



Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group CHARTER



INTRODUCTION

On April 28, 2006, the Bureau of Land Management's Idaho Falls District; Caribou-Targhee National Forest; Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Southeast and Upper Snake Regions; Idaho Department of Lands, and Idaho Department of Agriculture entered into an agreement to commit to work together toward recovery and enhancement of quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) communities in Eastern Idaho. The agreement recognized that healthy aspen sites "benefit a variety of public and private land resources and uses", and called for the formation of a 'working group,' made up of interested parties, to help guide strategies for addressing the expressed goals of education, proper aspen site management, and project identification which have public trust and support.

This Charter presents the purpose, participants and decision-making process, expected accomplishments, and products for the Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group is to:

- Increase public understanding of values of aspen communities
- Increase public understanding of current trends of aspen communities
- Increase public understanding of consequences of loss of aspen communities
- Promote and perpetuate sustainable diverse aspen communities
- Develop partnerships and share resources across administrative and organizational boundaries
- Use collaboration to solve problems relating to aspen communities
- Generate new funding resources to conserve aspen communities
- Provide a forum to share information and results of aspen projects.

PARTICIPANTS AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

The Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group is open to all interested members of the public, organizations, and agencies. Individuals are welcome to join the Aspen Working Group at any time. New members must demonstrate an interest in the work of the Aspen Working Group by accepting this Charter and attending at least two meetings before participating in decision-making processes.

The Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group will attempt to reach consensus on all decisions. Consensus will be defined as "All understand and will support the decision."

When necessary, schedules will be established to support timely decision-making. The Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group will use majority voting as the fall-back decision-making process in the event that consensus cannot be achieved within the established schedule.

EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Aspen Working Group will define success as "Reverses in the downward trend in aspen communities in Eastern Idaho by entering into partnerships to implement successful management and/or projects on an increasing number of public and private acres each year." This often will involve carrying out projects on a "landscape" scale, rather than limiting treated acres to small geographic areas of restricting them to a single land ownership.

In seeking to accomplish its purpose, the Aspen Working Group will:

- Seek to gain a better understanding of the values of aspen communities as well as the trends and threats to these communities.
- Review, comment and propose changes to aspen management and/or restoration projects proposed in eastern Idaho.
- Develop and propose projects themselves that they deem valuable.
- Discuss and review on the ground past or current aspen projects and discuss ways to improve effectiveness of them.

PRODUCTS

The Aspen Working Group intends to produce the following sorts of products as results of its efforts:

- Communications products, like newspaper articles, field trips, presentations, brochures, and maps.
- Funding opportunities and strategies
- Public support for aspen projects
- Letters of support (with any project modifications deemed appropriate) to agencies developing aspen projects.