



Greater Sandpoint Greenprint Final Report



Greater Sandpoint Greenprint Final Report

The Trust for Public Land
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The Trust for Public Land creates parks
and protects land for people,
ensuring healthy, livable communities
for generations to come.

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Preface

The Trust for Public Land gratefully acknowledges the many individuals and organizations that contributed their time, energy, resources, and ideas to the creation of the Greater Sandpoint Greenprint.

It was made possible with support from the LOR Foundation, Idaho Conservation League, City of Ponderay, City of Sandpoint, City of Kootenai, Bonner County, Friends of the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail, North Idaho Bikeways, and the Rotary Club. Our project partners included Idaho Conservation League, Kaniksu Land Trust, and the planning departments of the Cities of Sandpoint and Ponderay. Hundreds of people participated in local outreach events and a community survey. Forty-six people committed their valuable time to steering committee meetings, and ten assisted our Technical Advisory Team by providing local knowledge and technical expertise to our mapping team.

IDAHO CONSERVATION LEAGUE is Idaho's leading voice for conservation. They work hard and smart to protect the air you breathe, water you drink, and wild places you and your family love.

KANIKSU LAND TRUST is a nonprofit land trust serving north Idaho and northwest Montana.

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to creating parks and protecting land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come.



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Executive summary

The Trust for Public Land worked with Idaho Conservation League, the planning departments of the City of Ponderay and the City of Sandpoint, and Kaniksu Land Trust to coordinate the Greater Sandpoint Greenprint process. Work on the Greenprint began during the fall of 2014, and it will be finalized in the spring of 2016. Community engagement was central to the development of the Greenprint, and hundreds of local residents provided input. Based on the priorities expressed by the

community, the Greenprint focuses on four primary goals: (1) Maintain Water Quality, (2) Provide Recreation, (3) Protect Wildlife Habitat, and (4) Preserve Working Lands. The overall map for the Greater Sandpoint Greenprint highlights 94,500 acres of special places that are the highest priorities for voluntary conservation because their protection would best meet the community's goals.

BRIG SMITH



Clark Fork Delta

1. Introduction

Note: For the purposes of this report, the cities of Sandpoint, Kootenai, Dover, Ponderay, Hope, and East Hope and surrounding areas (as shown in Figure 1) are referred to as “Greater Sandpoint.”

GREATER SANDPOINT IN BONNER COUNTY, Idaho, offers beautiful scenery, rich natural resources, exceptional recreational opportunities, and unique access to arts and culture. These amenities have attracted a large number of tourists and new residents in recent years. The city of Sandpoint has been called “The Best Small Town in the West” by *Sunset* magazine; “One of 20 Dream Towns” by *Outside* magazine; “The Next Great Place” by *USA Today*; one of the “10 Coolest Mountain Towns” by *Men’s Journal*; and one of “The Top 10 Places to Telecommute” by *Forbes* magazine.

While increasing numbers of tourists and new residents are helping to grow the local economy, the communities of Greater Sandpoint want to encourage sustainable economic development and retain the livability and spectacular scenery that make it such a special place to live and visit. This depends on protecting the small-town character and natural and recreational resources that are essential to local quality of life. The Greenprint is a strategic conservation plan intended to guide future investments in trails, parks, and open spaces in order to help Greater Sandpoint promote growth while protecting the area’s most valuable places.

What Is a Greenprint?

“We’re defined as much by what we choose to keep and preserve as what we choose to build or replace.... It’s a core community value.”

– JOHN REUTER, FORMER CITY COUNCIL MEMBER, CITY OF SANDPOINT

“We need to prepare ourselves for the next boom-and-bust cycle by protecting those places that are important to the community and that attract people to live here in the first place.”

– ERIC GRACE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF KANIKSU LAND TRUST

Greenprints are community-driven conservation plans. Through Greenprinting, communities make informed decisions about protecting important resources, including water quality, open space, working lands, and trails. The process helps stakeholders work toward common goals using state-of-the-art mapping software. By determining where the greatest number of community goals can be met through conservation, Greenprint maps identify the areas that would get “the most bang for the conservation buck.” Ultimately, Greenprinting involves defining a conservation vision, securing funding, and acquiring and managing protected lands. The goal of a Greenprint is to facilitate practical, voluntary land conservation – bringing many voices into the conversation, employing the best



Aerial photo of Sandpoint

A GREENPRINT IS:

- A set of tools (including interactive maps)
- A process to identify opportunities to meet multiple goals
- A way to prioritize areas for voluntary, market-based conservation

A GREENPRINT IS NOT:

- A map of land use prohibitions
- Determined by one (or a few) perspectives
- Limited to protecting wildlife
- Related to condemning or taking land/private property

technology available, and taking steps to ensure that implementation is both efficient and effective.

What Is Voluntary Land Conservation?

The purpose of the Greenprint is to guide *voluntary* land conservation. This means purchasing privately owned land through voluntary fee simple acquisition or conservation easements. Organizations like Kaniksu Land Trust and The Trust for Public Land help willing landowners who are interested in selling or donating property *and* protecting

land from development. A conservation easement is an agreement to give up some of the rights associated with a property (for example, the rights to subdivide and develop it), while enabling the landowner to retain ownership of the land and sell or pass it on to heirs. Conservation easements can help landowners continue to use a property as working land for farming, ranching, or forestry. Conservation easements are tailored to the unique circumstances of each property. When landowners donate a conservation easement, they may be eligible to receive tax benefits.

Greater Sandpoint Greenprint Guiding Principles

The development of the Greater Sandpoint Greenprint is guided by the following principles and core values, which were outlined by project partners and affirmed by the Greenprint Steering Committee.

- **LOCAL VALUES.** Efforts to enhance conservation in our communities must be based on local values. We can and should look to other communities for models but we will develop recommendations for Greater Sandpoint that reflect our local values.
- **AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER.** Local residents value our agricultural and forestry heritage. We encourage conservation efforts aimed at protecting agricultural and timber production.
- **MULTIPLE BENEFITS, MULTIPLE USES.** Conserved lands may serve multiple purposes. For example, land along rivers and streams can keep water clean and cold and provide habitat for wildlife. Agricultural and timber-harvesting areas can provide economic benefits, open space, and habitat. We recognize the potential for multiple benefits from thoughtful, voluntary land protection and strive to emphasize those benefits.
- **RECREATION AND TOURISM.** Strategic conservation enhances local economies by protecting assets that are valued by both local residents and tourists. Conservation can benefit our local economies through protecting Lake Pend Oreille and local rivers and streams; providing places for people to play and recreate; providing access for hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching; and increasing tourism opportunities.
- **ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY.** Surrounding beauty, recreational opportunities, and open spaces all play a vital role in making the Greater Sandpoint area a desirable place to live and work— attracting and retaining job creators far beyond the tourist or extraction economy. Conservation can also promote viable agriculture and timber operations; increase property values; and provide income to individual landowners through incentive-based conservation.
- **CONSERVATION IS VOLUNTARY.** Greenprint partners support conservation efforts only with willing landowners.
- **RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS.** We respect the rights of private property owners.

2. Study area

A FULL SUMMARY OF CURRENT CONDITIONS in the Greenprint study area can be found in Appendix C.

Stretching across Idaho’s panhandle, Bonner County is known for its towering mountains, trout-filled streams, and shimmering lakes. The county is surrounded by mountains – the Selkirk Mountains, Bitterroot Mountains, and Cabinet Mountains. In the midst of these 7,000-foot peaks lie rivers, lakes, and streams, including the Clark Fork River, Pend Oreille River, Priest River, Priest Lake, and Lake Pend Oreille. Kootenai and Shoshone Counties touch Bonner County’s southern border. Boundary County to the north borders both Bonner County and Canada.

The **Greater Sandpoint Greenprint study area** (shown in Figure 1) includes nearly 360,000 acres surrounding the northern and western shores of Lake Pend Oreille. Nine

cities are found within Bonner County: Sandpoint, Ponderay, Dover, Kootenai, East Hope, Hope, Clark Fork, Oldtown, and Priest River. Of these, all but the last three (Clark Fork, Oldtown, and Priest River) border the northern shores of Lake Pend Oreille and are included in the study area. Sagle, an unincorporated community five miles south of Sandpoint, is also included. The study area contains approximately 14,800 acres of state-owned land and 80,500 acres of federally owned land.

Population

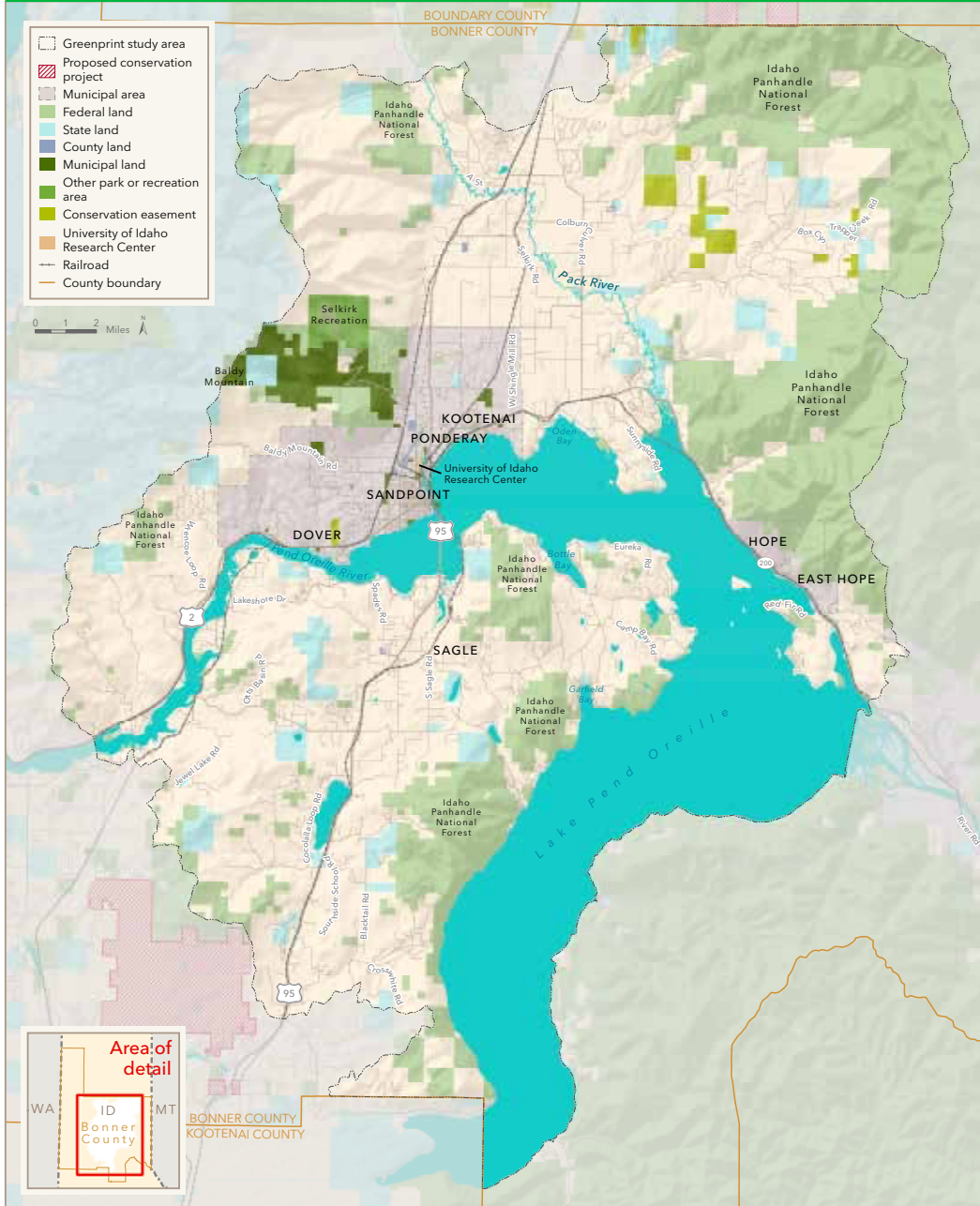
Bonner County’s population has increased dramatically over the past 30 years. Population growth rates between 2000 and 2010 in Bonner County are shown in Table 1. During this time, Bonner County’s population grew by 10.8 percent; Sandpoint grew by 7.8 percent; Ponderay grew by 78.2 percent; Kootenai grew by 53.7 percent; and Dover grew by 67.5 percent.

TABLE 1. POPULATION GROWTH RATES IN BONNER COUNTY
(U.S. CENSUS DATA)

Area	2000 Population	2010 Population	Growth Rate (2000-2010)
Bonner County	36,835	40,877	10.8%
Sandpoint	6,835	7,365	7.8%
Ponderay	638	1,137	78.2%
Kootenai	441	678	53.7%
Dover	332	556	67.5%
Hope	79	86	8.9%
East Hope	200	210	5.0%

Greater Sandpoint Area Greenprint

OVERALL AREA



➔ **FIGURE 1** Greater Sandpoint Area Greenprint, Study Area

Economy

From its roots in lumber, Bonner County has grown and diversified its economy. Today, the economy has shifted from being primarily resource extraction based to being much more diverse. Economic drivers include tourism, forest products, and light manufacturing. According to a 2015 study by Headwaters Economics, “Bonner County, Idaho’s Resilient Economy,” the county’s economy is more diverse than would be expected in a relatively remote area and residents are passionate about the area’s excellent quality of life.

The closing of Coldwater Creek, the women’s clothing retailer, in 2014 had a significant impact on the local economy, including the loss of 340 jobs. Enrollment in the Lake Pend Oreille School District dropped for the first time in recent memory in 2014–2015. However, there is great deal of local economic momentum in manufacturing, health care, aerospace, and software design in addition to strong tourism and timber sectors. In part because many residents are very committed to staying in the area, there is a strong local culture of entrepreneurship.

Land Use and Ownership

Bonner County covers 1,920 square miles. Of this, 9 percent is water. Sixty percent of Bonner County is publicly owned, most of which is composed of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests and the Priest Lake State Forest. Table 2 shows the breakdown of land-ownership in Bonner County.

**TABLE 2. LANDOWNERSHIP
IN BONNER COUNTY**
(BONNER COUNTY, 2002)

Agency	Acres	Percent
Federal Land	493,027	44.3%
BLM	11,520	
National Forest	472,655	
Other	8,852	
State Land	169,703	15.3%
Endowment Land	167,238	
Fish and Game	1,660	
Parks and Recreation	805	
County	4,521	0.8%
Municipal Land	4,117	
Private Land	440,698	39.6%
Total	1,112,064	100%

TINA STEVENS OF THE VALLEY STUDIO



Cattle Rancher Jim Wood on the Wood’s V-X Ranch

3. Community engagement

MORE THAN 560 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN A COMMUNITY SURVEY in the fall of 2014 and many additional people were reached through speak-outs (interactive tabling) at local events in October and November of 2014 (Sandpoint Farmers' Market, Oktoberfest, Toast the Trail, Sandpoint Film Festival, Angels and Nordic events, ski swaps, Hope Memorial and Trails Passage, and Panhandle Bank). In addition, 14 local experts were interviewed by project staff in the fall of 2014.

During 2015, 46 community members, representing a range of organizations and interests, participated in at least one of the four Greenprint Steering Committee meetings held in January, May, July, and October. See Appendix A for the full Greenprint Steering Committee participant list and Appendix E for summaries of each of the steering committee meetings.

Community Survey

The community survey targeted residents of Bonner County. Between October and December, staff from Idaho Conservation League and The Trust for Public Land attended 11 community events at which they asked passersby to participate in the survey. Staff also used social networking and traditional media outreach to encourage online survey participation. In all, 560 surveys were submitted. Although the results do not necessarily reflect the views of everyone in the community, the large number of responses provided a very solid basis for the Greenprint's initial community input. See Appendix D for a full summary of survey findings.

Key Findings

- Respondents ranked water quality, recreation and access, and wildlife habitat as the most important regional values.
- Lake Pend Oreille was mentioned most as both an iconic local natural resource and a priority for preservation. Preservation of Lake Pend Oreille was followed by the need to preserve lakes, rivers, and waterfront areas in general.
- The survey yielded a wide range of suggestions for balancing the need to grow the economy in Greater Sandpoint and retain local culture. The number one suggestion, mentioned by 17 percent of respondents, was strong planning and zoning. Next, respondents advocated diversifying the local economy and supporting trails (both 13 percent).



Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail

TABLE 3. MOST IMPORTANT REGIONAL VALUES FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS IN GREATER SANDPOINT

PLEASE RANK THE TOP 3 REGIONAL VALUES YOU THINK ARE MOST IMPORTANT FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS IN GREATER SANDPOINT.

Answer Options	First	Second	Third	Total
WATER QUALITY: Includes lands important to drinking water quality, riparian areas, and lands impacting watersheds.	229	101	83	413
RECREATION AND ACCESS: Preserve lands for recreational activities and improve access to existing recreational assets.	138	95	129	362
WILDLIFE HABITAT: Protect native species, their habitat and wildlife corridors.	66	155	117	338
WORKING LANDS: Protect working farms, forests, and ranches.	36	50	77	163
COMMUNITY BUFFERS: Create open land buffers around communities.	12	41	69	122
VIEWS: Protect views that people value.	11	27	49	87

Who Responded?

- Adults of all ages took the survey, though the largest group represented was 36–60-year-olds. Twelve percent of adults surveyed were 18–35-years-old; 51 percent were 36–60-years-old; and 37 percent were 61 and older. Only one child took the survey. Respondents were 49 percent men and 51 percent women.
- Overall, 474 people reported having their primary residence in Bonner County. This means that at least 85 percent of respondents reside in Bonner County, and most of them live in Sandpoint (321). There were also 34 people (6 percent) from out of state who took the survey, so some visitor input is reflected in the results.
- The largest number of respondents moved to Bonner County within the last ten years. However, a great many people surveyed

(more than 250) have lived in Bonner County for more than ten years.

Most Important Regional Values

When people were asked to rank their top three regional values, water quality, recreation and access, and wildlife habitat emerged as the most important. These results are shown in more detail in Table 3.

Iconic Natural Resources

We also asked respondents to identify Greater Sandpoint’s iconic natural resources. We received more than 330 responses to this question, and many people offered several answers. Some clear themes emerged, as shown in Table 4. Lake Pend Oreille was the most commonly mentioned iconic natural resource. Respondents also focused on surrounding mountains and rivers.

**TABLE 4.
ICONIC NATURAL RESOURCES**

General Breakdown of Responses	Total	Percent
Lake Pend Oreille	270	81%
Mountains	146	44%
Additional Bodies of Water (rivers, streams, smaller lakes, deltas, etc.)	123	37%
Forests/Trees	64	19%
Nature/Wildlife	42	13%
Trails	25	8%
Water Quality	17	5%
Recreation Activities (skiing, hunting, fishing, etc.)	16	5%
Air Quality	15	5%
Open Public Land/Green Spaces (undeveloped)	15	5%
Views	13	4%
Beaches	12	4%

Strategies for Growing the Economy and Retaining Local Culture

Respondents also weighed in on how to simultaneously grow the economy in Greater Sandpoint and retain local culture. We received 247 responses to this question, and many respondents had several suggestions. The number one suggestion, mentioned by 17 percent of respondents, was strong planning and zoning. Next, respondents advocated diversifying the local economy and supporting trails (both 13 percent). Suggestions for diversifying the economy included facilitating

development of the following types of businesses: eco-friendly/alternative energy, small manufacturing, light industrial, and small aviation. More results are shown in Table 5.

TABLE 5. STRATEGIES FOR GROWING THE ECONOMY AND RETAINING LOCAL CULTURE

If growing the economy and retaining local culture are important goals in Greater Sandpoint, what can be done to realize these goals simultaneously?	Total	Percent
Planning/Zoning/Responsible Growth	43	17%
Diversify Economy/Attract New Businesses (e.g., small manufacturing, alternative energy)	31	13%
Support Trails (infrastructure, outreach)	31	13%
Support Local Businesses	25	10%
Bicycle Infrastructure (trails, campground)	22	9%
Communication/Education/Be Inclusive	18	7%
Restrict Development to City Boundaries/Downtown	17	7%
Market Environmental Amenities/Outdoor Recreation/Eco-Tourism	17	7%
Air Quality	15	5%
Open Public Land/Green Spaces (undeveloped)	15	5%
Views	13	4%
Beaches	12	4%

4. Mapping conservation values

THE TOP CONSERVATION GOALS FOR THIS GREENPRINT were determined through analysis of results from the community survey and outreach events in the fall of 2014. The top four conservation goals among community participants were (1) **Maintain Water Quality**, (2) **Provide Recreation**, (3) **Protect Wildlife Habitat**, and (4) **Preserve Working Lands**.

The GIS team from The Trust for Public Land worked with the Greenprint Steering Committee to create separate maps of each of these goals and an overall map combining the goals. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis uses the best available spatial data to represent each conservation value. The conservation values expressed by residents through the public outreach and stakeholder engagement process informed the development of GIS maps.

In moving from the public outreach phase of the Greenprint to the GIS mapping and modeling phase, a Technical Advisory Team (TAT) of local experts provided strategic advice on data collection and data modeling. The TAT was responsible for making recommendations related to data. The local experts' advice was invaluable in developing the criteria for each goal; identifying the best available data and its sources; and advising through the modeling process to ensure that modeling assumptions were based on defensible science and that input data and model results were accurate.

Overviews of each of these goals and the maps created through the Greenprint process, as

well as a map combining all four goals, are included below. The full criteria matrix used in developing the Greenprint maps is shown in Appendix B.

TABLE 6. CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY LANDS BY CONSERVATION GOAL

Conservation Goal	High-Priority Areas for Protection in Acres (% of Study Area)
Maintain Water Quality	150,500
Provide Recreation	32,300
Protect Wildlife Habitat	191,300
Preserve Working Lands	155,100
Overall (Combined) Map	94,500

Maintain Water Quality

"I'm constantly reminded as I look out at the lake about how important it is to our life. We all share this water for drinking and for recreating. And what happens on the lake is important to all of us.... The lake is why people visit us, it is why people move here. It provides resources, activity, income, and it's great to see energy being put into water issues right now."

– DOVER MAYOR ANNIE SHAHA

Water dominates much of Bonner County. More than 9 percent of Bonner County is covered by water – the largest percentage of any county in Idaho. Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho’s largest lake, is in the center of the county. Pend Oreille River drains out of Lake Pend Oreille on its western edge, and Clark Fork River drains into Lake Pend Oreille from the east.

Lake Pend Oreille covers 85,960 acres and has 111 miles of shoreline. It is 43 miles long and more than 1,150 feet deep. Lake Pend Oreille is the fifth-deepest lake in the United States. The Clark Fork River contributes about 92 percent of the annual inflow to the lake. Lake Pend Oreille is important for drinking water supply, habitat and spawning, and recreation and scenic views. Lake Pend Oreille is home to many aquatic species, including bull trout, which is listed as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act. Much of the lake’s shore is accessible only by water.

Approximately half of the population of Bonner County lives near the north shore of Lake Pend Oreille. A great deal of new residential development has been constructed within a half mile of the lakeshore, and soils in these areas are susceptible to erosion and flooding. Because of increasing levels of nutrient contamination from human activities, Lake Pend Oreille was listed as threatened by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality in 1994.

The study area is part of the Clark Fork/Pend Oreille Watershed, a large watershed

spanning three states (Montana, Idaho, and Washington). In the Clark Fork/Pend Oreille Watershed, there are eight smaller watersheds within the boundaries of Bonner County: the Upper Kootenai, Lower Kootenai, Lower Clark Fork, Pend Oreille Lake, Priest, Pend Oreille, Upper Couer d’Alene, and Little Spokane. The study area is in the Pend Oreille Lake Watershed. The Little Sand Creek Subwatershed provides drinking water for 90 percent of Sandpoint, and the city is one of the subwatershed’s major landowners. Sandpoint’s first management goal for this watershed is the continued acquisition of land for drinking water protection. The leading sources of known pollutants in Bonner County watersheds are agriculture, timber harvesting, and construction.

Figure 2 ● shows the results for the Maintain Water Quality goal. Criteria incorporated included (1) Preserve areas with natural and native vegetation along all water bodies; (2) Protect areas outside sewer districts and drinking water service areas; (3) Protect riparian buffers and other waters; (4) Protect headwater streams; (5) Protect steep slopes; (6) Protect soils susceptible to erosion; (7) Protect floodplains; (8) Preserve intact riparian zones; and (9) Protect water supply. The greatest weight was given to preserving intact riparian zones (20 percent), protecting headwater streams (16 percent), preserving areas with natural and native vegetation along water bodies (15 percent), protecting water supply (15 percent), and protecting riparian buffers (14 percent). The highest priority lands for this

goal are located along streams and riparian areas throughout the study area.

Provide Recreation

“Everything I like to do I can do right from my driveway. I’m five minutes from sailing, 30 minutes from skiing. It’s an awesome place to live. This area draws people who have a kindred spirit. It’s casual and passionate. When you walk around town, people smile. People are happy here.”

– KIM WOODRUFF, SANDPOINT PARKS DIRECTOR

Note: The Bonner County Trail Mix Committee, The Trust for Public Land, and Idaho Conservation League are leading a separate simultaneous effort to develop a county-wide trail plan that builds on a draft plan developed by Bonner County in 2014. There will be additional detail in the Final Trail Plan Report, which will be available here: _____. [need to determine where people will be able to find this]

Bonner County has a huge variety of opportunities for hiking, biking, skiing, horseback riding, camping, boating and other water sports, ATV and snowmobile riding, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. More than 660 miles of existing recreational and commuting trails and routes are found in Bonner County, and the 2016 Bonner County Trail Plan (referenced above) is proposing the development of an additional nearly 490 miles.

In addition to trails, Bonner County has ten campgrounds, five golf courses, and 2,900

acres of skiing at Schweitzer Mountain Resort. Sandpoint has eight city parks (including City Beach and the Baldy Shooting Range) covering 107 acres. While Lake Pend Oreille and other warm-weather opportunities dominate summer recreation, Schweitzer Mountain Resort plays a major role in drawing winter tourism.

Figure 3 ● shows the results for the Provide Recreation goal. Criteria incorporated included (1) Encourage a variety of types of recreation with a focus on access to streams and lakes; (2) Provide better shoreline access from local roads and trails; (3) Provide solitude opportunities along the shoreline for boaters; (4) Provide better hunting and fishing access; (5) Preserve commercial areas that provide open space and recreational opportunities; and (6) Prioritize and expand existing and proposed trails. The greatest weight was given to prioritizing and expanding existing and proposed trails (30 percent), providing better shoreline access from local roads and trails (25 percent), and encouraging a variety of types of recreation with a focus on access to streams and lakes (20 percent).

Existing and proposed trails from the 2016 Bonner County Trail Plan are buffered by 200 feet and given high priority if they are within a trail system area designated in the plan. Moderate priority is given to buffered existing and proposed trails that are not within a designated trail system area. Trail system areas are regions of the county where multiple related trails are grouped together for the purposes of

trail planning, development, and marketing.

The highest priority lands for the Provide Recreation goal are located in areas that would help provide shoreline access or protect popular trails and trail system areas – particularly near the Selkirks, Baldy Mountain, and the cities on the northern shore of Lake Pend Oreille.

Protect Wildlife Habitat

The Greenprint study area houses a huge variety of wildlife. National forests in Greater Sandpoint provide habitat for nearly 300 species of birds and 50 species of mammals. Bird species range from the calliope hummingbird to the bald eagle, and mammal species range from the little brown bat to the gray wolf. Local sensitive species include boreal toad, Coeur d’Alene salamander, common loon, harlequin duck, peregrine falcon, flammulated owl, black-backed woodpecker, Townsend’s big-eared bat, northern bog lemming, fisher, and wolverine. Local threatened and endangered species include bull trout, grizzly bear, Canada lynx, and woodland caribou.

In addition to the wildlife listed above, mammals in the study area include moose, deer, black bear, mountain lion, mountain goat, and bighorn sheep. Sandpoint is on the eastern edge of the Pacific Flyway and attracts a wide range of seasonal waterfowl. During the winter, waters in the Pend Oreille system may support up to one-quarter of the entire redhead duck population in the Pacific Flyway. Fish native to Bonner County include

westslope cutthroat trout, pygmy whitefish, mountain whitefish, northern pikeminnow, and bull trout.

Figure 4 ● shows the results for the Protect Wildlife Habitat goal. Criteria incorporated included (1) Protect streams and riparian corridors and other waters and wetlands; (2) Protect bird habitat; (3) Protect fish habitat; (4) Protect habitat for other wildlife; (5) Protect endangered species habitat; (6) Protect working lands that provide wildlife habitat; (7) Protect important areas for wildlife movement; (8) Protect terrestrial species of concern; and (9) Protect aquatic species of concern. The greatest weight was given to protecting important areas for wildlife movement (25 percent), protecting terrestrial species of concern (20 percent), and protecting aquatic species of concern (20 percent). High-priority lands for this goal are throughout the northern portion of the study area, especially along waterways. GIS data for sensitive wildlife habitat are available only in 6 square mile hexagons, so the results for this map are fairly general. There are high priority areas throughout the northern and western portions of the study area.

Preserve Working Lands

“One of our goals should be to make cities so much fun, and such a draw, that land outside those cities is protected for working lands, forests, and farms.”

– STEVE LOCKWOOD, SANDPOINT RESIDENT AND BOARD MEMBER OF IDAHO SMART GROWTH

Bonner County’s agricultural sector plays a key role economically, environmentally, and culturally. Timberland dominates Bonner County, but livestock and cropland are also important. The primary crops grown in Bonner County are wheat, oats, barley, and grass-legume hay. The county ranks first in the state in sales of ornamental trees. In 2012, the value of crop sales in the county was \$6.1 million and the value of livestock sales was \$4 million.

Loss of farmland, particularly cropland, is a serious issue in the county. According to the Census of Agriculture, farmed land in Bonner County decreased by 15 percent – from 94,380 acres to 80,623 acres – in just five years between 2007 and 2012. The loss of cropland has been tied to a loss in agricultural employment between 1991 and 2011. In addition, forestry jobs have steadily declined in the county since 2004. Small-acreage farming, however, has increased in the county since the mid-1990s. Today, almost half of the 686 farms in Bonner County reported sales of less than \$2,500. Ninety-six percent of the farms in the county are family run.

Figure 5 • shows the results for the Preserve Working Lands goal. Criteria incorporated included (1) Concentrate development away from working lands; (2) Protect wildlife corridors and greenbelts; (3) Preserve ranchlands; (4) Preserve croplands; (5) Preserve timberlands; (6) Protect water availability and quality for irrigation; (7) Protect working land viewsheds; (8) Protect infrastructure that

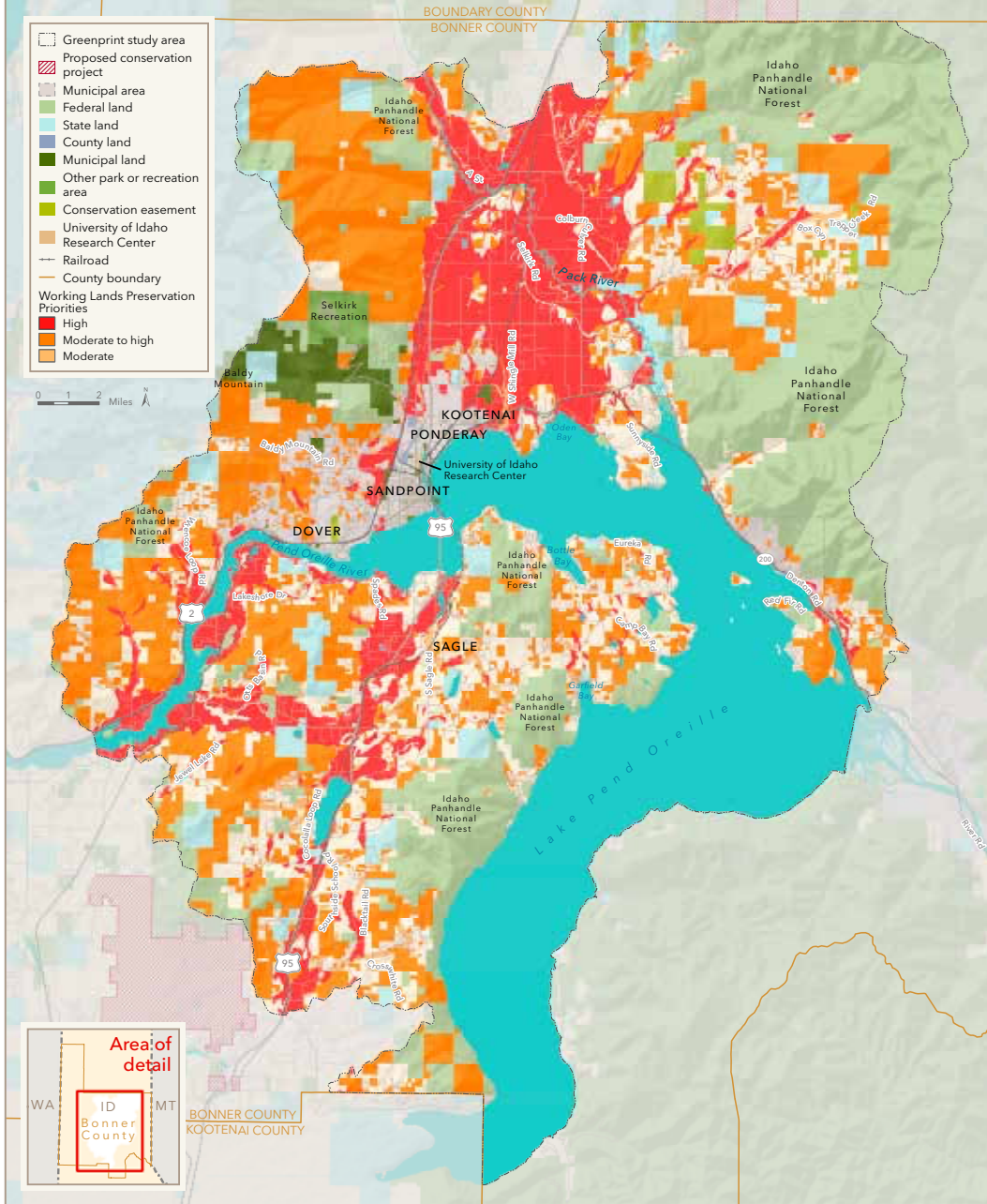
supports working lands; and (9) Preserve soils suitable for farmland. The greatest weight was given to preserving soils suitable for farmland (20 percent) and preserving ranchlands, croplands, and timberlands (15 percent each). High-priority lands for this goal are located in the northern portion of the study area in the Pack River Valley, east of Sagle, and along the Pend Oreille River.

Overall Map

For the overall map, each goal was weighted according to the views of the community and the expertise of steering committee members. The Greenprint Steering Committee selected the final weighting for the overall map at their October 2015 meeting. The map • (Figure 6) shows areas where the four community goals overlap, with particular emphasis on areas that are important for maintaining drinking water quality and areas with important working lands (each weighted 30 percent). Because of the dominance of water as a community priority and because water-related criteria factored into the other goals as well, the highest-priority lands for the overall map are along streams and along the lake shore.

Greater Sandpoint Area Greenprint

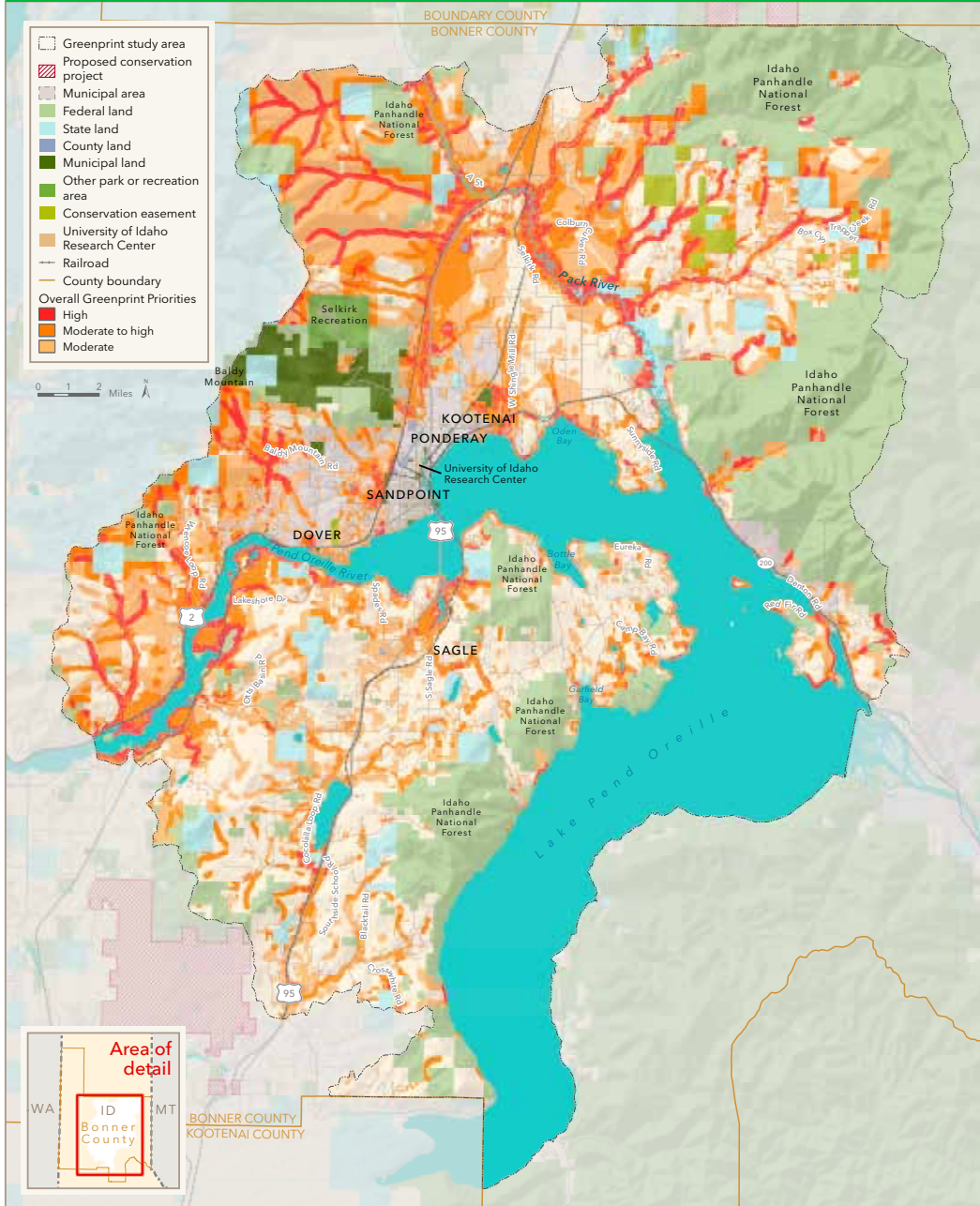
PRESERVE WORKING LANDS



➔ **FIGURE 5** Greater Sandpoint Area Greenprint, Preserve Working Lands

Greater Sandpoint Area Greenprint

OVERALL GREENPRINT PRIORITIES



➔ **FIGURE 6** Greater Sandpoint Area Greenprint, Overall Greenprint Priorities

5. Greater Sandpoint Greenprint action plan

THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE GREATER SANDPOINT GREENPRINT was developed and refined during the final two meetings with the Greenprint Steering Committee. Feedback was solicited from local groups during December 2015 and January 2016. Please see Table 7 for the Action Plan developed by project partners and the Greenprint Steering Committee.

A variety of funding sources could play a role in implementing the Greenprint, including funding from private foundations, land

trusts, and state and federal agencies. In June 2015, the University of Idaho College of Law Economic Development Clinic along with the Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts prepared a report entitled *Funding Conservation in Idaho: A Survey of Federal, State, and Local Resources Assisting Conservation on Private Lands*. The full report is available here: <http://www.privatelandownernetwork.org/pdfs/Funding-ConservationInIdaho.pdf>.

TABLE 7. GREATER SANDPOINT GREENPRINT ACTION PLAN

Action Plan Idea	Implementing Entities	Implementation Time Frame
A. IDENTIFY AND CONSERVE HIGH-PRIORITY LANDS, INCLUDING PROTECTION WITH CONSERVATION EASEMENTS AND AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION EASEMENTS		
A.1. Make GIS data/online tool available to partners so that it can be used in conservation planning	The Trust for Public Land	2016
A.2. Prioritize implementation in proximity to urban areas where development pressure will be strongest over the next five years	Core team (Cities of Ponderay and Sandpoint, Kaniksu Land Trust, Idaho Conservation League, and The Trust for Public Land), other local land trusts and public agencies	Ongoing, long term
A.3. Elevate protections of agricultural working lands	Kaniksu Land Trust, The Trust for Public Land, agriculturally focused land trusts, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), local governments, landowners	155
A.4. Explore nonacquisition-based ways to protect priority lands; use Greenprint as a starting point to work with landowners/land managers on best management practices	Kaniksu Land Trust, agriculturally focused land trusts, NRCS, SWCDs, local governments, landowners	Ongoing, long term

TABLE 7. GREATER SANDPOINT GREENPRINT ACTION PLAN

Action Plan Idea	Implementing Entities	Implementation Time Frame
B. DEVELOP COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY TO GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT THE GREENPRINT		
B.1. Build a communications strategy to showcase the benefits of the Greenprint	NGOs	2016
B.2. Identify key partners (especially landowners) and target them with strategic communications; make sure to stress respect for private property rights; ensure that message is well delivered	Core team	2016, ongoing
B.3. Educate public, elected officials, and agency administrators about the Greenprint (present at county growth summit if it is reinstated)	Core team	2016-2017
B.4. Select, engage, and train champions to drive policy and objectives of the Greenprint. In addition to core team, potential champions include: Trout Unlimited Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Ducks Unlimited Recreation groups Forest Collaborative Pack River Watershed Council Lake Pend Oreille Nearshore Committee Utilities (Northern Lights, Avista)	The Trust for Public Land, Idaho Conservation League, Kaniksu Land Trust	2016-2017
B.5. Reach out to agricultural community; work with farm co-ops and University of Idaho Extension	Idaho Conservation League, Kaniksu Land Trust	2016-2017
C. INCORPORATE GREENPRINT INTO CITY AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT PLANNING DOCUMENTS		
C.1. Incorporate Greenprint into city planning documents	Cities of Sandpoint and Ponderay	2016-2018

TABLE 7. GREATER SANDPOINT GREENPRINT ACTION PLAN

Action Plan Idea	Implementing Entities	Implementation Time Frame
D. ENSURE THAT THE GREENPRINT IS KEPT AS A LIVING DOCUMENT, AND MONITOR/ACCESS PROGRESS		
D.1. Determine where the online interactive version of the Greenprint will be housed in the long term	The Trust for Public Land, Idaho Conservation League	2016
D.2. Create a mechanism through which the Greenprint can be updated; ensure that updates happen at least annually	Core team	2016, ongoing
D.3. Ensure that information about data sources is thorough and easily available in order to facilitate updates	The Trust for Public Land	2016
D.4. Evaluate the Greenprint annually, including 12 months after implementation for five to ten years; if possible present any changes annually to the Sandpoint and Ponderay planning and zoning commissions	The Trust for Public Land, Idaho Conservation League	2017, ongoing
D.5. Convene the Greenprint Steering Committee or core team periodically to assess progress and adapt to changes as necessary	The Trust for Public Land, Idaho Conservation League, Kaniksu Land Trust, Cities of Ponderay and Sandpoint	2017, ongoing
E. IDENTIFY AND PURSUE TRADITIONAL AND NONTRADITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES TO IMPLEMENT THE GREENPRINT		
E.1. Use and build on information in the 2015 Funding Conservation in Idaho report from Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts and University of Idaho College of Law	Core team, Greenprint champions	2016, ongoing
E.2. Identify potential incentives to assist landowners with conservation	Core team, local governments, land trusts, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	2016, ongoing

6. Profiles in conservation

THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE GREATER SANDPOINT GREENPRINT was developed and refined during the final two meetings with the Greenprint Steering Committee. Feedback was solicited from local groups during December 2015 and January 2016. Please see Table 7 for the Action Plan developed by project partners and the Greenprint Steering Committee.

A variety of funding sources could play a role in implementing the Greenprint, including

funding from private foundations, land trusts, and state and federal agencies. In June 2015, the University of Idaho College of Law Economic Development Clinic along with the Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts prepared a report entitled *Funding Conservation in Idaho: A Survey of Federal, State, and Local Resources Assisting Conservation on Private Lands*. The full report is available here: <http://www.privatelandownernetwork.org/pdfs/FundingConservationInIdaho.pdf>.

BOX 2

Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail

"The Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail enriches the lives of residents of Bonner County and its cities by providing a place within walking and cycling distance for personal renewal in nature, reflection on the area's rich natural and cultural heritage, quiet recreation on and near the lake, and safe, non-motorized travel to and from work, school, play, shopping and social events. The Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail is a collectively held treasure, designed for sustainability and to showcase spectacular lake and mountain scenery."

—VISION STATEMENT FROM THE
PEND D'OREILLE BAY TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN

The Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail showcases the spectacular beauty of Lake Pend Oreille—and

provides much-needed waterfront access to local communities. The unpaved, forested trail was used for decades by invitation only or by trespassers, until the Cities of Sandpoint and Ponderay purchased the land in four installments with the support of the Friends of the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail. Following the final purchase in 2014, the trail was then permanently opened to the public for nonmotorized recreational use.

The current trail covers 1.5 miles of stunning shoreline between Sandpoint and Ponderay. Trail advocates hope to create an underpass under the railroad in order provide lakeshore access to Ponderay and to extend the trail along the north and south sides of the railway line into Kootenai. Once it reaches Kootenai, the trail will be 2.5 miles long and will include additional trailheads in Ponderay and Kootenai. The success of the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail shows the enormous support in Greater Sandpoint for connecting communities and providing lakeshore recreational access.

BOX 3

Gold Creek

The owners of the Gold Creek property were concerned about accelerating development of Bonner County's working lands—especially those working lands nearest the county's cities. The family has deep historic ties to Bonner County's forests and ranch lands and worried that breaking up and converting large tracts of productive land would further endanger both the economic and ecological health of the region's landscape.

In 2009 and 2010, the owners worked with Kaniksu Land Trust (at that time called the Clark Fork Pend Oreille Conservancy), the U.S. Forest Service, and Idaho Department of Lands, and received

funding from the federal Forest Legacy Program, to permanently protect 643 acres of their beautiful Gold Creek property with a conservation easement.

The protected area is adjacent to the Kaniksu National Forest and provides critical habitat and a wildlife corridor for elk, moose, bear, and other wildlife. Several streams, including parts of the Grouse Creek and Gold Creek drainages, pass through the property. The health of these streams and others like them is critical to protecting native bull trout and cutthroat trout. The Gold Creek property is used by the Western Pleasure Guest Ranch as an active guest ranch and a working cattle operation, and is actively managed for timber production.

BOX 4

Morton Slough

The Morton Slough property, off the Pend Oreille River, provides winter range for big game. This is a crucial corridor for wildlife traveling between the mountains and the slough and important habitat

for waterfowl and other birds. The property is also a well-managed working forest and meets national American Tree Farm System standards. In 2011, the landowners donated a conservation easement on 616 acres in order to permanently protect the area as working forest and wildlife habitat.

BOX 5

Sherwood Forest and Syringa Trails

Sherwood Forest and Syringa Trails are just two miles west of Sandpoint, an area facing heavy development pressure. Sherwood Forest provides important open space, recreational opportunities, and working lands for the local community. It also provides habitat for native species, including wintering deer, moose, and elk. Streams on the property are tributaries to the Pend Oreille River, which supports federally threatened bull trout, along with westslope cutthroat trout and kokanee salmon.

Since 2005, volunteers, including the Pend Oreille Pedalers and local landowners, have constructed mountain biking and hiking trails in the area.

Thousands of residents and visitors use these trails every year and are treated to wonderful hiking and biking routes and stunning views. The property is also host to many outdoor sculptures, created by the property owner, that blend into the landscape.

Landowners donated an easement on 143 acres of Sherwood Forest and the Syringa Trails in 2012 in order to permanently ensure preservation of and public access to this exceptional community resource.

7. Conclusion

Greater Sandpoint is spectacularly beautiful and its natural resources, recreational opportunities, and unique culture make it a wonderful place to live and to visit. Because the area faces development pressure as its economy grows and it draws more tourists and new residents, now is the time to preserve the vulnerable places that make Greater Sandpoint so special. This Greenprint expresses the

collective desire of local community members to use voluntary conservation to maintain water quality, provide recreation, protect wildlife, and preserve working lands. Implementing this plan will help Greater Sandpoint guide future investments in trails, parks, and open spaces in order to promote economic growth, while protecting the area's most valuable places.



ANDREA NAGEL

Revett Lake

Appendix A: Participant Lists

TABLE AP-1. GREATER SANDPOINT GREENPRINT INTERVIEWEES

First Name	Last Name	Title	Organization/Affiliation
Annie	Shaha	Mayor	City of Dover
Carol	Kunzeman	Mayor	City of Ponderay
Carrie	Logan	Mayor	City of Sandpoint
Clare	Marley	Planner	Bonner County Planning Department
Eric	Grace	Executive Director	Kaniksu Land Trust
Erik	Brubaker	Planner	City of Ponderay
Janice	Schoonover		
John	Reuter		Conservation Voters for Idaho
Karl	Dye		
Kim	Woodruff	Director	City of Sandpoint Parks Department
Michael	Keough	Mayor	City of Kootenai
Molly	O'Reilly		
Steve	Lockwood	Board Member	Idaho Smart Growth
Shannon	Williamson		

TABLE AP-2. GREATER SANDPOINT GREENPRINT TECHNICAL ADVISORY TEAM

Aaron	Qualls	City Planner	City of Sandpoint
Colleen	Trese		Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Eric	Grace	Executive Director	Kaniksu Land Trust
Erik	Brubaker	City Planner	City of Ponderay
Erin	Mader		Lakes Commission
Greg	Becker	District Conservationist	Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture
Jared	Yost	GIS Lead	City of Sandpoint Public Works

**TABLE AP-2. GREATER SANDPOINT GREENPRINT
TECHNICAL ADVISORY TEAM**

First Name	Last Name	Title	Organization/Affiliation
Kristin	Larson		Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Molly	McCahon	Program Coordinator	Lake Assist
Ryan	Fobes	Director, Land Improvement Program	Idaho Forest Group
Susan	Drumheller	North Idaho Associate	Idaho Conservation League

**TABLE AP-3. GREATER SANDPOINT GREENPRINT
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING PARTICIPANTS**

Aaron	Qualls	City Planner	City of Sandpoint
Andy	Kennaly	Minister	First Presbyterian of Sandpoint
Annie	Shaha	Mayor	City of Dover
Barney	Ballard		Ponderay Parks Committee
Bill	Love		Inland Forest Management
Brian	Wood		Woods Crushing
Carol	Wilburn	Intentional community supporter	
Cate	Huisman	Sandpoint planning commissioner	
Christian	Thompson		Realtor
Cindy	Peer		Selkirk Valley Bonner County Horsemen
Clare	Marley		Bonner County Planning Department
Colleen	Trese		Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Ed	Robinson		Idaho Department of Lands

TABLE AP-3. GREATER SANDPOINT GREENPRINT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING PARTICIPANTS

First Name	Last Name	Title	Organization/Affiliation
Eric	Grace	Executive Director	Kaniksu Land Trust
Eric	Paull	VP, Washington Trust	Washington Trust Bank/Urban Renewal Agency
Erick	Walker	District Ranger	US Forest Service
Erik			
Brubaker	City Planner	City of Ponderay	
Erin	Mader	Coordinator	Lakes Commission
Greg	Becker	District Conservationist	NRCS
Jamie	Brunner	Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan Coordinator	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Jared	Yost	GIS Lead	Sandpoint Public Works
Jennie	Meulenberg	Planning Intern	City of Ponderay
Jeremy	Grimm	Planner	Sandpoint Planning and Zoning
Jim	Lovell	Chairman of the Board	Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce
Karen	Sjoquist	Program Director	Forest Legacy Program - Dept of Lands
Kate	McAllister	President and CEO	Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce
Kim	Woodruff	Parks Director	Sandpoint Parks and Recreation
Kirk	Sehlmeyer	Forester	Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA
Kristin	Larson	Watershed Coordinator	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Kurt	Pavlat	Field Manager	Bureau of Land Management
Lawson	Tate	Realtor/ Ponderay Planning and Zoning	Ponderay Planning Commission

TABLE AP-3. GREATER SANDPOINT GREENPRINT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING PARTICIPANTS

First Name	Last Name	Title	Organization/Affiliation
Leonard & Naomi	Wood		Woods V Bar X Ranch
Marianne	Love	Author	
Mark	Contor		Northern Lights Electric Cooperative
Mary	Terra Burns		Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Molly	McCahon	Coordinator	Lake Assist
Nancy	Dooley	North Idaho Outreach Coordinator	Idaho Conservation League
Reg	Crawford		Trout Unlimited, Panhandle Chapter
Regan	Plumb	Land Protection Specialist	Kaniksu Land Trust
Ryan	Fobes	Director of Land Improvement	Idaho Forest Group
Scout	Seley		
Sean	Mirus	Marketing and Sales Director	Schweitzer Mountain Resort
Shane	Sater		
Shannon	Williamson	City Council	Sandpoint
Susan	Drumheller	North Idaho Associate	Idaho Conservation League

Map references

➤ FIGURE 1 Study Area (Page 10)

➤ FIGURE 2 Maintain Water Quality (Page 16)

This map was created using a weighted overlay analysis based on the following water quality criteria:

- Areas with natural and native vegetation (15%)
- Areas outside sewer districts and drinking water service areas (5%)
- Riparian buffers and other waters (14%)
- Headwater streams (16%)
- Steep slopes (5%)
- Soils susceptible to erosion (5%)
- Floodplains (5%)
- Intact riparian zones (20%)
- Protect water supply (15%)

➤ FIGURE 3 Provide Recreation (Page 19)

This map was created using a weighted overlay analysis based on the following recreation criteria:

- Access to streams and lakes (20%)
- Shoreline access from local roads and trails (25%)
- Shoreline solitude opportunities for boaters (20%)
- Better hunting and fishing access (5%)
- Commercial areas that provide open space recreational opportunities (5%)
- Access to existing and proposed trails (25%)

➤ FIGURE 4 Protect Wildlife Habitat (Page 20)

This map was created using a weighted overlay analysis based on the following wildlife habitat protection criteria:

- Streams, riparian corridors, and other waters and wetlands (5%)
- Bird habitat (5%)
- Fish habitat (5%)
- Habitat for other wildlife (5%)
- Endangered species habitat (10%)
- Working lands that provide wildlife habitat (5%)
- Important areas for wildlife movement (25%)
- Terrestrial species of concern (20%)
- Aquatic species of concern (20%)

➤ FIGURE 5 Preserve Working Lands (Page 23)

This map was created using a weighted overlay analysis based on the following working lands preservation criteria:

- Concentrate development away from working lands (1%)
- Wildlife corridors and greenbelts (11%)
- Ranchlands (16%)
- Croplands (16%)
- Timber lands (15%)
- Water availability and irrigation (11%)
- Working land viewsheds (7%)
- Infrastructure that supports working lands (3%)
- Soils suitable for farmland (20%)

➤ FIGURE 6 Overall Greenprint Priorities (Page 24)

This map shows the overall priorities of the Greater Sandpoint Greenprint, based on the following four goals:

- Maintain Water Quality (30%)
- Provide Recreation (20%)
- Protect Wildlife Habitat (20%)
- Preserve Working Lands (30%)

Data was provided by Bonner County, City of Sandpoint, ESRI, NCED, NHD, SMA.

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PHOTOS: FRONT TOP, BRAD SMITH, FRONT
BOTTOM, TINA STEVENS OF THE VALLEY
STUDIO; BACK, GEORGE PERKS.

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