Camas Conservation District

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Five-Year
Resource Conservation Business Plan

July 1, 2025-June 30, 2030

Fiscal Year July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026

THE MISSION OF THE CAMAS CONSERVATION DISTRICT (CCD) IS TO SET HIGH STANDARDS FOR CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE DISTRICT; TO ENCOURAGE COOPERATION AMONG LANDOWNERS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS; AND TO ENSURE AN ADEQUATE NATURAL RESOURCE BASE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Camas Conservation District is one of 50 Conservation Districts in Idaho. Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of state government but are not state agencies. Conservation Districts are charged with carrying out a program for the conservation, use and development of soil, water, and other natural resources. Conservation Districts are the primary entities to provide assistance to private landowners and land users in the conservation, sustainment, improvement and enhancement of Idaho's natural resources. They are catalysts for coordinating and implementing Conservation programs, channeling expertise from all levels of government into action at the local level. Programs are non-regulatory but science-based technical assistance, incentive–based financial programs and informational and educational programs at the local level.

Both by legislation and by agreement the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical assistance to landowners and land users through Conservation Districts. Each Conservation District in Idaho has a signed Mutual Agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Governor of Idaho, that establishes a framework for cooperation.

This annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan was developed not only to guide the Conservation District, but also to encourage cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations, and elected officials. Through knowledge and cooperation, all concerned can ensure a sustainable natural resource base for present and future generations in the Conservation District.

This document identifies the resource needs in the Conservation District and presents a resource conservation action plan for meeting those needs.

Conserving natural resources

for our future

Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan

Business Plan (2025 to 2030)

Camas Conservation District

For More Information Contact: Meg Kevan, 208-582-9444
camasscdaa@gmail.com

Organization for the Camas Conservation District

- A political subdivision of the State of Idaho – authorities, power and structure contained in Soil Conservation District Law, Title 22, Chapter 27, Idaho Code
- Organized in 1957 to provide voluntary land and water conservation technical and financial assistance to landowners and uses within the Camas CD boundary.

Function of the Camas Conservation District

To make available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

Who We Serve & Why

The people and natural resources in the Camas CD, to conserve the natural resources for the beneficial and sustainable use by all.

Mission of the Camas Conservation District

- To set high standards for conservation of the natural resources in the District.
- To encourage cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations, and selected officials. Through knowledge and cooperation, all concerned can ensure an adequate natural resource base for present and future generations in the Camas CD. Camas CD is dedicated to multiple land use and promotion of human and species preservation for sustainable populations for present and future generations.

Vision of the Camas Conservation District

The vision of the Camas CD includes implementing our standards and goals with a progressive outlook on our ever-changing community. We hope to continually educate our peers and children

about conservation practices and provide the means for public incitement in all aspects of conservation practices. We strive to establish a strong, proactive Conservation District, providing resource leadership and assistance to land-owners/users within the District with independent fund sources capable of sustaining staff and programs on a continual basis.

Values of the Camas Conservation District

- Sustainable use of natural resources
- Support for agriculture activity that uses sustainable and feasible practices
- Value and request for the Idaho Conservation Partnership
- Support and implement educational programs for adults and youth

Natural Resource Priorities and Goals

1. Water Quality and Quantity

- To improve ground and surface water quality and quantity in Camas County by conservation planning, funding, and promote implementation of Best Management Practices to control erosion and improve nutrient management.

2. Information and Education

- Conservation District cooperator addresses and files will be updated.
- Annually conduct youth environmental education programs and increase participation in, (including but not limited to) Little City of Rocks 5th grade outdoor workshop, "Bug Crew", sponsor a local high school Envirothon team, Ag in the Classroom, Land and Soil Evaluation Event, Fifth grade poster contest, Idaho State Forestry Contest.
- Annually provide an information booth at the State legislature and county fair and conduct an Arbor Day Open House.
- Target landowner and operators in priority conservation areas and encourage participation in EQIP and other Farm Bill programs to use conservation measures to solve resource issues.
- Continue to support SCIPE (South Central Idaho's Precipitation Enhancement Program)

3. Soil Erosion

- Conservation Partners provide and/or determine need for windbreak projects and continue to assist with District priorities.
- Provide assistance to landowners and land users to plan, develop, and implement soil conservation plans.
- Target landowners and operators in priority sheet and rill or wind erosion areas and encourage participation in EQIP and other Farm Bill programs to use conservation measures to reduce sheet and rill of wind erosion.

4. Rangeland

- To improve range land trends and condition within the District.
- Promote biological noxious weed control utilizing the Southern Idaho Biological Control

(SIBC) program and work with the Camas Weed Superintendent.
- Seek NRCS technical assistance for private landowners in order to develop grazing plans.
- Promote rangeland health and condition to provide essential habitat for wildlife and ESA candidate species where applicable.
- Continue development of rangeland health and specifically address the Greater Sage Grouse habitat and provide a base for coordination with federal agencies on land management plans.
- Promote development of Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA)

5. District Operations

- Make available 5 Year Plans, Annual Reports and budget as needed for federal and state agency assistance.
- Provide information to landowners on current environmental issues.
- Provide the opportunity for supervisors to complete supervisor training.
- Complete effective and efficient operations including accounting, personnel management, training and development, annual planning and reporting.
- Be in cooperation with Conservation Districts to develop and carry out an effective legislative outreach program to ensure 100% State matching funds for all Districts with economic increase in base funding.
- Conduct Conservation District elections 2nd Tuesday in November (even years).
- Submit yearly Local Governing Entity Registry

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Camas Conservation District

- Urban impact on agriculture production
- Growth in agricultural areas
- Increasing small acreage farms, five acres or less
- Limited availability of funds for conservation
- Focus on water quality compared to other conservation and environmental issues
- Trend to regulate agriculture and ranching
- Lowering of ground water table

Strategies to Address Trends

- Increase educational efforts targeted to outreach
- Identify opportunities to coordinate outreach activities with traditional and non-traditional partners
- Raising awareness of conservation values with state legislature and elected officials – help decision makers be better informed
- Strengthen locally led efforts
- Supervisors to become more informed on current issues impacting working lands, Farm Bill programs, information from agencies instead of Partnership for leadership
- Expand assistance to County Planning and Zoning issues impacting natural resources.
- Encourage CCWMA, map noxious and invasive weeds to more effectively target weed control efforts
- Establish a database to track resource conditions
- Publish articles in the local newspaper to make the public aware of goals
- Solicit input to improve Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan
- Take a provocative approach to funding water delivery systems on irrigated cropland
- Identify information methods to communicate with small landowners
- Sponsor project proposals with other districts
- Conservation training for District Supervisors and staff

STAFFING NEEDS

- Conservation District Administrative Assistant

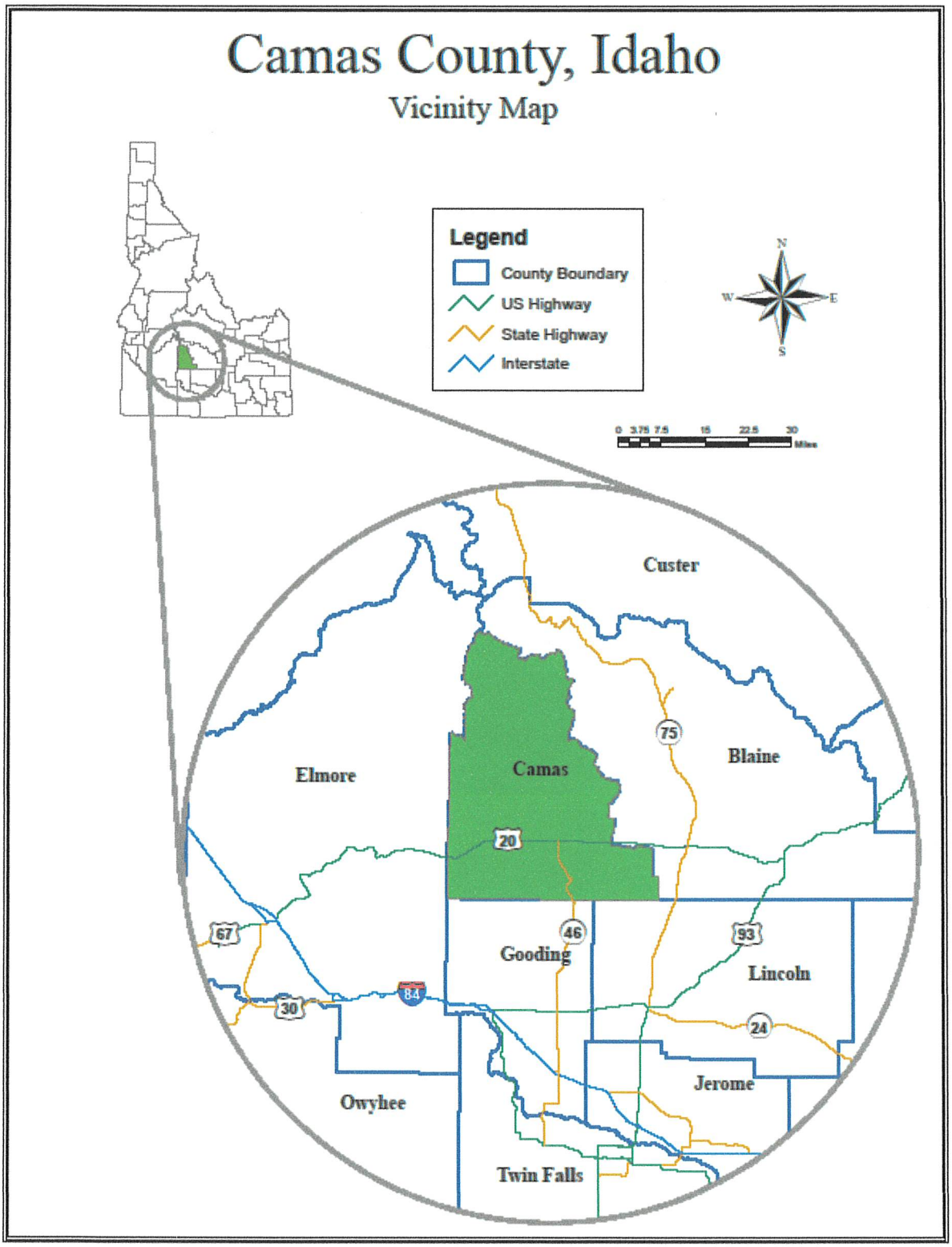
KEY DECISION MAKERS

- Citizens in Conservation District

- Conservation District Supervisors: Forrest Ballard- Chairman, Bonnie McGough- Vice Chair, Sarah Sherrill-
- Treasurer, Supervisor-Robin Harrison, Administrative Assistant- Meg Kevan
- *County Planning and Zoning: Ed Reagan,* Jasmine Torwan, Joe Mabbut, Jay Christiansen, Aaron Fox, Ami Robles
- County Commissioners: Marshall Ralph, Travis Kramer, Galen Colter, Brianna Walter, Clerk
- City of Fairfield Elected Officials: Terry Lee- Mayor, Tyler Ballard- Council President, John Pine, Josh Bovey, Ted
- Miller, Tyler Ballard, Sonja Chysler, City Clerk/Treasurer
- State Legislators Representing Conservation District: Representative Steve Miller, Representative Clint Hostetler,
- Senator, Glenneda Zuiderveld
- Chamber of Commerce

TECHINICAL EXPERTISE

NRCS Field and Soil Office, County Weed Management- Terry Lee, County Extension Office- Extension Educator- Cindy Kinder, Secretary/4-H Program manager- Carol Regan, Southern Idaho Biological Control, Disaster Service Coordinator- Travis Martin.


Camas County, Idaho
Vicinity Map
Legend
County Boundary
US Highway
State Highway
Interstate
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Miles
Custer
Elmore
Camas
Blaine
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Gooding
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Lincoln
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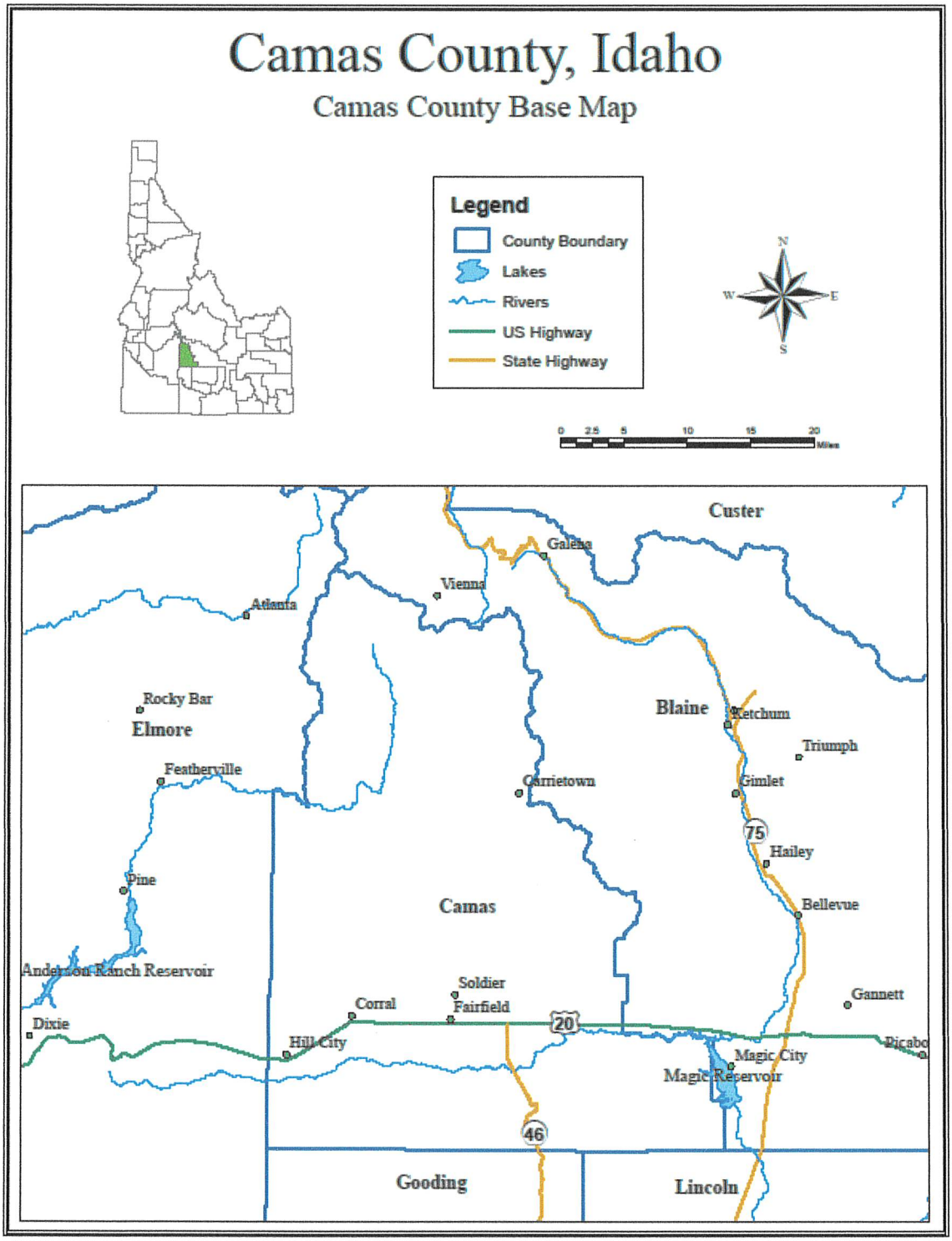
Jerome
Owyhee
Twin Falls

Map 1


Camas County, Idaho
Camas County Base Map
Legend
County Boundary
Lakes
Rivers
US Highway
State Highway
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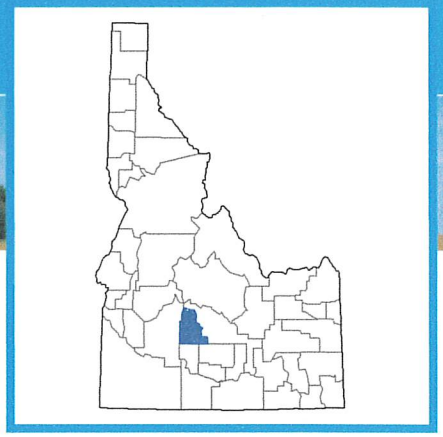
Miles
Custer
Galena
Vienna
Atlanta
Rocky Bar
Elmore
Featherville
Pine
Anderson Ranch Reservoir
Dixie
Corral
Soldier
Fairfield
Hill City
Carrietown
Blaine
Ketchum
Triumph
Gimlet
75
Hailey
Bellevue
Camas
20
Gannett
Picabo
Magic City
Magic Reservoir
46
Gooding
Lincoln

Map 3

2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE *County Profile*



Camas County
Idaho

Total and Per Farm Overview, 2022 and change since 2017

	2022	% change since 2017
Number of farms	111	-26
Land in farms (acres)	186,429	-3
Average size of farm (acres)	1,680	+32
Total	($)	
Market value of products sold	32,695,000	+32
Government payments	1,073,000	+30
Farm-related income	3,341,000	+125
Total farm production expenses	20,620,000	+6
Net cash farm income	16,489,000	+118
Per farm average	($)	
Market value of products sold	294,548	+80
Government payments [a]	26,822	+108
Farm-related income [a]	68,177	+184
Total farm production expenses	185,763	+44
Net cash farm income	148,548	+196

(Z) Percent of state agriculture sales

Share of Sales by Type (%)

Crops	84
Livestock, poultry, and products	16

Land in Farms by Use (acres)

Cropland	91,268
Pastureland	83,286
Woodland	3,159
Other	8,716

Acres irrigated: 32,523
17% of land in farms

Land Use Practices (% of farms)

No till	14
Reduced till	17
Intensive till	33
Cover crop	6

Farms by Value of Sales

	Number	Percent of Total [b]
Less than $2,500	27	24
$2,500 to $4,999	6	5
$5,000 to $9,999	10	9
$10,000 to $24,999	10	9
$25,000 to $49,999	6	5
$50,000 to $99,999	7	6
$100,000 or more	45	41

Farms by Size

	Number	Percent of Total [b]
1 to 9 acres	3	3
10 to 49 acres	27	24
50 to 179 acres	21	19
180 to 499 acres	10	9
500 to 999 acres	18	16
1,000+ acres	32	29

2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE *County Profile*

Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold

	Sales ($1,000)	Rank in State [c]	Counties Producing Item	Rank in U.S. [c]	Counties Producing Item
Total	**32,695**	**33**	**44**	**2,215**	**3,078**
Crops	**27,581**	**32**	**44**	**1,641**	**3,074**
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, dry peas	(D)	31	42	1,517	2,917
Tobacco	-	-	-	-	267
Cotton and cottonseed	-	-	-	-	647
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes	4	40	41	2,046	2,831
Fruits, tree nuts, berries	-	-	36	-	2,711
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, sod	(D)	30	42	(D)	2,660
Cultivated Christmas trees, short rotation woody crops	-	-	8	-	1,274
Other crops and hay	16,772	22	44	208	3,035
Livestock, poultry, and products	**5,114**	**35**	**44**	**2,427**	**3,076**
Poultry and eggs	11	29	44	2,079	3,027
Cattle and calves	(D)	33	44	(D)	3,047
Milk from cows	-	-	30	-	1,770
Hogs and pigs	5	24	40	1,660	2,814
Sheep, goats, wool, mohair, milk	(D)	(D)	44	(D)	2,967
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, donkeys	5	38	44	2,234	2,907
Aquaculture	-	-	21	-	1,190
Other animals and animal products	-	-	43	-	2,909

Producers [d]	**208**
Sex	
Male	125
Female	83
Age	
<35	28
35 – 64	101
65 and older	79
Race	
American Indian/Alaska Native	1
Asian	-
Black or African American	-
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	-
White	206
More than one race	1
Other characteristics	
Hispanic, Latino, Spanish origin	2
With military service	13
New and beginning farmers	73

Percent of farms that:

Have internet access	**87**
Farm organically	**32**
Sell directly to consumers	**8**
Hire farm labor	**26**
Are family farms	**95**

Top Crops in Acres [e]

Forage (hay/haylage), all	57,723
Barley for grain	9,389
Wheat for grain, all	7,314
Corn for grain	(D)
Corn for silage/greenchop	940

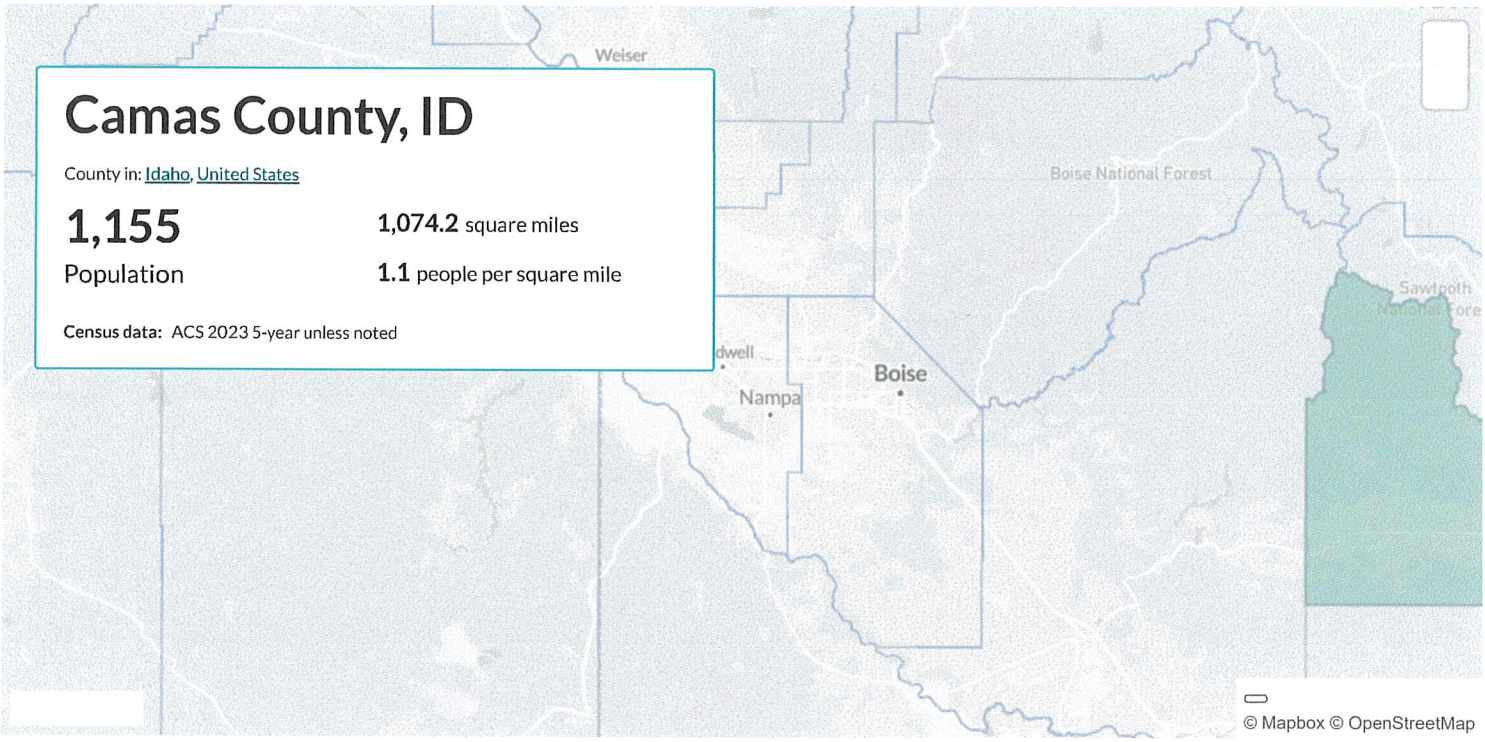
Livestock Inventory (Dec 31, 2022)

Broilers and other meat-type chickens	160
Cattle and calves	5,333
Goats	24
Hogs and pigs	32
Horses and ponies	81
Layers	227
Pullets	-
Sheep and lambs	(D)
Turkeys	-

[a] Average per farm receiving. [b] May not add to 100% due to rounding. [c] Among counties whose rank can be displayed. [d] Data collected for a maximum of four producers per farm. [e] Crop commodity names may be shortened; see full names at www.nass.usda.gov/go/cropnames.pdf. [f] Position below the line does not indicate rank. (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. (NA) Not available. (Z) Less than half of the unit shown. (-) Represents zero.

Census Reporter

Search for places, tables, topics, or glossaries Search



Camas County, ID

County in: Idaho, United States

1,155 Population

1,074.2 square miles

1.1 people per square mile

Census data: ACS 2023 5-year unless noted

Find data for this place Search by table or column name...

Hover for margins of error and contextual data.

Demographics

† Margin of error is at least 10 percent of the total value. Take care with this statistic.

Age

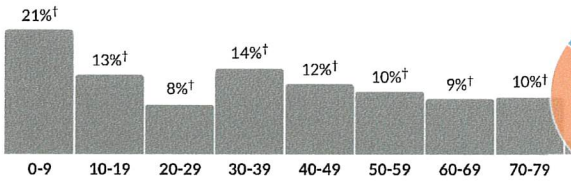
34.9

Median age

a little less than the figure in Idaho: 37.1

about 90 percent of the figure in United States: 38.7

Population by age range



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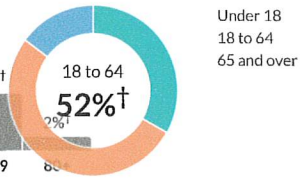
Population by age category



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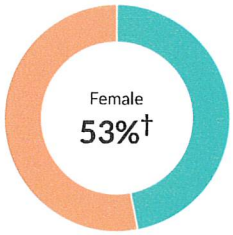
Sex



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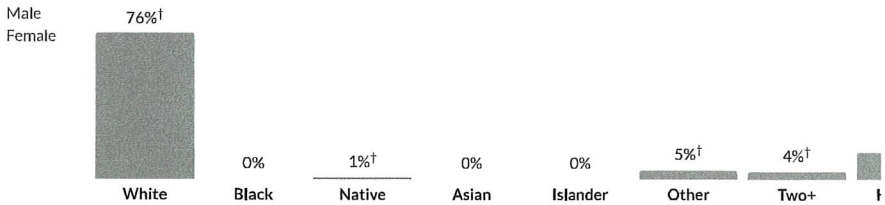
Race & Ethnicity



* Hispanic includes respondents of any race. Other categories are non-Hispanic.

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Economics

† Margin of error is at least 10 percent of the total

Income

$29,735

$55,536

Household income

value. Take care with this statistic.

Per capita income

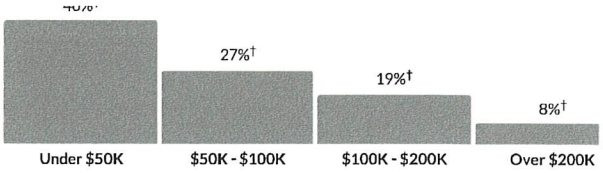
about 80 percent of the amount in Idaho: $37,169

about two-thirds of the amount in United States: $43,289

Median household income

about three-quarters of the amount in Idaho: $74,636

about two-thirds of the amount in United States: $78,538



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Poverty

† Margin of error is at least 10 percent of the total value. Take care with this statistic.

6.7%

Persons below poverty line

about three-fifths of the rate in Idaho: 10.6%

about half the rate in United States: 12.4%

Children (Under 18)

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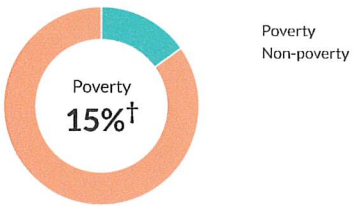
Seniors (65 and over)



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Transportation to work

† Margin of error is at least 10 percent of the total value. Take care with this statistic.

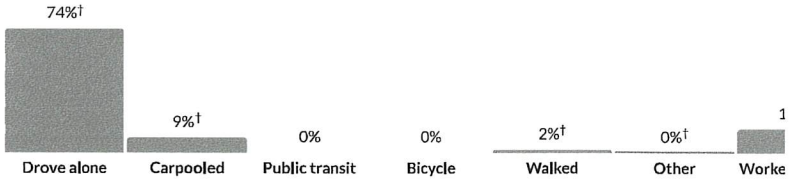
39.8 minutes

Mean travel time to work

nearly double the figure in Idaho: 21.6

about 1.5 times the figure in United States: 26.6

Means of transportation to work



* Universe: Workers 16 years and over

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Families

† Margin of error is at least 10 percent of the total value. Take care with this statistic.

Households

339

Number of households

Idaho: 693,821

United States: 127,482,864

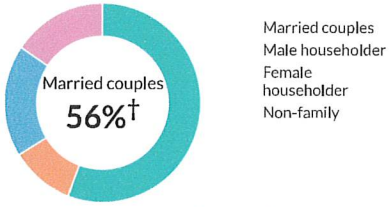
3.4

Persons per household

about 1.3 times the figure in Idaho: 2.7

about 1.3 times the figure in United States: 2.5

Population by household type



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Marital status

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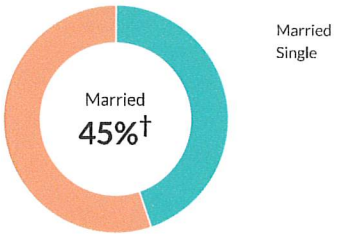

* Universe: Population 15 years and over

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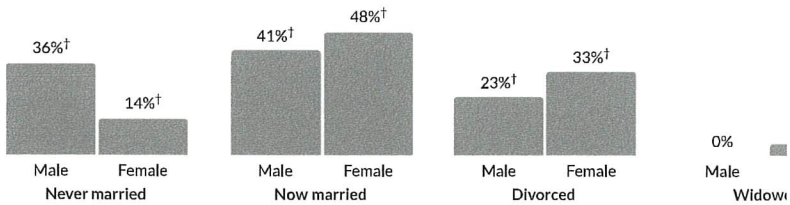
Marital status, by sex



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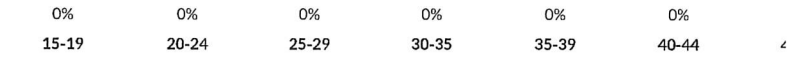
Fertility

N/A

Women 15-50 who gave birth during past year

Women who gave birth during past year, by age group



* Universe: Women 15 to 50 years

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Housing

† Margin of error is at least 10 percent of the total value. Take care with this statistic.

Units & Occupancy

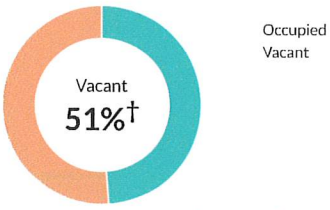
694

Number of housing units

Idaho: 776,683

United States: 142,332,880

Occupied vs. Vacant



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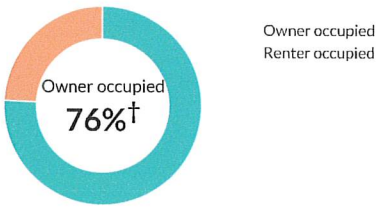
Ownership of occupied units



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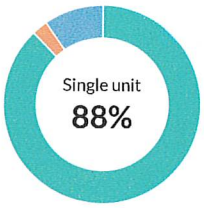
Types of structure



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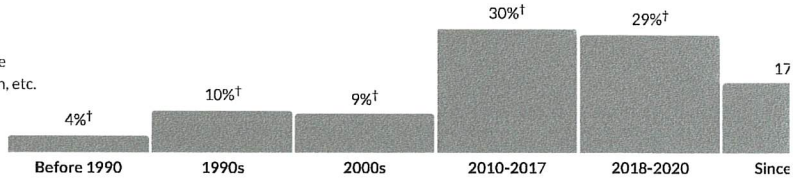
Year moved in, by percentage of population



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Value

† Margin of error is at least 10 percent of the total value. Take care with this statistic.

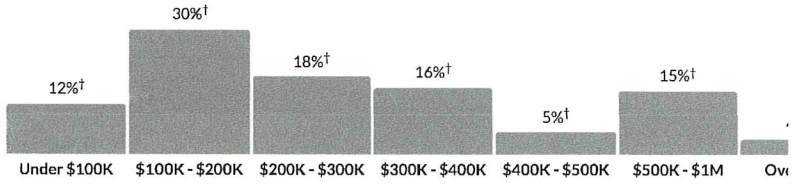
$248,900

Median value of owner-occupied housing units

about two-thirds of the amount in Idaho: $376,000

about 80 percent of the amount in United States: $303,400

Value of owner-occupied housing units



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Geographical mobility

† Margin of error is at least 10 percent of the total value. Take care with this statistic.

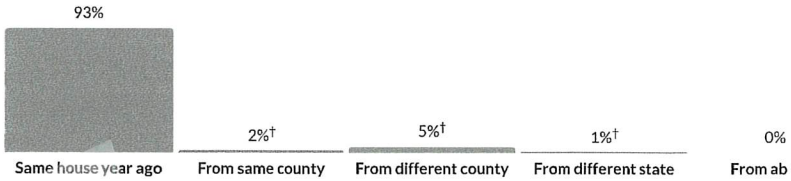
6.9%

Moved since previous year

about two-fifths of the rate in Idaho: 15.6%

about half the rate in United States: 12.7%

Population migration since previous year



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Social

† Margin of error is at least 10 percent of the total value. Take care with this statistic.

Educational attainment

86%
High school grad or higher

a little less than the rate in Idaho: 91.7%

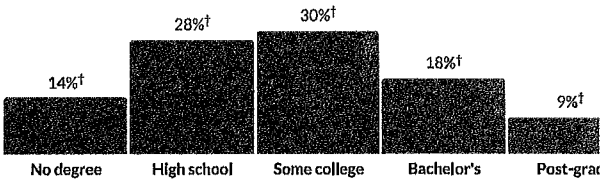
a little less than the rate in United States: 89.4%

27.4%
Bachelor's degree or higher

about 90 percent of the rate in Idaho: 31.2%

about 80 percent of the rate in United States: 35%

Population by highest level of education



* Universe: Population 25 years and over Show data / Embed

Language

N/A
Persons with language other than English spoken at home

Language at home, children 5-17
No data available

Language at home, adults 18+
No data available

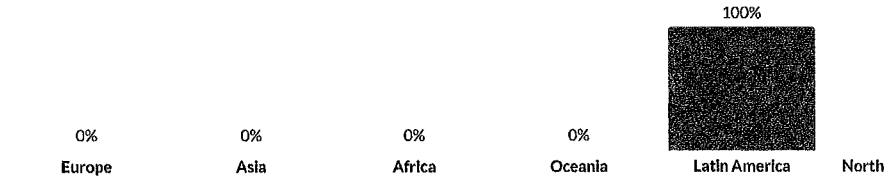
Place of birth

0.4%
Foreign-born population

less than 10 percent of the rate in Idaho: 5.7%

less than 10 percent of the rate in United States: 13.9%

Place of birth for foreign-born population



Show data / Embed

Veteran status

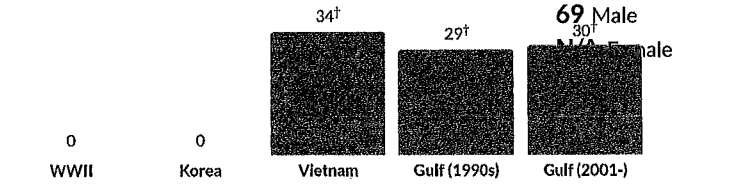
† Margin of error is at least 10 percent of the total value. Take care with this statistic.

8.9%
Population with veteran status

about 10 percent higher than the rate in Idaho: 8.3%

about 1.4 times the rate in United States: 6.4%

Veterans by wartime service

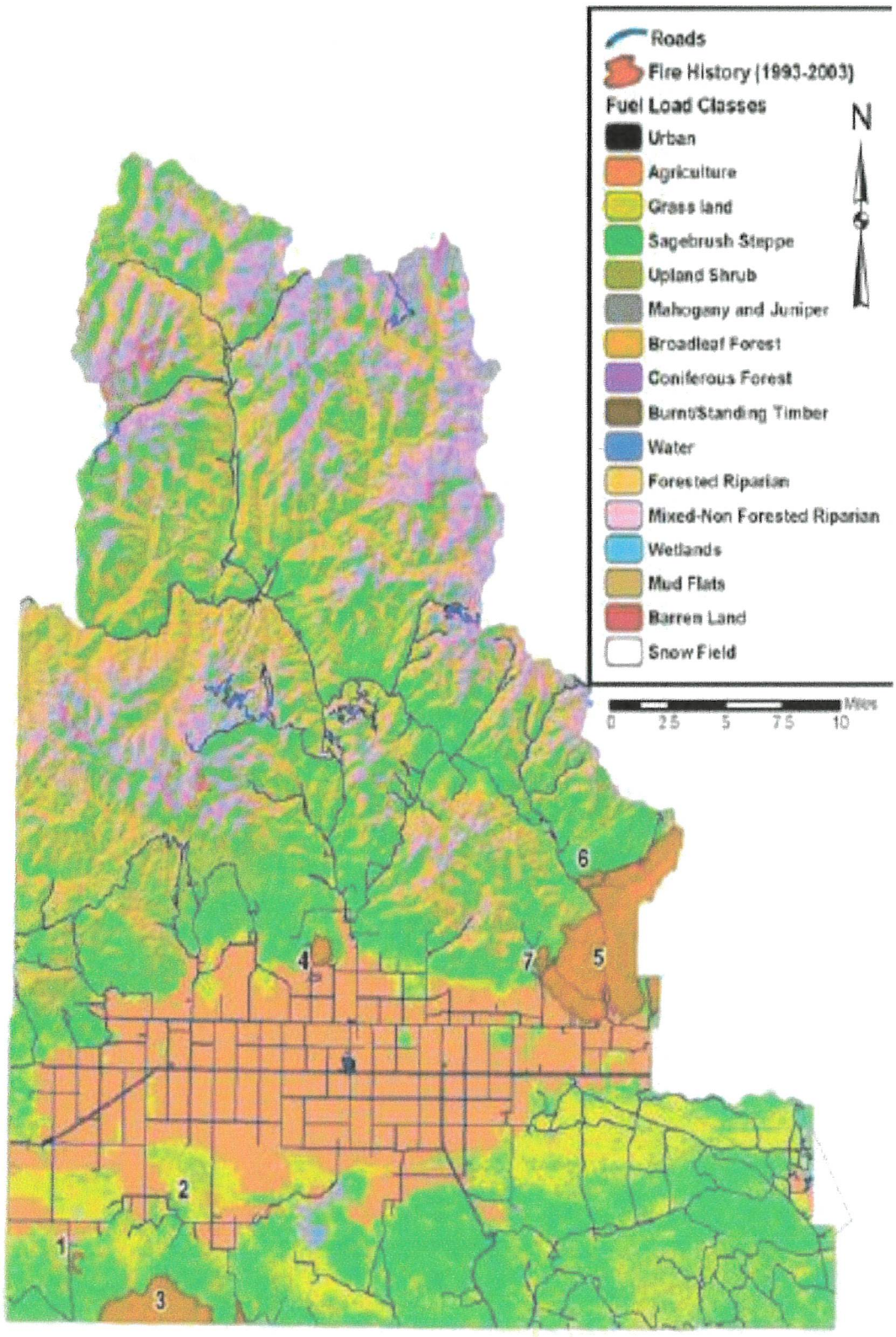


69 Total veterans
69 Male
[illegible] Female

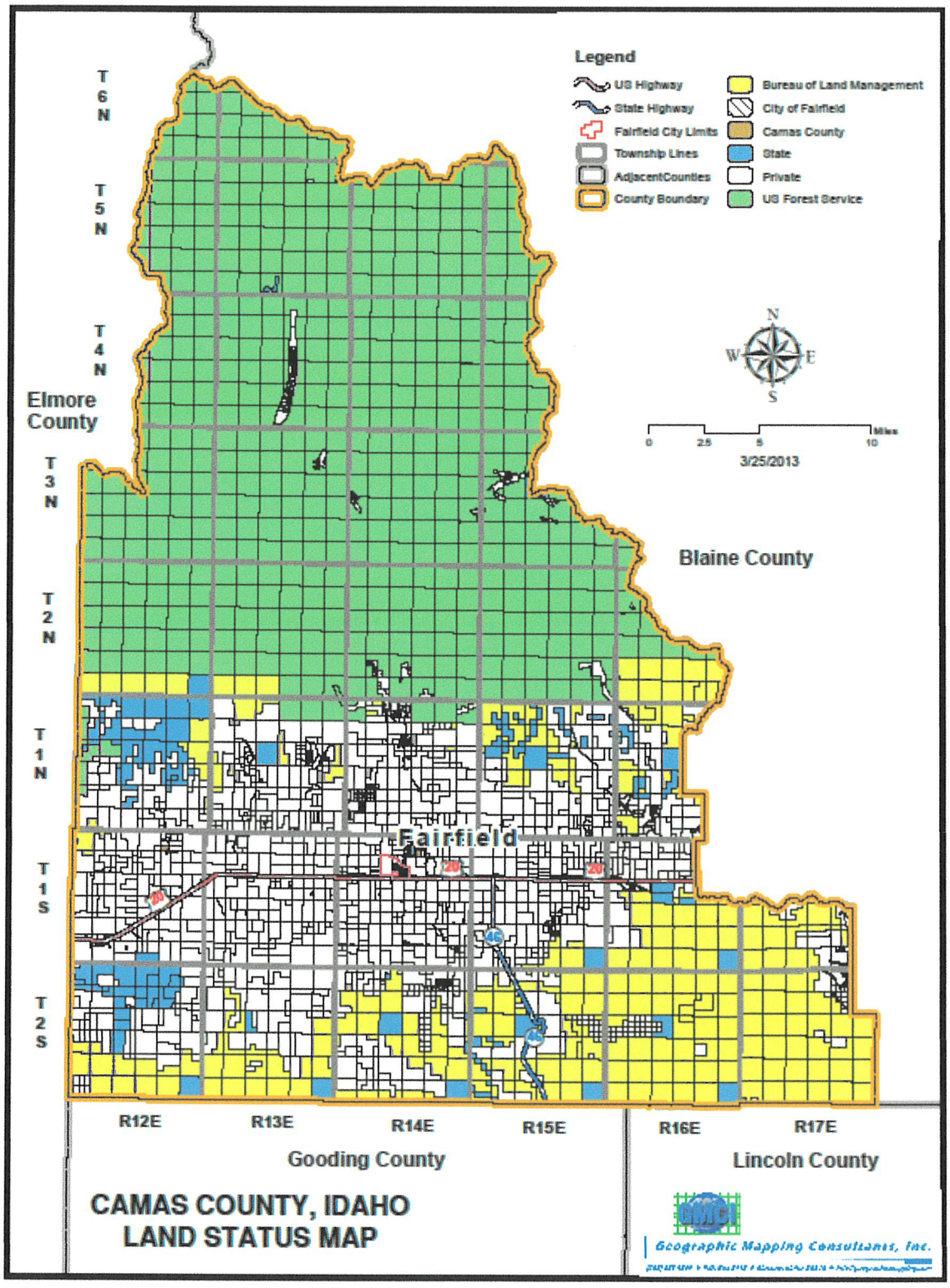
* Civilian veterans who served during wartime only Show data / Embed

Hover for margins of error and contextual data.

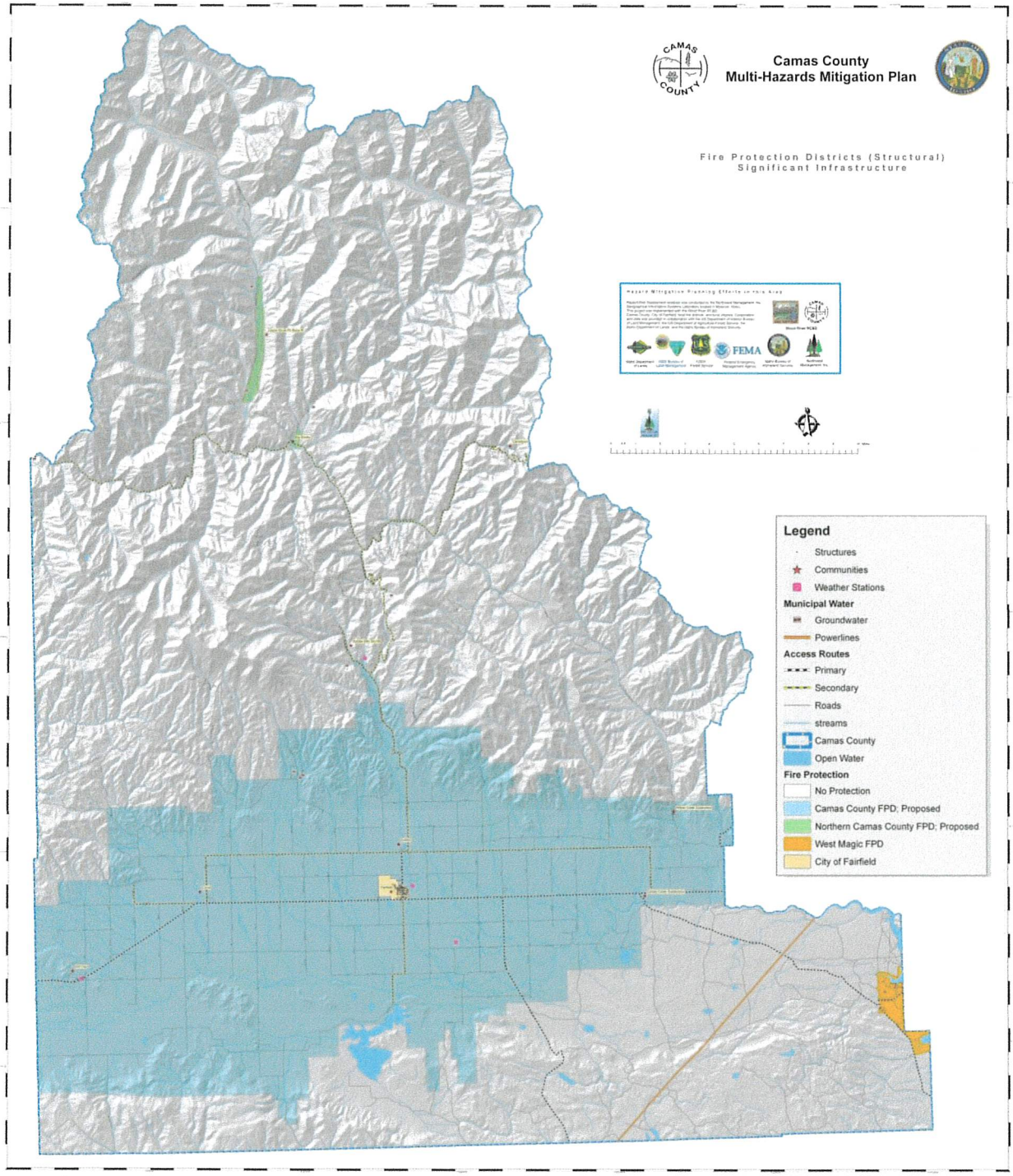
Citation: U.S. Census Bureau (2023). *American Community Survey 5-year estimates.* Retrieved from *Census Reporter Profile page for Camas County, ID* <http://censusreporter.org/profiles/05000US16025-camas-county-id/>


Roads
Fire History (1993-2003)
Fuel Load Classes
Urban
Agriculture
Grass land
Sagebrush Steppe
Upland Shrub
Mahogany and Juniper
Broadleaf Forest
Coniferous Forest
Burnt/Standing Timber
Water
Forested Riparian
Mixed-Non Forested Riparian
Wetlands
Mud Flats
Barren Land
Snow Field
N
Miles
0 2.5 5 7.5 10
1
2
3
4
5
6
7

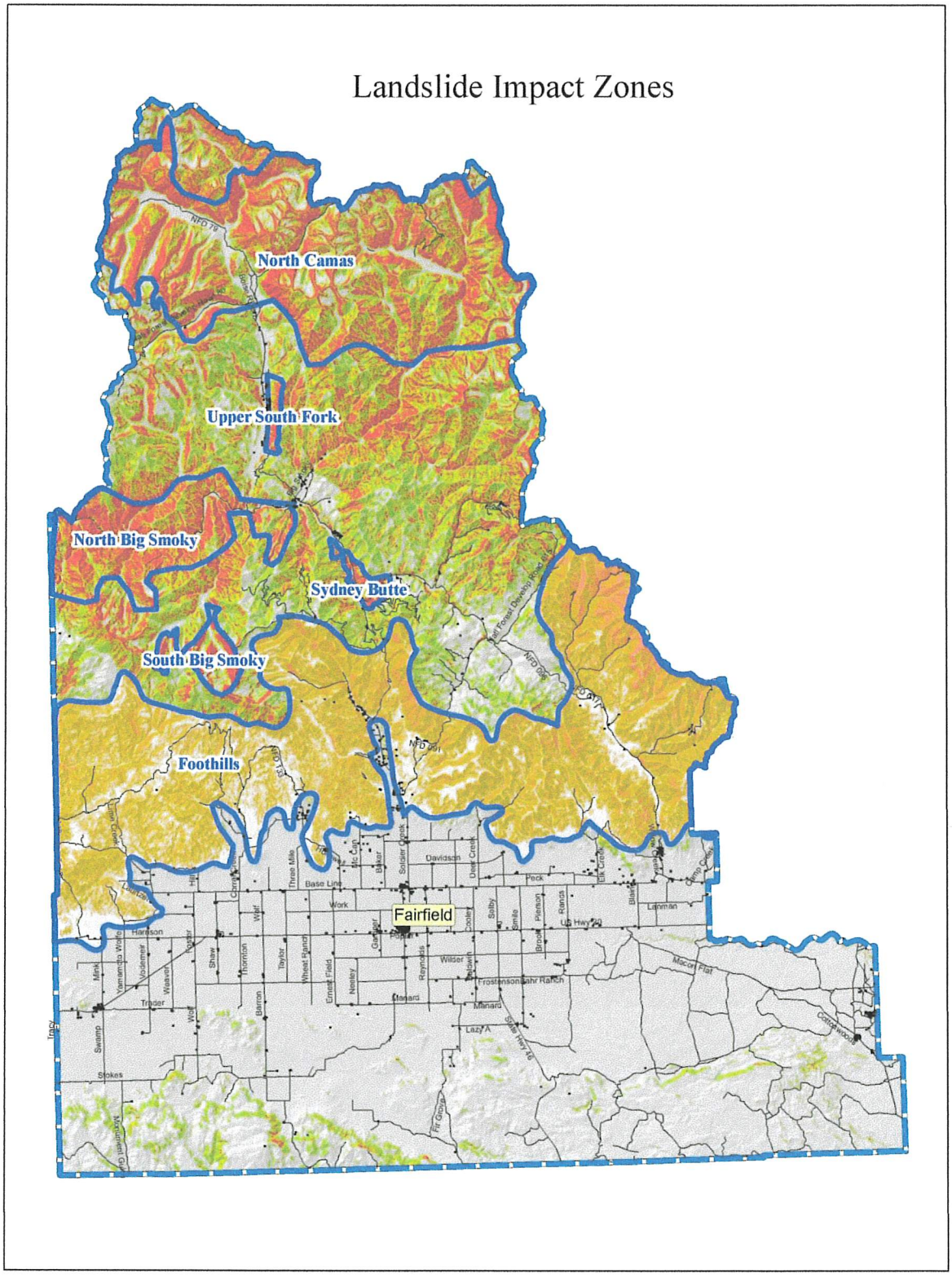
Map 11


Legend
US Highway
State Highway
Fairfield City Limits
Township Lines
AdjacentCounties
County Boundary
Bureau of Land Management
City of Fairfield
Camas County
State
Private
US Forest Service
N
W
E
S
0
2.5
5
10
Miles
3/25/2013
T 6 N
T 5 N
T 4 N
T 3 N
T 2 N
T 1 N
T 1 S
T 2 S
Elmore County
Blaine County
Fairfield
R12E
R13E
R14E
R15E
R16E
R17E
Gooding County
Lincoln County
CAMAS COUNTY, IDAHO
LAND STATUS MAP
Geographic Mapping Consultants, Inc.

Map 4


Camas County
Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan
Fire Protection Districts (Structural)
Significant Infrastructure
FEMA
Legend
Structures
Communities
Weather Stations
Municipal Water
Groundwater
Powerlines
Access Routes
Primary
Secondary
Roads
streams
Camas County
Open Water
Fire Protection
No Protection
Camas County FPD; Proposed
Northern Camas County FPD; Proposed
West Magic FPD
City of Fairfield

Map 6


Landslide Impact Zones
North Camas
Upper South Fork
North Big Smoky
Sydney Butte
South Big Smoky
Foothills
Fairfield

Map 8

Climate

The Camas Creek Subbasin can be divided into two elevation ranges. The low elevation range is equal to or less than 5,250 feet (this accounts for the valley floor and 48.1% of the subbasin area), while the high elevation range is greater than 5,250 feet (51.9% of the subbasin area) (ArcView Coverage 1992-1996). These elevation ranges are used in describing much of the climate of the subbasin. Air temperature, snowfall, and snow depth data have been collected from similar data sources and elevations. The low elevation data are an average of data from three sites within the subbasin at this elevation range. The low elevation sites include two Fairfield sites and Hill City. The high elevation data are collected from one site, Soldier Ranger Station. (IDEQ 2005).

Precipitation

The weighted mean precipitation for the Camas Creek Subbasin is 18.8 inches (WRCC 2001, NRCS 2001a). The majority of the precipitation occurs in the winter and spring months. Table 5 describes seasonal precipitation data for the two elevation ranges and Figure 7 shows the annual precipitation distribution across the subbasin.

Table 5. Average Precipitation (inches) in the Camas Creek Subbasin

Elevation	Winter Average	Spring Average	Summer Average	Fall Average	Total Annual
Upper	3.5	2.1	0.6	1.5	23.1
Lower	1.9	1.2	0.6	1.1	14.2

Data collected from Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web sites.

Snow Depth and Snowfall

The lower elevations of the Camas Creek Subbasin receive an average total snowfall of 66 inches. The majority of this snowfall occurs from December to February, when the average snow depth for the low elevations is 13.5 inches. The majority of the snowfall in the upper elevation range occurs from January to April, when the average snow depth for the high elevations is 29.5 inches (WRCC 2001).

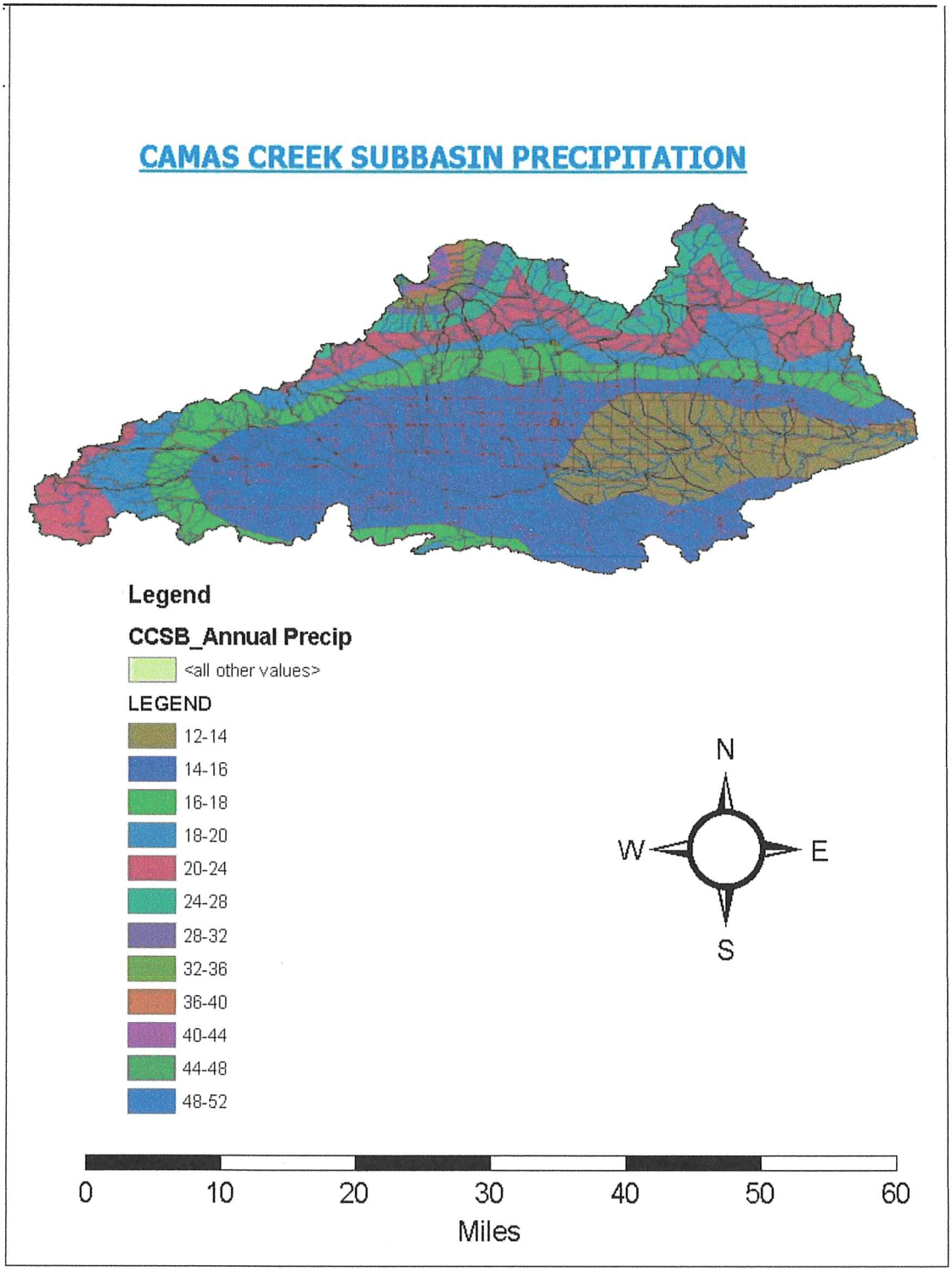


Figure 7. Camas Creek Subbasin Precipitation

Air Temperature and Available Sunlight

The highest monthly average maximums and minimums for temperature occur in the summer months, especially July. The lowest monthly average maximums and minimums for temperature occur in the winter months, most notably in January (WRCC 2001, NRCS (2001a). Table 6 describes the estimated midrange temperatures for the low and high elevations of the subbasin.

Table 6. Air Temperature and Available Sunlight

Elevation Range	Midrange Temperature (° C)	Midrange Temperature (° F)
Upper	-4.96 to 17.65	23.07 to 63.77
Lower	-8.19 to 17.78	17.25 to 64.00

Selected from Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web sites

The estimated average annual available sunlight for this region is 12.9 hours. The greatest amount of average available light occurs in the summer months with 14.0 hours and the least amount occurs in the winter months with 10.2 hours (USNO 2001).

Evaporation and Wind Erosion

The annual evaporation for the Camas Creek Subbasin is 6 millimeters per month (mm/month), with the majority of evaporation occurring from May through September (CPC 2001). The largest amount of evaporation occurs in June and July with 20 mm/month. Wind erosion in the Camas Creek Subbasin is insignificant in its effect on water quality. Only 3.35% of the subbasin area exceeds the threshold for wind erosion (NRCS 2001b).

Subbasin Characteristics

Camas Creek, the main waterbody in the subbasin, flows through the lower elevations of the Camas Prairie. Many of the Camas Creek tributaries originate in the higher mountainous and foothill elevations; they then flow down through the flat prairie region of the subbasin before emptying into Camas Creek. The subbasin characteristics outlined below influence water resources and water quality in the subbasin.

Hydrograph

A number of natural and anthropogenic activities or conditions occur in the Camas Creek Subbasin that impact the hydrology of the subbasin such as irrigation withdrawals or seasonal dewatering of streams during the summer and fall month. Figure 8 depicts the average annual hydrograph for several of the water bodies in the subbasin (Flow data collected from 1970 to 2003). Spring runoff in the subbasin is early and rapid. The majority of the flow occurs in March and April. Less than 1 cubic foot per second (cfs) of flow occurred in July, August, September and November. (IDEQ 2006).

GOV. BRAD LITTLE LEADING IDAHO

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Working toward a Sustainable Water Supply

An ongoing series on IDWR water resource investigations working toward a Sustainable Water Supply SEPTEMBER 2023

Camas Prairie water resource study

The Camas Prairie in Southern Idaho is a mountain valley nearly a mile-high, cradled by the Bennett Hills to the south and the Soldier Mountains to the north. Historically, the prairie was a popular place for Native Americans to gather food from the prolific Camas Lily blooms in the late spring.

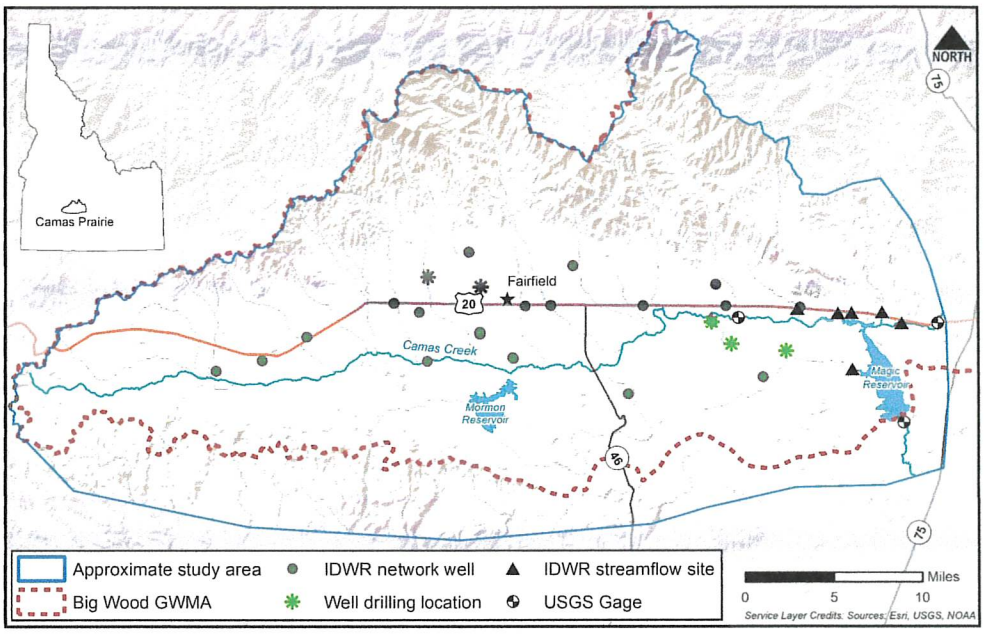
Since the late 1800s and early 1900s, the Camas Prairie has been farmed to raise agricultural crops. The main crops grown in the valley are alfalfa hay and small grains. Groundwater development for irrigating crops began in the 1920s.

Camas Creek is the primary surface water stream in the Camas Prairie, draining a geographic area of approximately 730 square miles before pouring into Magic Reservoir along with the Big Wood River. The hydrogeology of the Camas Prairie valley-fill aquifer system is complex, consisting of a shallow, unconfined aquifer and confined alluvium and basalt aquifers.

Both Camas Creek and the Big Wood River contribute water flows to Magic Reservoir, an important water supply for surface water right holders downstream of the reservoir.

The Problem: Diminishing water supplies

Surface water irrigation supplies reached a point where they were fully appropriated in 1980, according to the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR). By 1991, IDWR designated the Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area (GWMA), which encompasses the Big Wood River drainage upstream from Magic Dam and the Camas Creek drainage in the Camas Prairie.



Map indicates the boundary of the Camas Prairie water resource study area.

- ***Project:*** Four-year hydrologic investigation by IDWR and USGS to learn more about Camas Creek surface water resources and the ground water resources underlying the Camas Prairie.
- ***Location:*** Fairfield, Camas Prairie and Camas County
- ***Total project cost:*** $1.01 million
- ***Funders:*** Idaho Water Resource Board ($900,000) and USGS ($113,000)
- ***Projected completion date:*** Spring/Summer 2027

The groundwater management area was designated in response to the potential depletion of groundwater resources underlying the Camas Prairie. Depletion of ground water resources may result in decreased basin underflow and reduced groundwater contributions to surface water flows. Any further ground water diversions could also directly impact the quantity of water flowing into Magic Reservoir. In 2022, IDWR implemented a moratorium on the approval of most new groundwater rights in the groundwater management area, including in the Camas Prairie area.

Camas Prairie water resource study (cont.)

Camas Creek flows nearly bank-full in the springtime as it flows across the Camas Prairie to Magic Reservoir (IDWR).

Solution: A new hydrologic investigation in the Camas Prairie

IDWR is partnering with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to complete a four-year water resources investigation of the Camas Prairie. The study began in March 2023 and will end in 2027.

The objective of this project is to provide an updated characterization of groundwater and surface water resources in the Camas Prairie and Magic Reservoir. Data and analysis obtained from the research activities will provide IDWR with information to help address current water resource challenges, including assessing whether groundwater pumping in the Camas Prairie affects the surface water availability in Magic Reservoir. The study also will provide baseline information for a potential future groundwater flow model.

The Camas Prairie study is supported by the Big Wood GWMA Advisory Committee, the Big Wood Technical Working Group, local water users and the Idaho Water Resource Board.

A key question to answer is whether groundwater pumping in the Camas Prairie affects the quantity of water flowing into Magic Reservoir.

As part of the four-year study, the following action items are planned:

1. IDWR will measure streamflow on Camas Creek, Big Wood River, and tributaries. These measurements will be used to develop hydrographs to help estimate surface water inflows to Magic Reservoir.

2. The USGS and IDWR will conduct groundwater level mass measurement events in which about 200 wells will be measured during pre- and post-irrigation season conditions. The resulting data will be used to develop high-resolution water-level contour maps for the shallow and deep aquifers.

3. The USGS will develop a hydrogeologic framework, which is a conceptual model of groundwater occurrence and flow and will also describe aquifer recharge and discharge of the basin.

4. The USGS will develop two separate water budgets for the study area – a groundwater budget for the Camas Prairie and one for Magic Reservoir. The water budgets will represent wet, dry and average water year scenarios.

5. IDWR will install five new monitoring wells to better define groundwater levels and hydrogeologic conditions in the Camas Prairie.

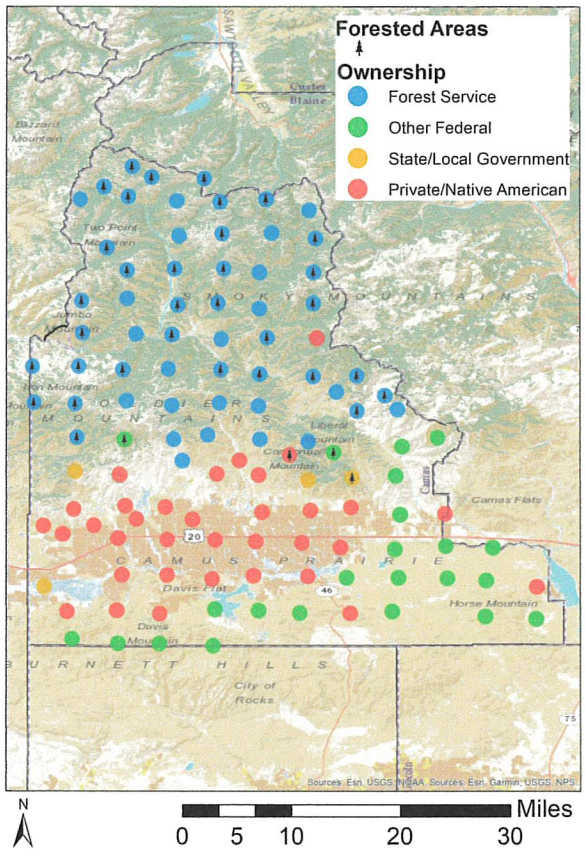
For more information, scan the QR code below or go to the web site listed at the bottom of this page.

Table 14. Impaired Waters of the Camas Creek Subbasin

Water body Name	Assessment Unit	1998 §303(d) Boundaries	Pollutants
Camas Creek	ID17040220SK013_05 ID17040220SK001_05 ID17040220SK007_05 ID17040220SK018_04 ID17040220SK018_03 ID17040220SK018_02	Headwaters to Macon Flat Bridge	SEDIMENT TEMPERATURE NUTRIMENT
Soldier Creek	ID17040220SK011_02	Baseline to Camas Creek	SEDIMENT TEMPERATURE
Mormon Reservoir	ID17040220SK023L_0L	Reservoir	SEDIMENT NUTRIENTS
Little Beaver Creek	ID17040220SK004_02	Headwaters to Beaver Creek	TEMPERATURE
Camp Creek	ID17040220SK002_02 ID17040220SK002_03	Headwater to Camas Creek	SEDIMENT TEMPERATURE
Willow Creek	ID17040220SK003_04	Beaver Creek to Camas Creek	TEMPERATURE
Elk Creek	ID17040220SK006_02	Baseline Road to Camas Creek	SEDIMENT
McKinney Creek	ID17040220SK025_02	Headwaters to Mormon Reservoir	SEDIMENT
Corral Creek	ID17040220SK015_03	Highway 20 to Camas Creek	SEDIMENT TEMPERATURE
Cow Creek	ID17040220SK018_02	Headwaters to Cow Creek reservoir	SEDIMENT NUTRIENTS
Wild Horse Creek	ID17040220SK021_03	Highway 20 to Camas Creek	SEDIMENT BACTERIA TEMPERATURE
Beaver Creek	ID17040220SK004_02	Headwaters to Willow Creek	TEMPERATURE
Dairy Creek	ID17040220SK024-02	Headwaters to Mormon reservoir	SEDIMENT NUTRIENT

Camas County Forest Inventory Stocks

University of Idaho
Policy Analysis Group



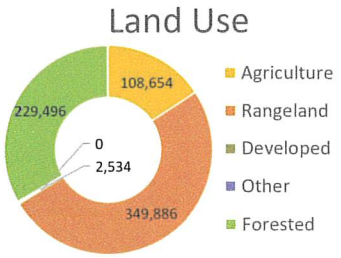
Distribution of 116 Idaho USDA Forest Inventory and Analysis Plots by land ownership

Land Base Overview

The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program administered by the USDA Forest Service serves as our national forest inventory. In Idaho, each plot represents roughly 6,000 acres and is revisited on a 10-year cycle beginning in 2004. The data collected provides valuable information on forest extent and stocks as well as how those stocks change over time. This fact sheet details the FIA data for Camas County, Idaho.

Area Sq Miles	Forested Acres	% Forested	Total Acres
1,079	229,469	33.2%	690,570

Camas County has just under 230,000 acres (33%) of its land base classified as forest. Forest Service forests dominate the northern parts of the county while the private and federal land is concentrated mostly in the south.



Area and Volume by Forest Type and Owner

Equally important to the overall extent of the county's forests is its ownership and prevalent forest types. Forest extent by type and the volume on those acres provides insight into the economic and ecological opportunities given each owner's management focus. Camas County is largely Forest Service land in softwood forest types like True Fir and Douglas-fir.

	Forest Service	Other Federal	State/ Local	Private/ Native American	Total	Forest Service	Other Federal	State/ Local	Private/ Native American	Total
	millions of cubic feet					thousand acres				
Softwood										
Douglas-fir	312	11	0	0	322	125	6	0	0	131
Lodgepole Pine	9	0	0	0	9	6	0	0	0	6
Other Softwood	24	0	0	0	24	14	0	0	0	14
Ponderosa Pine	0	0	14	0	14	0	0	7	0	7
True Fir	66	6	0	0	71	50	5	0	0	55
Hardwood	1	0	0	0	1	11	0	0	3	14
Total	412	16	14	0	443	206	11	7	3	226

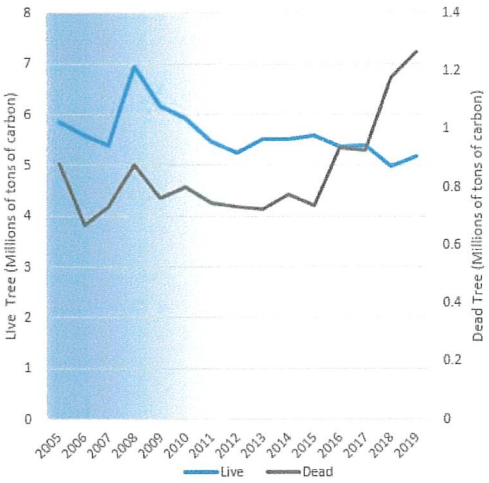
Fact Sheet #15 (April 28, 2022) – Fact Sheets are based on research reports relevant to current natural resource topics.
Contributors: Kelsey Vershum Undergraduate Researcher and Greg Latta, Policy Analysis Group Director

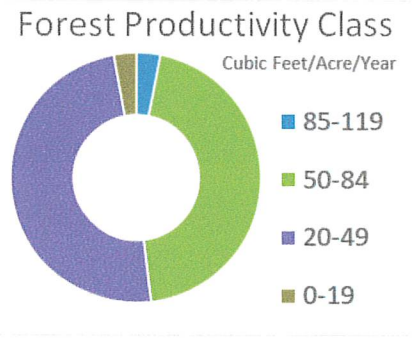
Camas County Forest Inventory Change

University of Idaho
Policy Analysis Group

Forest Carbon

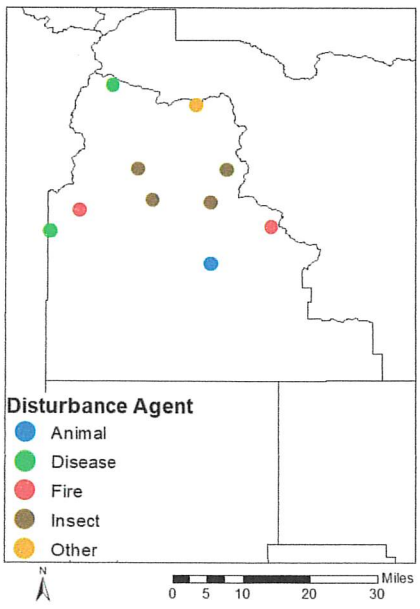
Forests are a significant part of the global carbon cycle. The productivity class indicates potential annual forest growth. This potential along with current forest size and stocking affect how much carbon a forest can intake, sequestering it from atmospheric accounts into woody biomass. Camas County's forests have been emitting carbon at a rate of 0.06 MT C per year since 2013. Dead tree carbon pools have been fluctuating over that time period ranging between 0.6 and 1.4 MT C in stocks.

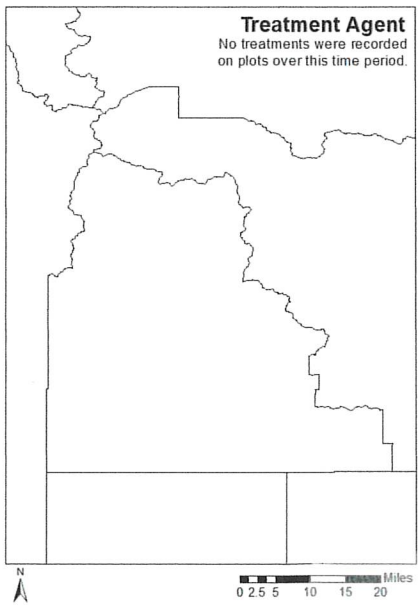




Each year since 2004, the FIA has measured 1/10th of the plots in Camas County. This means that a full sample was not collected until 2013. This is indicated by the blue coloring on the graph, which becomes lighter as more plots are measured. The early measurements are less precise than the ones after 2013, when all plots were measured, and the remeasuring process began.

Disturbance





Disturbances, either natural or management-related, are another factor of change affecting Idaho's forests. Insects are the largest factor of disturbance observed in the FIA data for Camas County, and becoming a bigger problem as they infect more trees. Forest management related disturbance was not recorded during this time period.

	Forest Service	Other Federal	State/ Local	Private/ Native American	
	acres				
Disturbance					*Total*
Disease	6,551	0	0	0	6,551
Fire	5,571	0	0	0	5,571
Insect	16,918	0	0	0	16,918
Other Disturbance	4,268	0	0	1,979	6,247
Total	33,309	0	0	1,979	35,288
Management					
Planting	0	0	0	0	0
Cutting	0	0	0	0	0
Other Treatment	0	0	0	0	0
Preparation	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	33,309	0	0	1,979	35,288

CAMAS COUNTY'S FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY 2023

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

DIRECT EFFECTS
initial spending by FPI businesses for

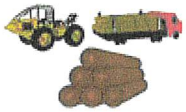
- Forest Management (foresters)
- Harvest Operations (loggers)
- Wood Products, Paper, and Furniture Manufacturing (mill workers)

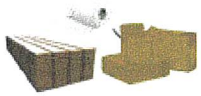
+

SUPPORT EFFECTS
additional spending by FPI businesses for supplies and by FPI workers, for example

- Harvesting equipment
- Mill equipment
- Home sales to workers
- Food for workers' families

$0.3 Million to Idaho's Gross State Product and **4** jobs





Forest Management + Harvest Operations + Wood Products, Paper, and Furniture Manufacturing = Total Forest Products Industry

Employment		*jobs*		
Direct	1.0	2.0	0	3.1
Support	0.3	0.8	0	1.1
Total	1.3	2.8	0	4.1
Labor Income		*million dollars*		
Direct	$0.1	$0.1	$0	$0.2
Support	$0.0	$0.0	$0	$0.0
Total	$0.1	$0.1	$0	$0.2
Gross State Product		*million dollars*		
Direct	$0.1	$0.1	$0	$0.2
Support	$0.0	$0.0	$0	$0.1
Total	$0.1	$0.1	$0	$0.3

Direct values based on 2023 data for North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes 1131, 1133. 321, and 322. Sources: Policy Analysis Group, University of Idaho; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, regional accounts data.

Each Million Board Feet of Timber Harvested in Idaho

Provides

31 Jobs

18 direct jobs plus 12 support jobs

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS:

Greg Alward, Ph.D., Senior Researcher

Greg Latta, Ph.D., Director

Electronic copies available at: www.uidaho.edu/cnr/policy-analysis-group/research/forest-products-industry-reports

This report is a product of the

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University of Idaho
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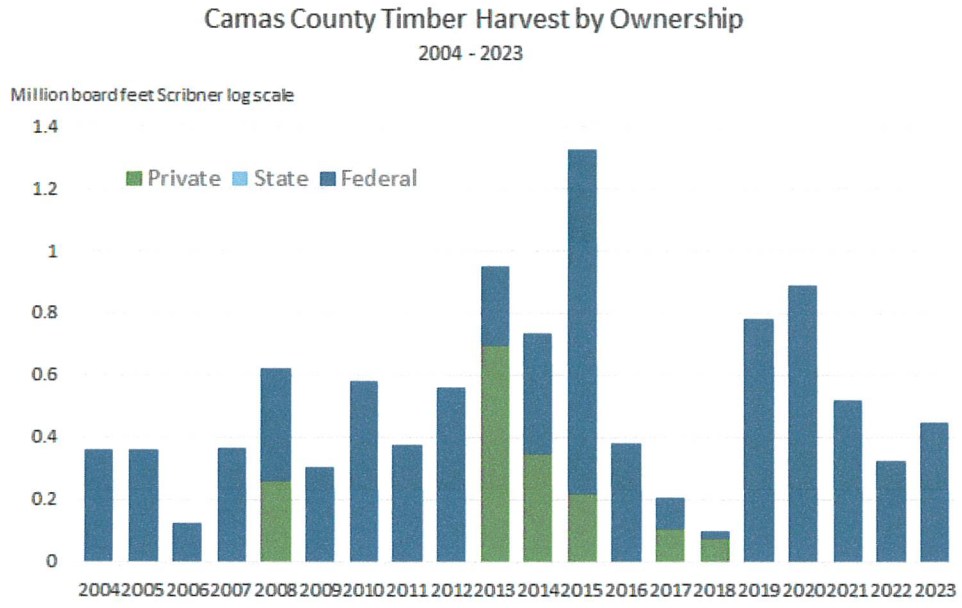
University of Idaho
Policy Analysis Group

CAMAS COUNTY'S FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY 2023

TIMBER HARVEST



Sources: Idaho Department of Lands, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research

0.4
million board feet
+39% from 2022

0%
from **Private** lands

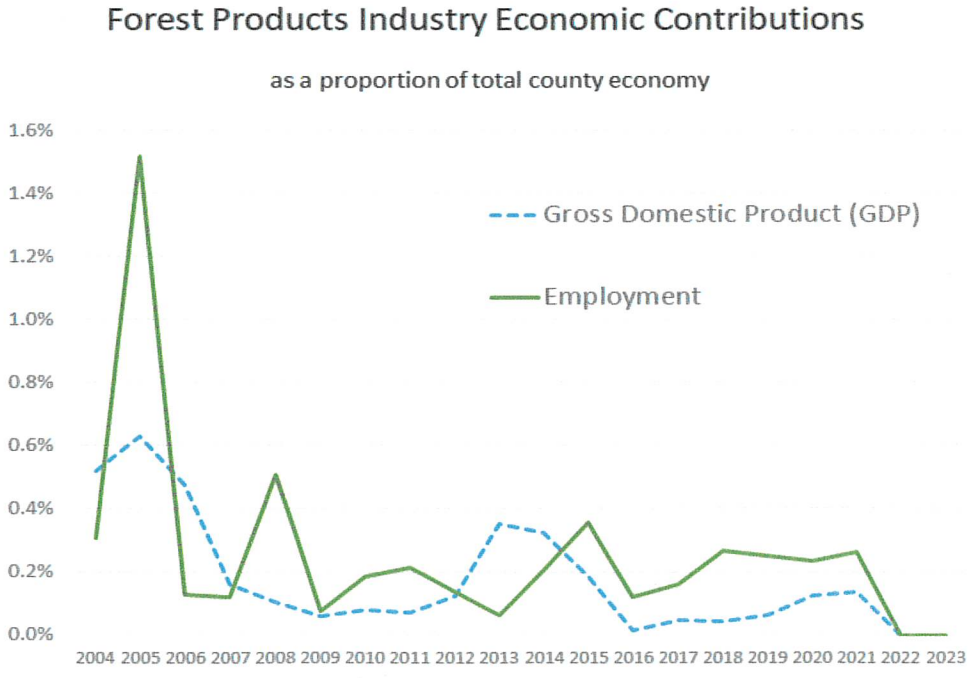
0%
from **State** lands

100%
from **Federal** lands

FOREST SECTOR GDP AND JOBS

0.0%
of total county *GDP*
-0% from 2022

0.0%
of total county *employment*
-0% from 2022



University of Idaho
College of Natural Resources

Idaho Forest, Wildlife and Range Experiment Station
Moscow, Idaho
30
DIRECTOR
Dennis R. Becker, Ph.D.

This publication issued as contribution No.1101 of the Idaho Forest, Wildlife and Range Experiment Station

Station Bulletin 116 | January 2025

CAMAS COUNTY'S FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY 2023

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

DIRECT EFFECTS
initial spending by FPI businesses for

- Forest Management (foresters)
- Harvest Operations (loggers)
- Wood Products, Paper, and Furniture Manufacturing (mill workers)

+

SUPPORT EFFECTS
additional spending by FPI businesses for supplies and by FPI workers, for example

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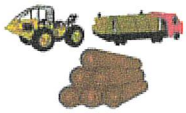
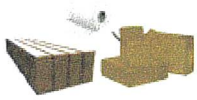
- Food for workers' families

$0.3 Million to Idaho's Gross State Product and **4** jobs





Forest Management + Harvest Operations + Wood Products, Paper, and Furniture Manufacturing = Total Forest Products Industry

Employment		*jobs*		
Direct	1.0	2.0	0	3.1
Support	0.3	0.8	0	1.1
Total	1.3	2.8	0	4.1
Labor Income		*million dollars*		
Direct	$0.1	$0.1	$0	$0.2
Support	$0.0	$0.0	$0	$0.0
Total	$0.1	$0.1	$0	$0.2
Gross State Product		*million dollars*		
Direct	$0.1	$0.1	$0	$0.2
Support	$0.0	$0.0	$0	$0.1
Total	$0.1	$0.1	$0	$0.3

Direct values based on 2023 data for North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes 1131, 1133. 321, and 322. Sources: Policy Analysis Group, University of Idaho; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, regional accounts data.

Each Million Board Feet of Timber Harvested in Idaho Provides

31 Jobs

18 direct jobs plus 12 support jobs

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS:

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Electronic copies available at: www.uidaho.edu/cnr/policy-analysis-group/research/forest-products-industry-reports

This report is a product of the

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University of Idaho
Policy Analysis Group

References and Resources

* Camas Creek Subbasin TMDL, Implementation Plan for Agriculture
* CPC Climate Prediction Center
* Census of Agriculture, County Profiles
* Census Reporter.org
* Idaho Department of Water Resources
* University of Idaho, Policy Analysis Group
* Conservation District Law, Title 22, Chapter 27

Camas Conservation District
(208)764-3223 P. O. Box 156 Fairfield, ID 83327 camasscd@yahoo.com

ANNUAL PLAN
FY2025/26

Natural Resource Priorities and Goals

1. Water Quality and Quantity

To improve ground and surface water quality and quantity in Camas County by conservation planning, funding, and promote implementation of Best Management Practices to control erosion and improve nutrient management.

2. Information and Education

- Conservation District cooperator addresses and files will be updated.
- Annually conduct youth environmental education programs and increase participation in, (including but not limited to) Little City of Rocks 5th grade outdoor workshop, "Bug Crew", sponsor a local high school Envirothon team, Ag in the Classroom, Land and Soil Evaluation Event, Fifth grade poster contest, Idaho State Forestry Contest.
- Annually provide an information booth at the State legislature and county fair and conduct an Arbor Day Open House.
- Target landowner and operators in priority conservation areas and encourage participation in EQIP and other Farm Bill programs to use conservation measures to solve resource issues.
- Continue to support SCIPE (South Central Idaho's Precipitation Enhancement Program)

3. Soil Erosion

- Conservation Partners provide and/or determine need for windbreak projects and continue to assist with District priorities.
- Provide assistance to landowners and land users to plan, develop, and implement soil conservation plans.
- Target landowners and operators in priority sheet and rill or wind erosion areas and encourage participation in EQIP and other Farm Bill programs to use conservation measures to reduce sheet and rill of wind erosion.

4. Rangeland

- To improve range land trends and condition within the District.
- Promote biological noxious weed control utilizing the Southern Idaho Biological Control (SIBC) program and work with the Camas Weed Superintendent.
- Seek NRCS technical assistance for private landowners in order to develop grazing plans.
- Promote rangeland health and condition to provide essential habitat for wildlife and ESA candidate species where applicable.
- Continue development of rangeland health and specifically address the Greater Sage Grouse habitat and provide a base for coordination with federal agencies on land management plans.

- Promote development of Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA)

5. District Operations

- Make available 5 Year Plans, Annual Reports and budget as needed for federal and state agency assistance.
- Provide information to landowners on current environmental issues.
- Provide the opportunity for supervisors to complete supervisor training.
- Complete effective and efficient operations including accounting, personnel management, training and development, annual planning and reporting.
- Be in cooperation with Conservation Districts to develop and carry out an effective legislative outreach program to ensure 100% State matching funds for all Districts with economic increase in base funding.
- Conduct Conservation District elections 2nd Tuesday in November (even years).

Submit yearly Local Governing Entity Registry

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2025/26 ACTION PLAN

1. Camas Conservation District will continue to pursue the available WQPA grants this year. We have talked to our local watermaster as well as farmers and extending the Twin Lakes Reservoir Canal Project would be extremely valuable for the conservation of the water from the reservoir. The work completed last year saved roughly 178 acre feet of water over the 45-day irrigation season. The dirt canal beyond this improved area is eroding severely along the canal bed. Shotcreting certain extreme degradation locations along the canal will increase the amount of useable water for our farmers by decreasing waste from the extreme erosion.

2. Soldier Creek Erosion: Instream tree growth and debris has created an extreme challenge for landowners along the creek and created areas prone to flooding . FEMA has created a floodplain analysis for Fairfield which shows the floodways and impacted areas. Much is to be considered to determine the best options for resolving the problems. Our District office has been working with resources to obtain permits and develop a good plan to resolve the challenges.

3. Corral Creek Erosion: This creek shares similar challenges as Soldier Creek for its propensity to flood although the population is less dense in this area. The flood waters breech many areas of local roads during the seasonal flooding causing the county many man-hours and money to repair the damage each year.

4. 'A partnership with Idaho Fish & Game for a Camas County Invasive Grass Mapping project will be initiated this 2025 summer. This project will act as a preliminary phase for a larger landscape evaluation and treatment project across Camas, Elmore and Blaine County. The high-resolution mapping will help managers make informed decisions

when creating priority areas to treat invasive annual grass which will increase desirable forage for both wildlife and livestock.

5. CamasCD will continue to work with NRCS in assisting/participating with the Local Work Group and setting guidelines for future projects.

6. CamasCD brought back an Annual Tree Sale for city and county needs. Guidelines from the U of I Horticultures Specialists are being distributed to the majority of our tree purchasers with specific information on windbreaks. We host a community class regarding Planting and Caring for Trees, Shrubs and Plants with speaker, U of I Specialist, Andy West. All horticulture questions and concerns are addressed and our office acts as an informational resource for our public.

7. We provide information to educate the public regarding the following: a) vol/rodent infestation, b) local invasive weeds and eradication, c) Updates and explanation regarding irrigation and water use, d) Public rights regarding well and spring water.

8. Idaho's NRCS-USDA Soil Health Educational Trailer attends the Camas County Fair in August to promote and demonstrate soil health principles, including the five principles of soil health, and to offer hands-on learning opportunities for our famers and interested citizens.

9. CamasCD continues to support local, state and national including NACD, Wood River RC&D, ID Ag in the Classroom, ID Envirothon, State Forestry Contest.

Certificate of Adoption

The Board of elected supervisors of the Camas Soil Conservation District this 18th day of March, 2025 do hereby approve the following document known as the Resource Conservation Business Plan. This Plan will be in effect for a five-year period ending June 30, 2030 during which time it will be updated annually and/or amended, as necessary. As evidence of our adoption and final approval, we do hereby affix our signatures to this document.

_____ Chairman, Forrest Ballard

_____ Vice Chair, Bonnie McGough

_____ Treasurer, Sarah Sherrill-Strom

_____ Supervisor, Steve Miller

_____ Supervisor, Robin Harrison

IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION **FIVE-YEAR (5) PLAN and ANNUAL WORK PLAN CERTIFICATION**	**DISTRICT:** Camas Conservation Dist. **FOR FISCAL YEAR:** 2025/26 **DUE:** March 31,

CERTIFICATION

On behalf of my local Board of Supervisors, I hereby certify that the attached Five-Year (5) Plan and Annual Work Plan is true and accurate, and further submit said Plan for the above-named District and fiscal year.

Please submit the Plan and this Certification to DistrictReports@swc.idaho.gov.

A copy of the Five-Year (5) Plan and Annual Work Plan shall be kept at the District office and is available for public inspection.

Forrest Ballard

Board Supervisor Signature

Forrest Ballard

Printed Name

4-15-25

Date

208-582-9444

District Telephone

Camasscdaa@gmail.com

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: _____