
MT2030
CLIMATE
SUMMIT
SUN VALLEY 26
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MT2030 Climate Summit | Sun Valley, ID

National Forest Foundation

THE BALD MOUNTAIN STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

A Public-Private Model for Mountain Restoration

Ford Van Fossan – Central Idaho Program Manager



Dorthy Wang

National Forest Foundation

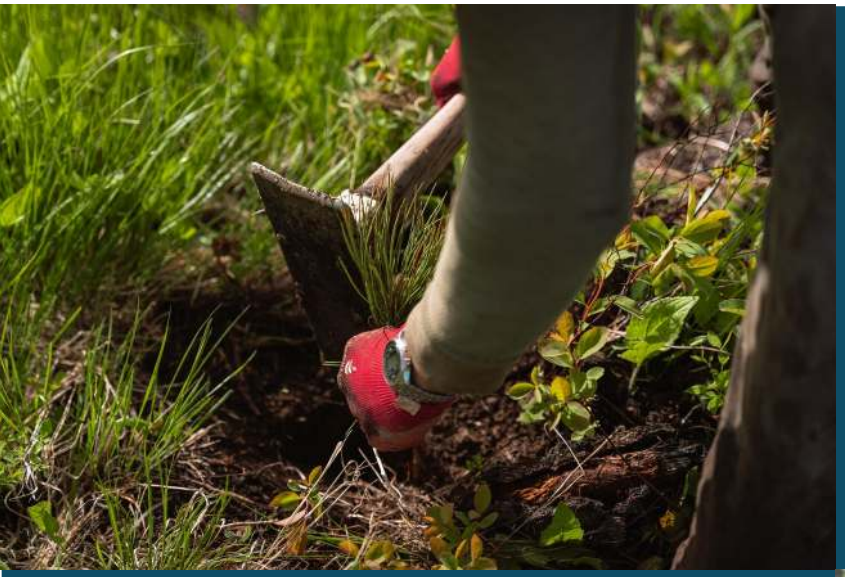


At the National Forest Foundation, we envision a world where caring for our forests is second nature.

Our mission is to transform America's love of nature into action for our National Forests.

As the **congressionally chartered nonprofit partner of the U.S. Forest Service**, we are dedicated to supporting work anchored on National Forests & Grasslands.

What We Do | Three Impact Pillars



Wildfire Resilience

Making forests and communities better able to withstand wildfire through landscape-wide treatment, community risk reduction, and local collaboration.



Land & Watershed Restoration

Repairing and healing the land and waters that sustain us—bringing back vibrant forests, flowing streams, and resilient habitats for future generations.



Recreation Enhancement

Ensuring accessible, sustainable, and high- quality opportunities for people to connect with nature, while strengthening economies and protecting ecosystems.

The Threat

- Change in historical fire regime
- 2007 Castle Rock (48,520 acres) & 2013 Beaver Creek Fires (114,900 acres) burned near and on Bald Mountain
- Fires likely accelerated a decrease in forest health attributed to insect infestations and dwarf mistletoe outbreaks
- Hotter drier weather did not help this dynamic
- Dead and dying trees increased risk of severe fire near the town of Ketchum





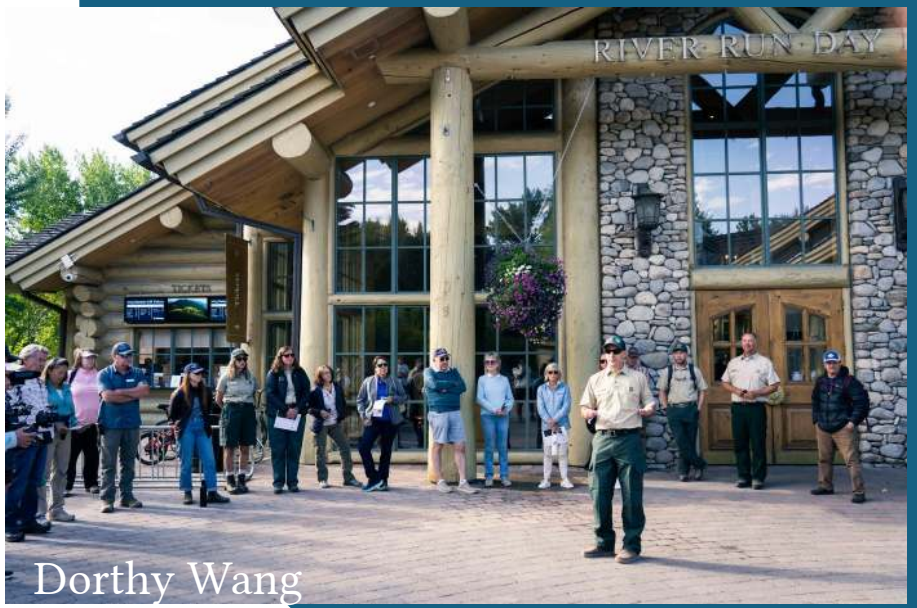




A Public-Private Community Partnership

- Individual leaders
- Community support and funding
- Federal funds
- Established project pillars
  - **Restore Forest Health**
  - **Mitigate Wildfire Severity**
  - **Enhance Recreation**





Dorthy Wang

The Work

- MCH packet application
- Cut-to-length tethered logging
- Hand thinning and aspen stand regeneration
- Tree planting
- Noxious weed spraying


Dorthy Wang



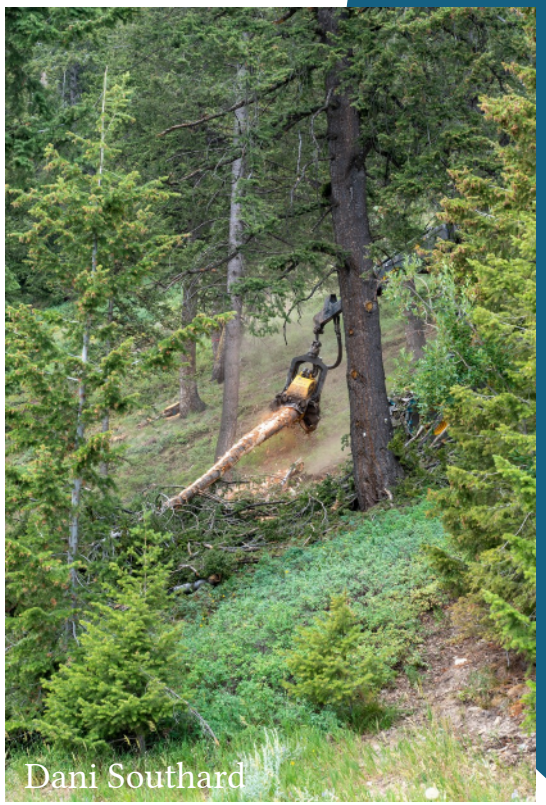

Dani Southard

Cut-to-Length Tethered Logging


Dorothy Wang


Hayden Gilmore


Dani Southard


Dani Southard


Ford Van Fossan

Hand Thinning and Aspen Release


David Walsh


David Walsh


Ford Van Fossan


Ford Van Fossan

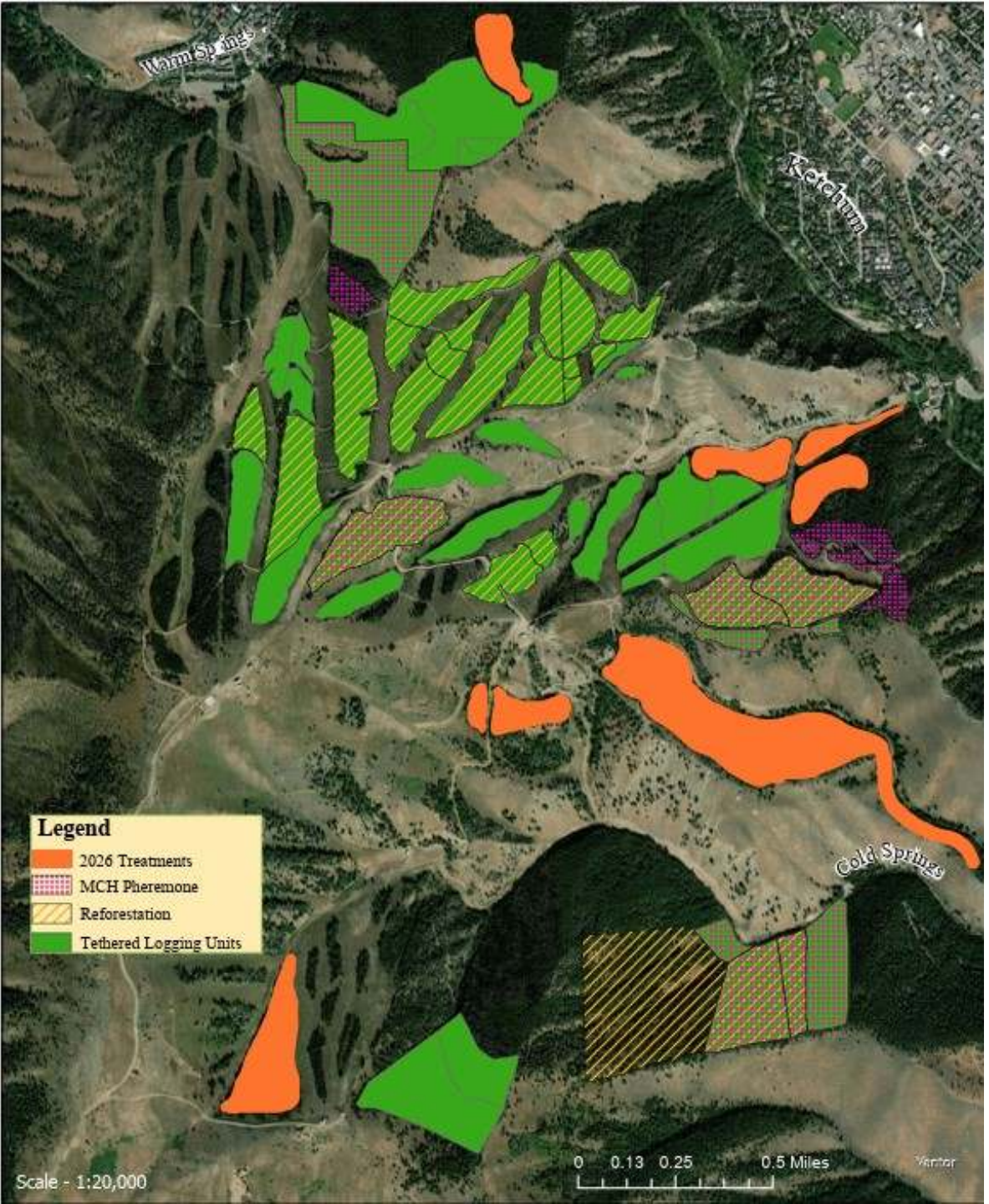
Tree Planting











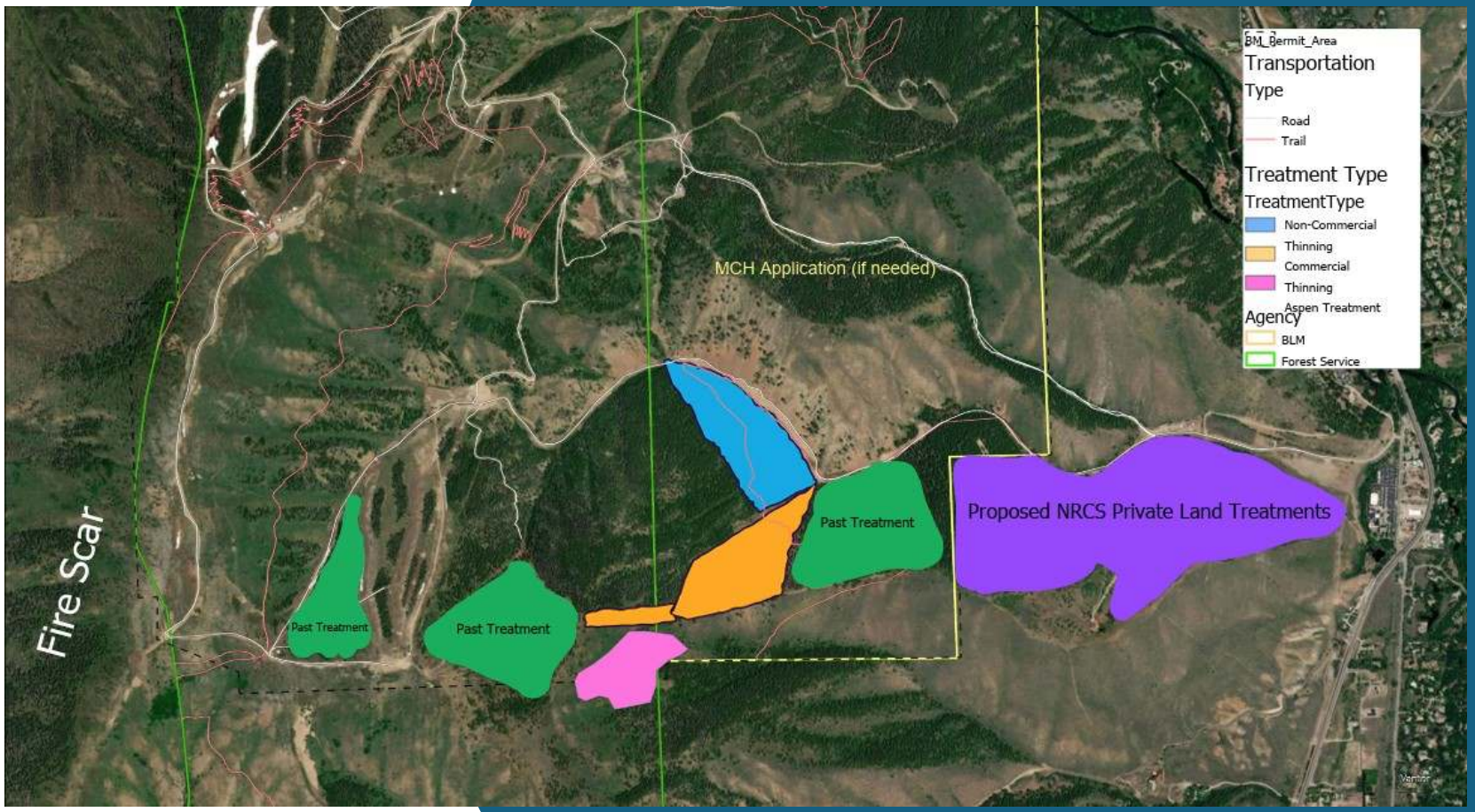
Accomplishments

	2020 to 2025	2026	Total
Acres Thinned	427	176	603
Trees Planted	47,100	8,400	55,500
Pheromone Packets Applied - Acres	240	0	240
Cords of Fuelwood to Tribes	3,906	720	4,626
New Skiable Terrain	380	50	430

The Future

- 2027 field season is planned
  - 36 acres CTL tethered logging (orange)
  - 30 acres of hand thinning (blue)
  - 20 acres of aspen release (pink)

- NEW: Private land work
  - NRCS EQUIP (purple)
  - "Close the gate"



Keys to Succes

- Independent community and NGO leaders were a key "fifth partner"
- Communication
  - Annual after-action and planning meeting
  - Weekly field season meeting
  - Extensive coordination with Resort activities
  - Annual PR tours
- Dedicated project manager




Dorothy Wang

Sun Valley Conservation Fund

- One of 24 NFF "ski conservation funds"
- Established 2025
- Donations at purchase
- $134,000+ raised and $67,000 in match
- 2026 Projects
  - Fox Creek Trail Bridge Replacement
  - Montana Conservation Core Invasive Weed Crew
  - Trail Maintenance Crew Wages



