

The Bald Mountain Stewardship Project

The purpose of the Bald Mountain Stewardship Project is to reduce fuels and associated fire risk, improve forest health, and preserve the recreational experience on and around Bald Mountain, home of the Sun Valley Ski Resort. This world-renowned recreational destination drives central Idaho's economy and is the primary viewshed for the communities of Ketchum and Sun Valley.

The Wood River Valley's Forests

Forested lands in Central Idaho's Blaine County have seen a significant increase in forest decline over the last two decades due to insect and disease mortality. This has led to an uncharacteristic fire risk and contributed to the incidence of two large area wildfires (2007, 2013) that threatened homes and infrastructure in Wood River Valley. The area has also experienced an exponential increase in noxious weed presence that threatens critical wildlife habitat.

In 2019 a community effort convened and facilitated by the National Forest Foundation and aptly named the Bald Mountain workgroup, came together to address concerns around forest health, fire risk, and insect outbreak issues on and around Bald Mountain (Baldy). To date, more than 60 individuals and organizations have engaged through the workgroup collectively contributing more than 500 hours toward project planning and volunteerism. The product of this effort is the Bald Mountain Stewardship Project.

The Bald Mountain Stewardship Project is a landscape level effort that involves targeted thinning of forests to retain healthy trees, removal of dead and dying trees, placement of insect deterrent, and forest replanting efforts. The intended outcome is to produce strategic management actions across ownership boundaries that will result in a positive impact on forest health, economic stability, and human safety.

Alongside contributions from the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Sun Valley Company, the National Forest Foundation has been able to raise and contribute private funds and organize volunteer efforts to support the Bald Mountain Stewardship Project. This past winter, students and community members gathered on skis to place MCH packets throughout Baldy's Forests (which deter Douglas fir bark beetles from attacking the trees). In 2020, Sun Valley Company and the Forest Service worked with the National Forest Foundation to supply two large truckloads of logs from Bald Mountain's Restoration effort to the Shoshone Paiute Tribe at the Duck Valley Reservation. The wood was used for home heating through the winter months.

The National Forest Foundation

The National Forest Foundation is the leading organization inspiring personal and meaningful connections to our National Forests, the centerpiece of America's public lands. Our mission is to bring people together to restore and enhance our National Forests and Grasslands. For more information or to contribute to the Bald Mountain Stewardship Project please contact:



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