WHAT ARE NATIONAL FORESTS?

National forests are federal lands owned by the American people and managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), a management agency within the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. The 20.4 million acres of USFS managed lands in Idaho are divided between seven national forests. Five lie south of the Salmon River in the Intermountain Region headquartered in Ogden, Utah and two are part of the Northern Region based in Missoula, Montana. Nearly 80% or 16.3 million acres of these lands are forested.

MANAGEMENT FROM CONFLICT

At the turn of the 20th century, few laws were in place to guide management on national forests. Conflicts between competing forest users led to laws focused on specific interests, resulting in increased management requirements and costs and longer implementation timelines. Conflicting laws and requirements have contributed to gridlock through lawsuits and appeals that delay or stop management activities.

NATIONAL FORESTS OCCUPY NEARLY 40% OF IDAHO’S LAND MASS, MORE THAN ANY OTHER STATE.