



Protecting communities, fish, and wildlife with a network of climate-resilient landscapes

At its core, Idaho is wild. Our state has more miles of whitewater rivers than any state in the Lower 48, more peaks over 10,000 feet than any other state in the Rockies, and rich habitat for salmon, grizzlies, wolverine, pronghorn, sage grouse, and thousands of other species. More than a third of our 35 million public acres are protected and roadless.

Private lands are an integral part of this wilderness. They connect our vast landscapes, providing precious, high-quality habitat for seasonal migrations and for wildlife to rear their young. They are the sources of cold, clear water for salmon and steelhead streams. And, they are places where farmers and ranchers earn their livelihoods. When connected, many of these landscapes and freshwater systems serve as climate refuges, natural strongholds that will be critically important for fish, wildlife, and communities in a changing climate. Yet these lands and waters are under pressure from population growth and shortsighted land management, and they are being fragmented at alarming rates. By conserving key lands and waters, we can keep our state wild while also sustaining our economies and communities.

How We're Making a Difference

Our Land and Water Conservation program identifies and conserves climate refuges, the lands and waters most resilient to climate change and most critical to maintaining the integrity of Idaho's wild places and communities. With science as our guide, we'll secure a network of these lands and waters in key geographies across the state.

For more information

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Our Goals

We will protect lands and waters in central Idaho's Pioneer Mountains and Silver Creek, North Idaho's Boundary County, and eastern Idaho's Upper Snake and Henry's Fork that will support fish and wildlife habitat and ensure nature can adapt to climate change. And, we will protect and enhance trout and salmon habitat and engage with diverse stakeholders and policymakers to drive salmon recovery. We aim to have these pieces in place by 2025.

How We'll Get There

- Use climate-resilience science to drive investments in key conservation easements and restoration projects in the Pioneers, North Idaho, and Upper Snake.
- Protect, restore, and implement policy solutions to protect freshwater networks and support recovery of native and wild fisheries in the Upper Salmon, Silver Creek, and Upper Snake River.
- Expand the use of TNC's climate-resiliency science to the headwaters of Idaho's river systems to identify those most in need of protection and restoration, and most capable of serving human and natural communities decades into the future.

Why protect lands and waters?

Many of Idaho's landscapes are stitched together by a network of private working lands—family forests, ranches, and farms. These lands provide critical seasonal habitat for wildlife as well as the resource base for local communities. Yet population growth, climate change, and other factors have put these private lands on the edge of profound change. Maintaining the unfragmented condition of our landscapes is an integral part of adapting to climate change and keeping all that we love about Idaho intact. Without conservation, our natural areas will become isolated islands that are unable to support fish, wildlife, or people.

Why this moment?

Wild places around the world—including right here in Idaho—are disappearing at a rate that far outpaces their protection. The loss of wild places means a profound loss for Idahoans—economically, recreationally, and in terms of our state identity and quality of life. We must act now to save the remaining great places that matter most for nature, people, and our way of life.

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