



## STATE OF IDAHO: HALL MOUNTAIN-KOOTENAI VALLEY

The Hall Mountain-Kootenai Valley (HMKV) Forest Legacy project builds on two decades of conservation work to conserve nearly eighty thousand acres within 25 miles of the project lands. The project is a successful demonstration of the value of collaboration in achieving landscape scale impacts.



In partnership with three local land trusts, 21 Conservation Easements (CEs) were secured to protect 5,439 acres in this two-phase project.

Over the last two decades, Idaho has experienced population growth at double the rate of the national average, and the sale of forestlands to real estate developers is at a record high. In the absence of the USDA Forest Service Forest Legacy Program, economic drivers would have inevitably led to forest fragmentation. This, in turn, would have permanently severed important critical wildlife linkages and weakened the local timber economy as land-use changes threaten their supply.



The project lands lie within two internationally-recognized wildlife corridors, connect over two million acres of USDA Forest Service land, and secure linkages between the Selkirk and Purcell Mountains. The HMKV lies within the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, which aims to restore and reconnect habitat to allow wildlife to roam between Canada, Idaho, and Montana. By protecting a critical linkage area, the HMKV project achieves a conservation goal of international significance.

Benefits of the HMKV project range from extended habitat protection for endangered species to support for the local timber economy and public access to recreation.

The project lands are located within a two-hour haul distance from five large timber mills that rely on private forest lands for 74% of their timber supplies.

Recreation is an important driver of the Idaho economy. More than 589 thousand hunting and fishing licenses are sold in the state with only 1.83 million people, and the outdoor industry is the second-largest industry in Boundary County. The project provides permanent, non-motorized public access to a majority of the project lands.

The project lands also protect the drinking water supply and are culturally significant to the Kootenai Tribe.

*“The Hall Mountain Project is a tremendous accomplishment and benefit for our Boundary County community. Protecting over 5,400 acres of working forestland and wildlife habitat, and some of the most critical undeveloped lands in this landscape, provides vital support for the county’s rural economies dependent on the timber industry.”*

— Kennon McClintock, North Idaho Field Representative

Thanks to the Forest Legacy Program, teamwork, and a shared vision for conservation, the HMKV is a significant achievement with positive impacts for northern Idaho’s wildlife and economy.



The working forestland of the HMKV will continue to contribute to the thriving timber industry, provide critical habitat to resident populations of threatened and endangered species, and provide thousands of acres for public recreation opportunities.

Habitat protected for seven federally-listed species including the grizzly bear, woodland caribou, Canada lynx, bull trout, sturgeon, burbot, and wolverine.



### AT-A-GLANCE



The HMKV project protects 5,439 acres.



Productive forests contribute \$9.5 million every ten years to the economy.



Forests contain 19.5 million board feet (MMBF) of standing timber and produce 2.1 MMBF per year.



Forests support 75 full-time jobs in timber and other sectors.



Project provides public access to 3,528 acres.



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**Top L:** A view of the Kootenai River Valley and the snow-capped Selkirk Mountains from Hall Mountain. (Photo: Robyn Miller, The Nature Conservancy); **Middle L:** Forested tract under the conservation easement. (Photo: Karen Noerr); **Bottom L:** One of the project tracts overlooking the Kootenai Valley. (Photo: Janet Valle, USFS); **Top R:** A unique 100-acre hardwood wetland protected on a Hall Mountain tract is home to several wildlife species, including grizzly bear. (Photo: Kennon McClintock, The Nature Conservancy); **Middle R:** Canada lynx captured on remote camera in the Purcell Mountain range close to the HMKV project area. (Photo: Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game)

For more information, visit  
<https://www.idl.idaho.gov/forestry/forest-legacy-program/>.