

Idaho Fish & Wildlife Office Landscape Conservation

Middle Rockies Priority Landscape

The Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office (IFWO) has identified the Middle Rockies in eastern Idaho as one of its Priority Landscapes for emphasizing conservation efforts. This landscape contains natural resources that are important to state, Tribal, and federal managers as well as numerous stakeholders. It is the largest and most diverse of the four selected Priority Landscapes containing basalt trapps and sagebrush ecosystem, montane forest and high alpine zones, and large montane valleys with anadromous rivers. It lies adjacent to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem which supports large, healthy populations of large mammals, including elk, bison, grizzly bear, and moose. It includes little-developed mountain ranges such as the Beaverhead and Centennials, and provides wildlife corridors to the vast Frank Church Wilderness. These landscape features provide wild habitats along the “spine of the continent”, connecting montane wilderness and wild areas of the continental United States to those of Canada and Alaska.

This landscape supports the free-flowing headwaters of the Salmon River watershed, providing spawning habitat for salmon, steelhead, lamprey and other resident salmonids. These important and varied conservation needs as well as the diverse partnering opportunities were incentives in identifying this area as a Priority Landscape.

Despite its large size (16% of the state), like other Idaho Priority Landscapes the Middle Rockies is sparsely populated and lacks extensive development, supporting



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The Middle Rockies Priority Landscape is geographically and climatically complex, including montane and sagebrush-steppe valleys, extensive coniferous forests, and basalt shrublands.



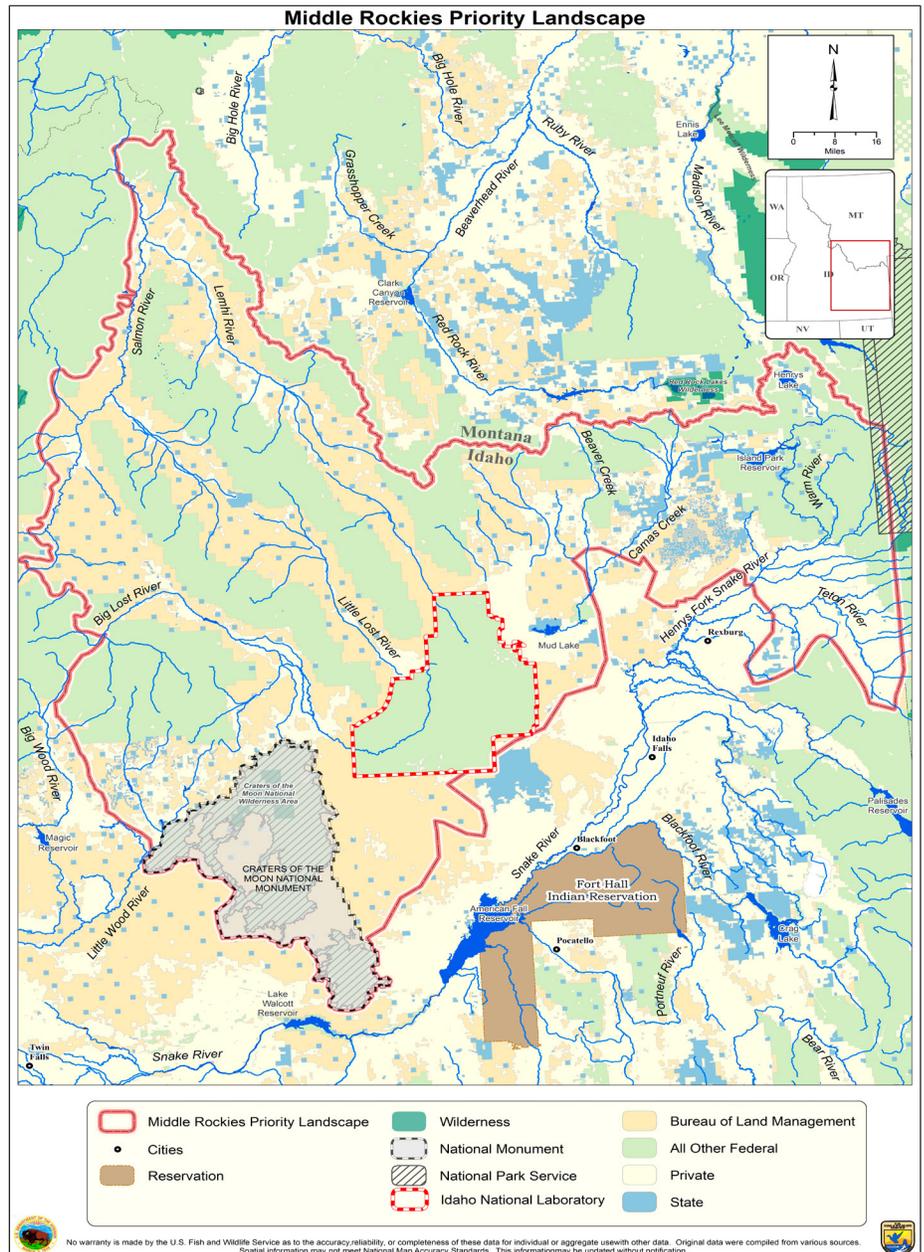
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The American beaver was identified as a Priority Species in the Middle Rockies based on its keystone role in riparian and wetland ecosystems that benefit many native species.

farming and ranching communities as well as limited extractive and recreational industries. The Idaho National Laboratory is included in this landscape and, along with the Bureau of Land Management, provides significant partnering opportunities for species such as greater sage-grouse and other sagebrush obligates. Other significant partners in this landscape include the Forest Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, and the Fish and Wildlife Service Fisheries Program.

The IFWO has identified four conservation targets within this landscape: sagebrush ecosystems, wetland habitats, forest ecosystems, and riverine/riparian habitats. The four Conservation Strategies addressing these targets include 16 Priority Species/subspecies, identified based on their value as indicators, keystone qualities, or importance as public outreach and education tools.

While IFWO's Landscape Strategies identify important conservation targets and needs in the Middle Rockies, they are largely intended to jump-start the planning process with our landscape partners. The actions and species identified in these strategies may not include the priorities of all of our partners, but the ongoing collaborative process will ensure more inclusive conservation objectives that support the long-term health or restoration of important landscape elements.



The geographic complexity of the Middle Rockies Landscape is matched by the diversity of the many land management partners, which includes multiple federal agencies, the state of Idaho, and private land owners.

Priority Species identified in Middle Rockies Priority Landscape:

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| American beaver | Steelhead |
| Bull trout | Townsend's big-eared Bat |
| Chinook salmon | Trumpeter swan |
| Greater sage-grouse | Western pearlshell |
| Grizzly bear | Westslope cutthroat trout |
| Lewis's woodpecker | Whitebark pine |
| Pygmy rabbit | White-faced ibis |
| Rocky Mountain tailed frog | Yellowstone cutthroat trout |

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