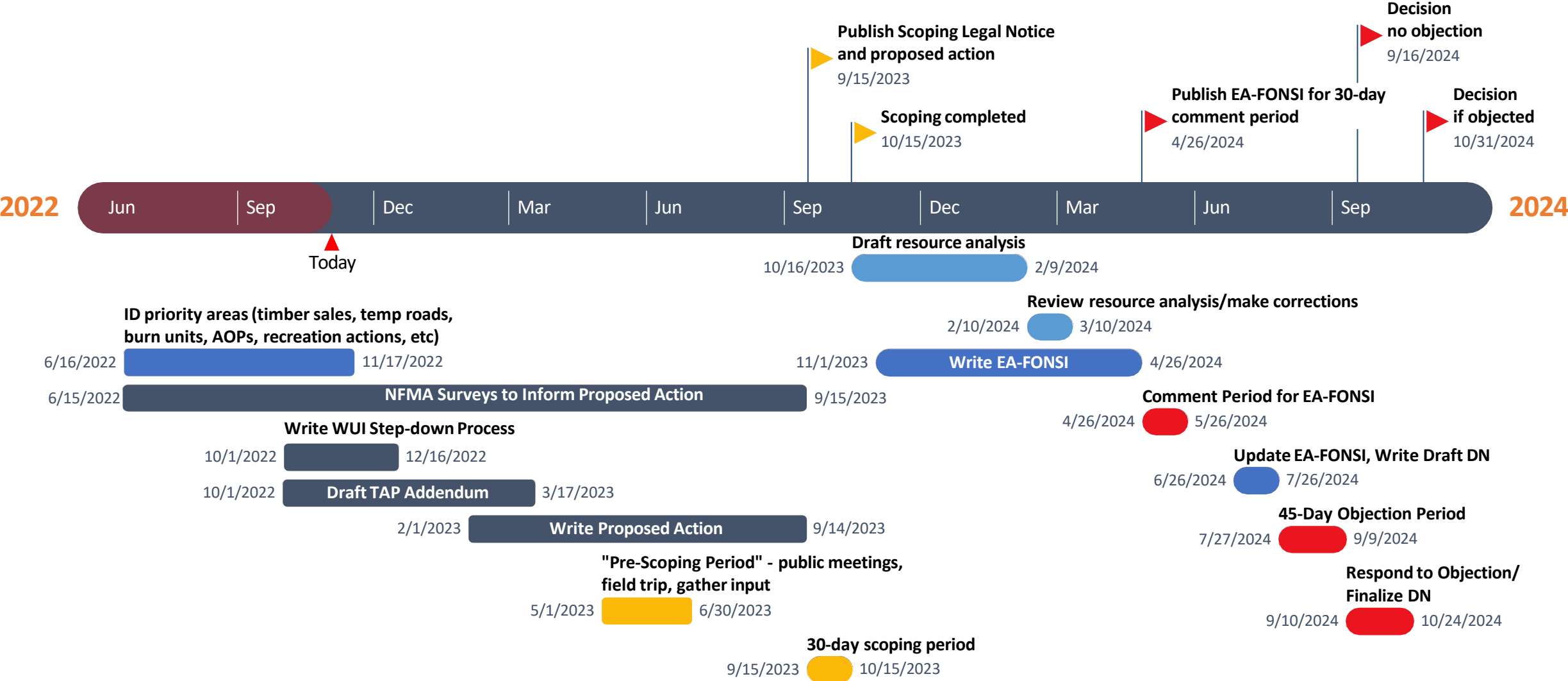
- Would likely not meet the requirements of a HFRA EA.
- Other projects of this size and complexity typically require an EA, subject to 36 CFR 218, Subpart A and B.
- Condition-Based Management Approach may be considered

Next Steps

- Resource specialists continue NFMA Surveys
- Writing Purpose and Need and Draft Proposed Action over the winter
- Enter a pre-scoping / collaboration phase of the project this spring



Upper Mores Project
DRAFT Timeline
November 3, 2022



Implementation Timeline and Partnerships

- Prep work for implementation could begin by field season 2025, advertising a timber sale might begin as early as end of year 2025, or beginning of 2026.
- Partnership opportunities – less opportunities for cross-boundary treatments than Clear Creek, but they do exist. Similar fuels issues, but different forest health issues (balsam wooly adelgid).



Upper Mores Integrated Restoration Project

Boise Forest Coalition Presentation

January 5, 2023

Joshua Newman

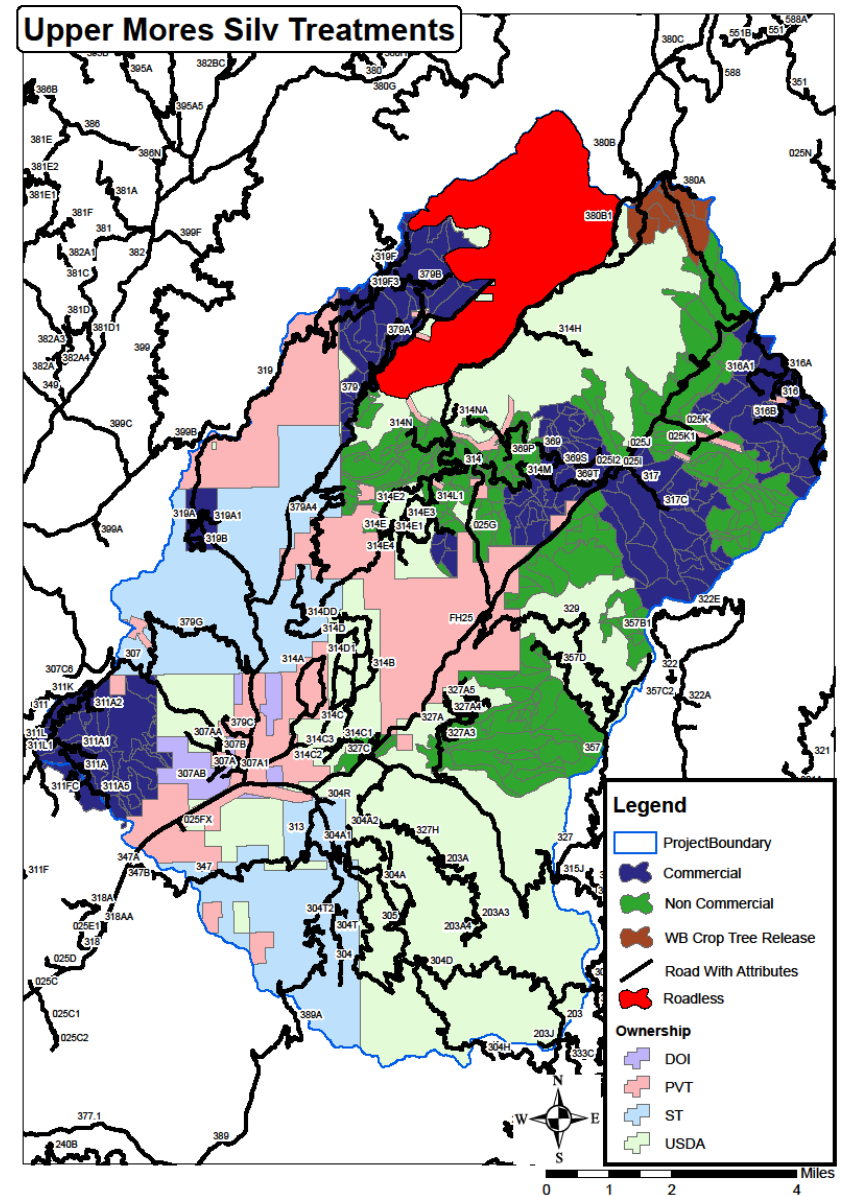
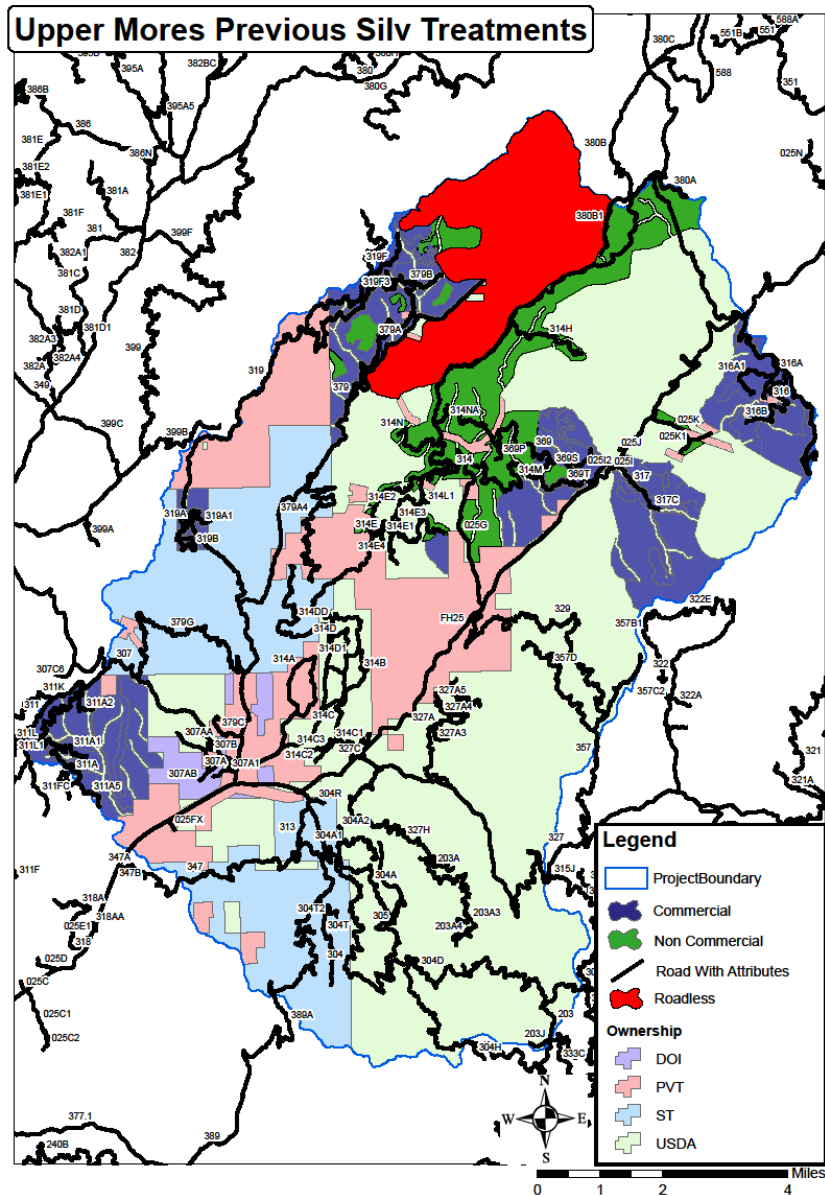


Project Updates:

- Refined Treatment Polygons
- Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Stepdown Process
- Transportation Analysis Process (TAP)

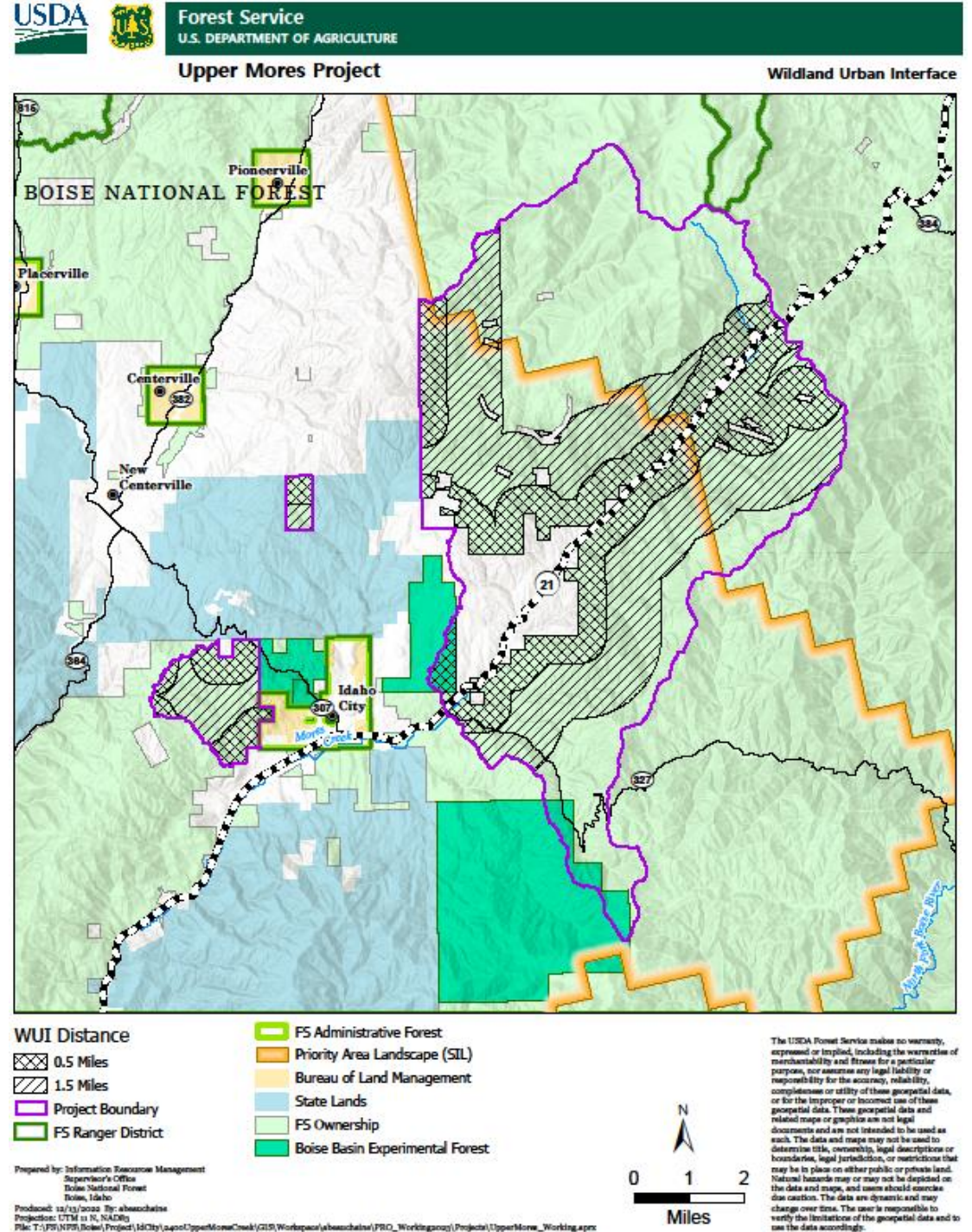


Treatment Polygon Refinement



WUI Stepdown Process

- Not utilizing HFRA EA process
- Purpose & Need Development
- Prioritization of Treatments
- Aligns with Boise County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)



Transportation Analysis Process (TAP)

Benefits

- Public Access
- Suppression
- Future Treatments

Risks

- Sedimentation
- Wildlife
- Public Safety

USDA Forest Service
Intermountain Region
BOISE NATIONAL FOREST

Forest-wide Travel Analysis Process
Addendum #9 to the Final Report (09/30/2015)
Sinker Creek-Boise Ridge Forest Health Project
November 2019



Next Steps...

- Continue Project Refinement
 - Vegetation Treatment Recommendations
 - Restoration
 - Fuels Reduction
 - Roads/Transportation Recommendations
 - Other Resource Recommendations
- Initiate Purpose and Need Development
- Draft Proposed Action Report (PAR)
- Pre-Scoping Public Engagement