Case Study
Fire Risk

Strategic Investments to Mitigate Risk of **Wildfire**

COMMUNITY FIRE RISK IN IDAHO

The risk of fire is widespread and has significant impacts throughout Idaho. Identifying the communities and landscapes at the greatest risk of damage from wildfires is critical to implementing strategies to minimize wildfire risk and the associated impacts.

1 Measuring the Impact of High Severity Fire

Even rural communities face wildfire risk. One case study showed that a 36,000-acre sagebrush dominated region in Southeast Idaho risked up to **$245 million in fire damage.**

2 Influence of Forest Health on Wildfire Risk

Mountain Pine Beetles and other pests and diseases posed a significant threat to forest mortality, risking up to **$160 million in damages** and elevating wildfire susceptibility.

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF RISK

This research highlights the value of Idaho's natural capital, offering the first state-wide analysis.

Idaho's natural capital provides $15.6 billion to $27.3 billion in ecosystem services each year.

$15.6B per year

$27.3B per year

Idaho's Trillion Dollar Natural Capital Economy

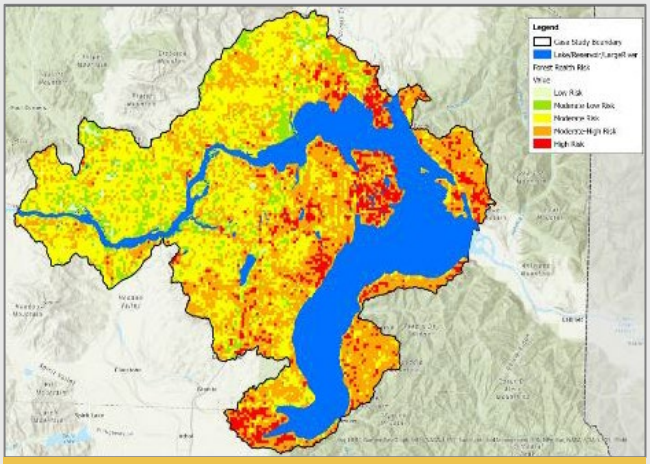
Idaho boasts the famous Sawtooth National Recreation Area with its peaks and lakes, while south of it lies the Wood River Valley in Blaine County, providing year-round activities like skiing, hiking, fishing, and biking. The Sun Valley Resort in the Wood River Valley has had a significant economic impact, generating $308 million in travel spending and $29.5 million in county tax revenue in 2019. Investing in forest management can enhance landscape health and resilience, reducing tree mortality and fire risk across Idaho's valuable areas.

TOOLS USED IN THIS STUDY

VEGS
Valuation database of over 15 ecosystem services.

Recreation Model
Converting local visitation data to economic value.

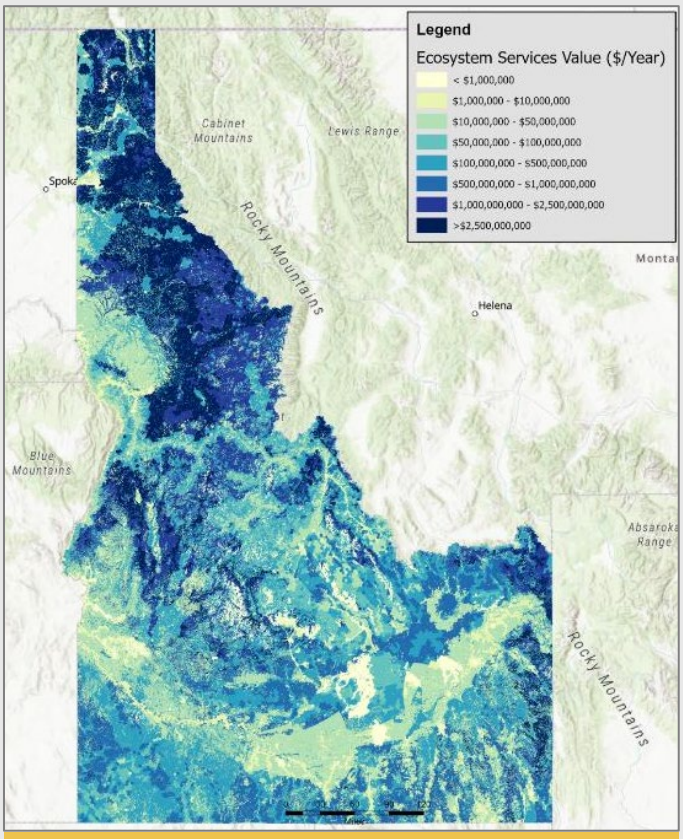
Carbon Model
Measuring carbon dynamics in a landscape changed by fire



Top Risks to Forest Health

THE VALUE OF NATURAL CAPITAL

Idaho's natural assets generate $15.6 to $27.3 billion annually, offering substantial economic benefits. Investing in these resources yields high returns due to their low cost and diverse ecosystem services, especially in forests, which provide multiple benefits.



Idaho ESV Value ($)

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Our model highlighted high-risk threats to forest health, affecting around 18,703 acres in the Pend Oreille Lake region. The loss of ecosystem services from tree mortality would cost an average of $83.5M to $121M in future scenarios.

Any inquiries regarding this analysis can be sent to help@equilibriumecon.com