



WESTERN FORESTS

Forests are some of the most iconic ecosystems of the West, known for their vastness, plentiful wildlife habitat, myriad recreational opportunities, critical ecosystem services, and, increasingly, their large and intense wildfires. A new body of work for the Intermountain West Joint Venture focuses on improving habitat for birds and other wildlife while reducing wildfire risk and supporting rural communities and economies in forest ecosystems.



INTERMOUNTAIN WEST
JOINT VENTURE

CONSERVATION THROUGH SHARED VISION

The IWJV is developing strategies to work in a variety of forest types in the Intermountain West. Our initial efforts are focused on dry frequent-fire forests and persistent pinyon-juniper woodlands. In dry frequent fire forests, there is evidence that active management can prepare forests for fire and improve ecological resilience, which is the ability of an ecosystem to maintain its ecological functions when experiencing disturbance. Work in pinyon-juniper woodland ecosystems is a priority because of the steep decline of the charismatic pinyon-juniper obligate the Pinyon Jay, the vulnerability of this ecosystem to catastrophic wildfire, and growing interest among our partners to work together to address the threats to this vast habitat.



OUR APPROACH

The IWJV's vision of our work in western forests is to integrate wildfire risk reduction and bird habitat conservation, restore appropriate fire to the landscape, strengthen forest climate resilience, and prevent expansion of invasive weeds. These strategies leverage our IWJV approach—building partnerships, growing capacity, bridging science and implementation, and engaging in innovative communications efforts—towards this vision.

We support our partners in integrating current knowledge, science, and data on bird and wildlife effects of forest management into their work; growing capacity to implement forest management with co-benefits to birds and other wildlife; and communicating the outcomes and needs of this work to relevant audiences.



IWJV'S THREE WORK STRATEGIES

- ➔ **Science-to-Implementation**
We strengthen access, incorporation, and application of current science, research, data tools, and knowledge related to forest and woodland management work on the ground.
- ➔ **Community-Based Capacity**
We place conservation professionals in communities that accelerate the pace and scale of projects across land ownerships and collaborate with partners on forest management to scale up implementation.
- ➔ **Communications**
We tell the story of forest management successes, struggles, and events and broadcast these messages to key audiences increasing awareness and engagement.

FOREST TOOLBOX



INTEGRATE WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION AND BIRD HABITAT CONSERVATION



RESTORE APPROPRIATE FIRE TO THE LANDSCAPE



STRENGTHEN FOREST RESILIENCE



PREVENT EXPANSION OF INVASIVE WEEDS

