

5B

RESTORATION COALITION OCTOBER 2018 UPDATE

• RENEWAL • RESILIENCE •
• COMMUNITY • ENVIRONMENT • ECONOMY •

Background

Five years have passed since the Beaver Creek fire and subsequent flood events wreaked havoc on private and public lands in the Wood River Valley. With the help of the 5B Restoration Coalition, the Wood River Valley has taken action to restore heavily damaged public lands and build resilience within the community.

The 5B Restoration Coalition or 5BRC (named to reflect the license plate code for Blaine County) has worked to collaboratively develop priorities, build stronger private-public partnerships, and encourage community stewardship for sustainable outcomes. The 5BRC is working to apply the region's best thinking across sectors, developing creative and effective solutions that will generate both community and ecological resilience for future natural events.

Deer Creek

Restoring Deer Creek — Almost 70 percent of the Deer Creek drainage was burned during the Beaver Creek Fire. Subsequent heavy rains triggered substantial debris flows that blocked the natural river channel, damaged the road, and obliterated trails.

With Idaho Conservation League, Trout Unlimited, and the National Forest Foundation (NFF) leading the effort, 5BRC members provided strong voices in support of Blaine County investing \$496,300 toward Deer Creek restoration needs through the Land, Water and Wildlife Program (LWWP), using county levy funds. The levy funds enabled the Ketchum Ranger District to quickly get to work. The 5BRC and the NFF pledged additional privately-raised funds and NFF match toward the work through the 5B Restoration Fund, which NFF has invested in key projects accomplished by local nonprofit organizations and contractors.

Overall project goals were to reduce sediment loading in the creek, restore healthy fish and wildlife habitat, and improve public access and trails.



Deer Creek Restoration Actions

- Relocate the road above the floodplain
- Reconnect side channels
- Install large wood structures and improved culverts in the creek
- Revegetate the hillsides with native seeds and plants
- Remove weeds
- Reconstruct trails and bridges

Conservation Investments

Total investment to date: \$188,500

2016

2017

Design and construct Deer Creek Trailhead signs

Lead Partner: Local contractor
Total Investment: \$10,000

Support backcountry trail work in the Little Wood watershed

Lead Partner: Idaho Trails Association
Total Investment: \$2,500

2018

Re-establish the Wood River Community Insectary and treat noxious weeds using bio-control agents; and address dog waste pollution on public lands

Lead Partner: Environmental Resource Center
Total Investment: \$11,000

Treat invasive weeds on trails in Oregon Gulch and Adams Gulch (two-year project)

Lead Partner: Idaho Conservation Corps
Total Investment: \$21,600

Reconstruct 3 miles of the Alden Gulch Trail #144

Lead Partner: Idaho Conservation Corps
Total Investment: \$17,000

Support the Trails Coordinator to organize trail crews, complete trail restoration and maintenance, and inform the public about trail conditions

Lead Partner: Blaine County Recreation District
Total Investment: \$10,000

Support backcountry trail work in the Little Wood watershed

Lead Partner: Idaho Trails Association
Total Investment: \$4,550

Construct 1.65 miles of singletrack trail

Lead Partners: Local contractor and Wood River Bike Coalition
Total Investment: \$27,950

Support repair and renovation of the Pioneer Cabin

Lead Partner: Local stores and contractors
Total Investment: \$10,000

Purchase ten campfire rings for dispersed sites in Deer Creek

Lead Partner: National vendor
Total Investment: \$2,150

Repair trails damaged by the Beaver Creek Fire and subsequent flooding in Deer Creek

Lead Partner: Idaho Conservation Corps
Total Investment: \$41,600

Construct the Greenhorn Pavilion

Lead Partner: Local contractor
Total Investment: \$30,125

Who Is the 5B Restoration Coalition?

Individual Community Members
Big Wood Backcountry Trails
Blaine County Commission
Blaine County Recreation District
Bureau of Land Management
Idaho Conservation League
National Forest Foundation
Sawtooth Backcountry Horsemen
Sun Summit South
Sun Valley Economic Development
U.S. Forest Service, Sawtooth National Forest
Wood River Bike Coalition



The 5B Restoration Coalition is coordinated by the National Forest Foundation

Thank you

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To learn more, look for the 5B Restoration Coalition at www.nationalforests.org/5b

To give to the 5B Restoration Fund, go to nationalforests.org/give and enter promo code "5B"

