

# IDAHO

## IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

With assistance from the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, three partner organizations prepared a report detailing the carbon reduction value of trees in Idaho's Treasure Valley (the greater Boise metropolitan area), and calculated the value of City Forest Carbon+ (CFC) Credits ([www.cityforestcredits.org](http://www.cityforestcredits.org)). The "+" indication factors in the value of co-benefits for stormwater, energy and air quality. By meeting CFC protocols, tree-planting projects provide quantified, tradeable carbon credits that companies wishing to reduce their carbon footprint can purchase.

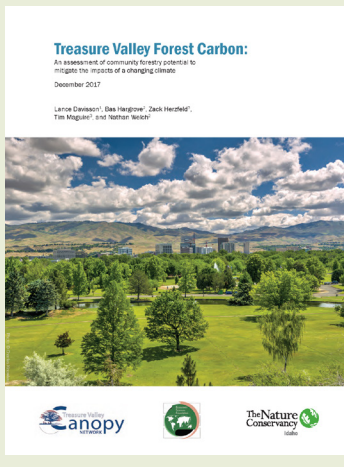
Idaho summers are getting hotter, drier and windier. In the last 30 years, the wildfire season has increased nearly 80 days. Winters are milder and shorter, and average annual temperatures over the past 40 years have increased 2 degrees Fahrenheit. Increased emissions and impervious surfaces in our cities further increase temperatures by producing heat-trapping CO<sub>2</sub>. In fact, a University of Idaho study predicts temperatures in the Treasure Valley will increase 5-7 degrees Fahrenheit within 50 years. Higher temperatures lead to increases in air pollution, smog, allergens, energy use, and a commensurate decrease in human health.

Trees help cool our cities by shading surfaces and absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> through photosynthesis. IDL's 2013 Treasure Valley Canopy Assessment found that Treasure Valley trees currently hold 1.36 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>e), worth an estimated \$29 million. These trees remove an additional \$1.1 million worth of CO<sub>2</sub> each year and provide \$8.2 million more in annual stormwater, energy and air quality benefits.

As a way to support planting efforts, the Nature Conservancy, Treasure Valley Canopy Network, and Ecosystem Sciences Foundation released a report proposing to market CO<sub>2</sub> offset credits for tree planting projects through City Forest Carbon+ Credits. Using protocols developed by CFC, the partners evaluated four recent planting projects comprised of 8,275 trees. Accounting for tree mortality, these trees will store ~15,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e over 25 years. Had these projects earned carbon credits under CFC, they could have generated between \$300,000 and \$500,000!



Shaded downtown area in Boise, ID – an example of what a healthy downtown area looks like. Photo Credit: Dave Stephenson.



By meeting CFC protocols and marketing these through the registry, tree-planting projects provide quantified, tradeable carbon credits. The partners' next step is to pilot a project in collaboration with a local carbon buyer—companies wanting to reduce their carbon footprint and/or increase their environmental sustainability, and in future years to expand both the number of planting projects and partners to include transportation agencies, large landowners, nurseries and more.

Funding for the Treasure Valley Forest Carbon report ([www.tvcanopy.net/forest-carbon](http://www.tvcanopy.net/forest-carbon)) was provided in part by IDL in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Idaho Department of Lands, Urban & Community Forestry  
<https://www.idl.idaho.gov/forestry/community-forestry/index.html>