



Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## Forest Service News Release

### Boise National Forest

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### Boise and Payette National Forests Receive Chief's Award for Reducing Wildfire Threat

**March 18, 2024 - McCall, Idaho** – The Boise and Payette National Forests have received a US Forest Service Chief's Honor Award for their work to mitigate extreme wildfire risk to communities and infrastructure and promote sustainable healthy forests resistant to wildfire impacts.

The two Forests are working together on the Southwest Idaho Wildfire Crisis Strategy Landscape project that spans a large area of both Forests. Working with the State of Idaho, Tribal governments, and numerous partners, the Forests have increased their pace and scale of fuels reduction efforts using commercial thinning, non-commercial thinning, and prescribed fire within the project area. This 1.7-million-acre project area encompassing federal, state, and private lands has been prioritized as part of the Forest Service's Wildfire Crisis Strategy to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfires and promote fire adapted communities.

“With a goal of reducing wildfire risk to our mountain communities, it is exciting to see the hard work of our employees and partners recognized on a national level by the Chief of the Forest Service,” said Payette National Forest Supervisor Linda Jackson. “This award is validation that the work we have accomplished together is important and meaningful to the people in Idaho and to the preservation of our public lands.”

These efforts will continue as both Forests are actively managing forest thinning projects and preparing for the spring prescribed burning season with the Boise National Forest planning for 7,514 acres and the Payette National Forest planning for as much as 15,000 acres. These burns are conducted when weather and burning conditions are just right to achieve objectives and expected to begin in late March and run through May, then again in the fall once wildfire danger has passed.

“Our efforts to focus on increasing the pace and scale of Forest restoration and fuels reductions is truly paying off,” said Boise National Forest Supervisor Brant Petersen. “This work will help reduce the likelihood of future catastrophic wildfires threatening our communities and natural resources.”

The Southwest Idaho Landscape project is part of a larger Forest Service effort under the 10-year Wildfire Crisis Strategy to confront the wildfire crisis and improve forest resilience across the west.

For more information about the Southwest Idaho Wildfire Crisis Landscape Project, visit our website at [https://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/WCS\\_SIL](https://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/WCS_SIL)

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*Photo 1: Map of the Southwest Idaho Wildfire Crisis Strategy Landscape*

