



Photo credit – City of Carey

Little Wood



Location and Context

The scenic Little Wood subarea encompasses over 330,000 acres of land in the Little Wood River drainage, from Queen’s Crown on the west to the Craters of the Moon on the east. It is characterized by working farms and ranches, abundant migratory wildlife, and popular hunting, fishing and recreational activities on the two large reservoirs and surrounding public lands. This subarea is the gateway to Craters of the Moon National Monument and the eastern Pioneer Mountains.

The lava flows extending out from the monument have a significant influence on development and land uses in this subarea. Residential uses are limited by lava flows, grazing occurs where lava exists and other agriculture must function around it.

Much of the agriculture in Blaine County is within the Little Wood subarea. It contains the largest concentration of conservation easements in Blaine County, securing working ranch lands, scenic vistas and

wildlife habitat in perpetuity. Many residents are descendants of long-time, established agricultural families.

The farm and ranch lifestyle, combined with the distance from the resort-oriented Wood River Valley, gives the Little Wood subarea a character distinct from the rest of Blaine County. This chapter recognizes the unique land use and social characteristics of the Little Wood area.

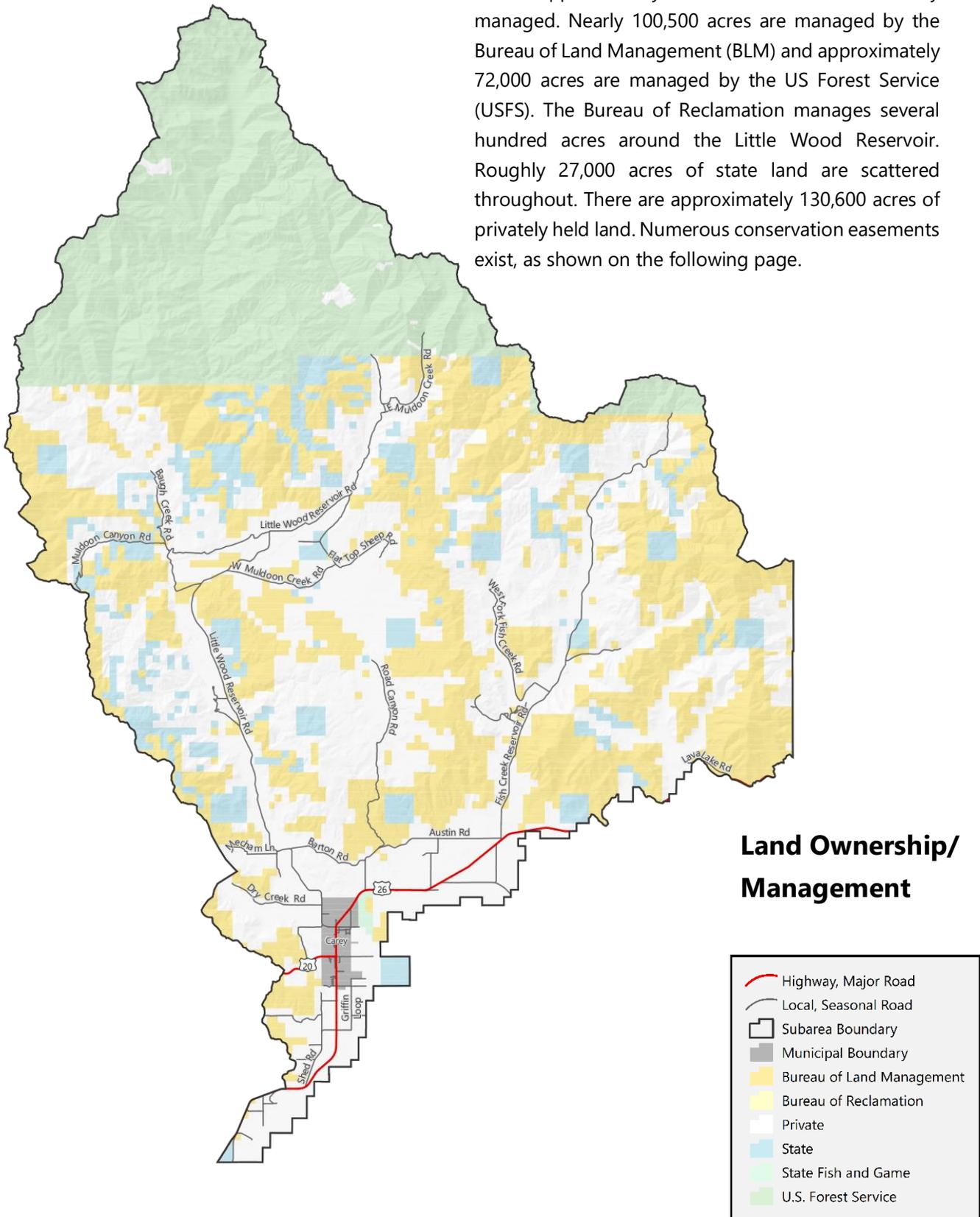
The City of Carey “anchors” the subarea and most of the population of the Little Wood drainage live in and near the town.

The subarea is accessed by US Highway 20, which runs generally east/west, and US Highways 26/93 from the south. The junction of these highways is within the city of Carey.

Land Use Characteristics

Ownership/Management

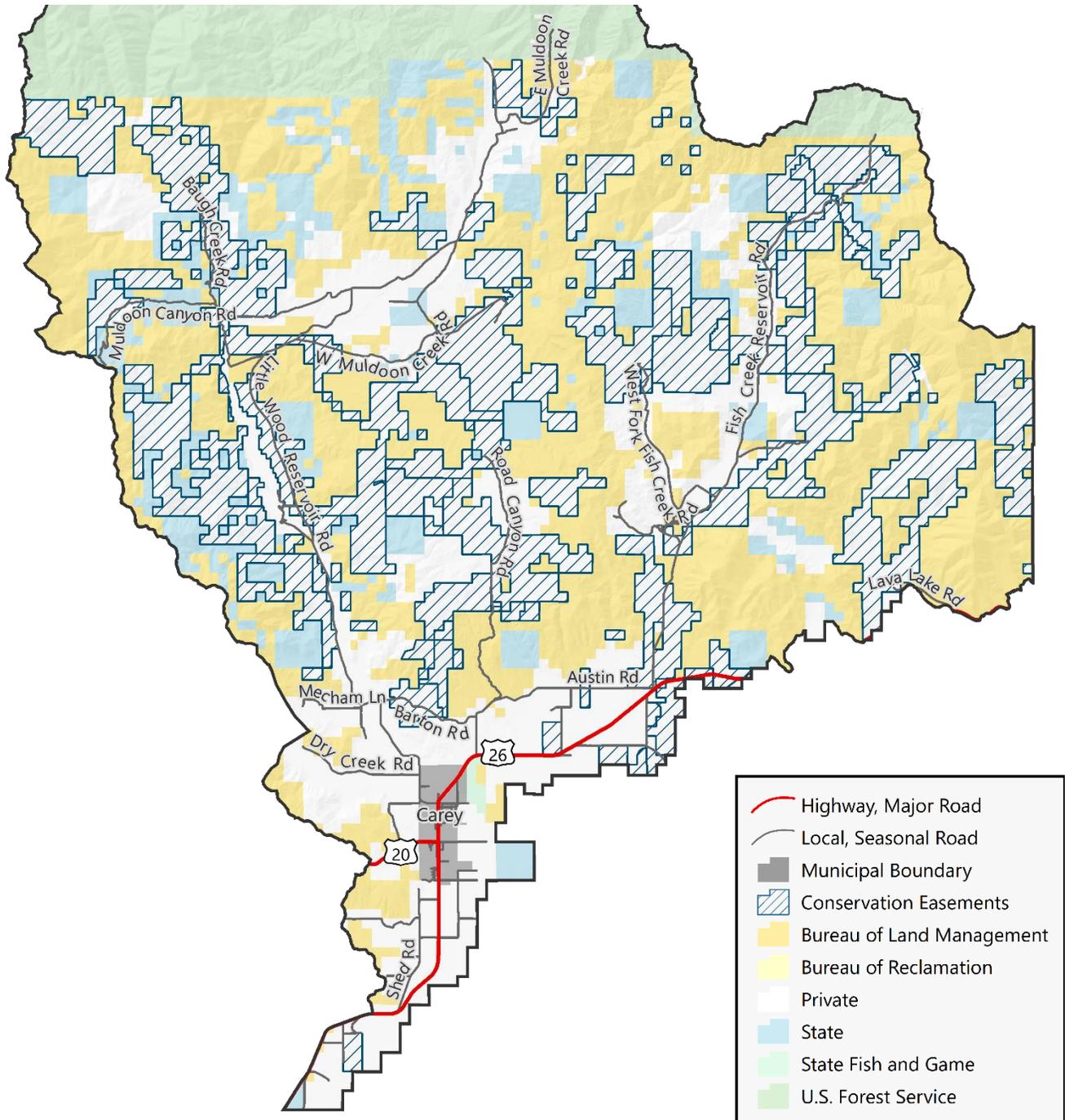
The subarea is a complex mix of public and private lands. Approximately 52% of the land is federally managed. Nearly 100,500 acres are managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and approximately 72,000 acres are managed by the US Forest Service (USFS). The Bureau of Reclamation manages several hundred acres around the Little Wood Reservoir. Roughly 27,000 acres of state land are scattered throughout. There are approximately 130,600 acres of privately held land. Numerous conservation easements exist, as shown on the following page.



Conservation easements

Conservation easements exist on nearly 40,000 of the 130,600 acres of private land -- more than 30%. These easements protect working ranches, scenic vistas and wildlife habitat. The Land Ownership/Management map below, showing these easements, tells a more complete story of the protection of the land.

Land Ownership/ Management - with Conservation Easements

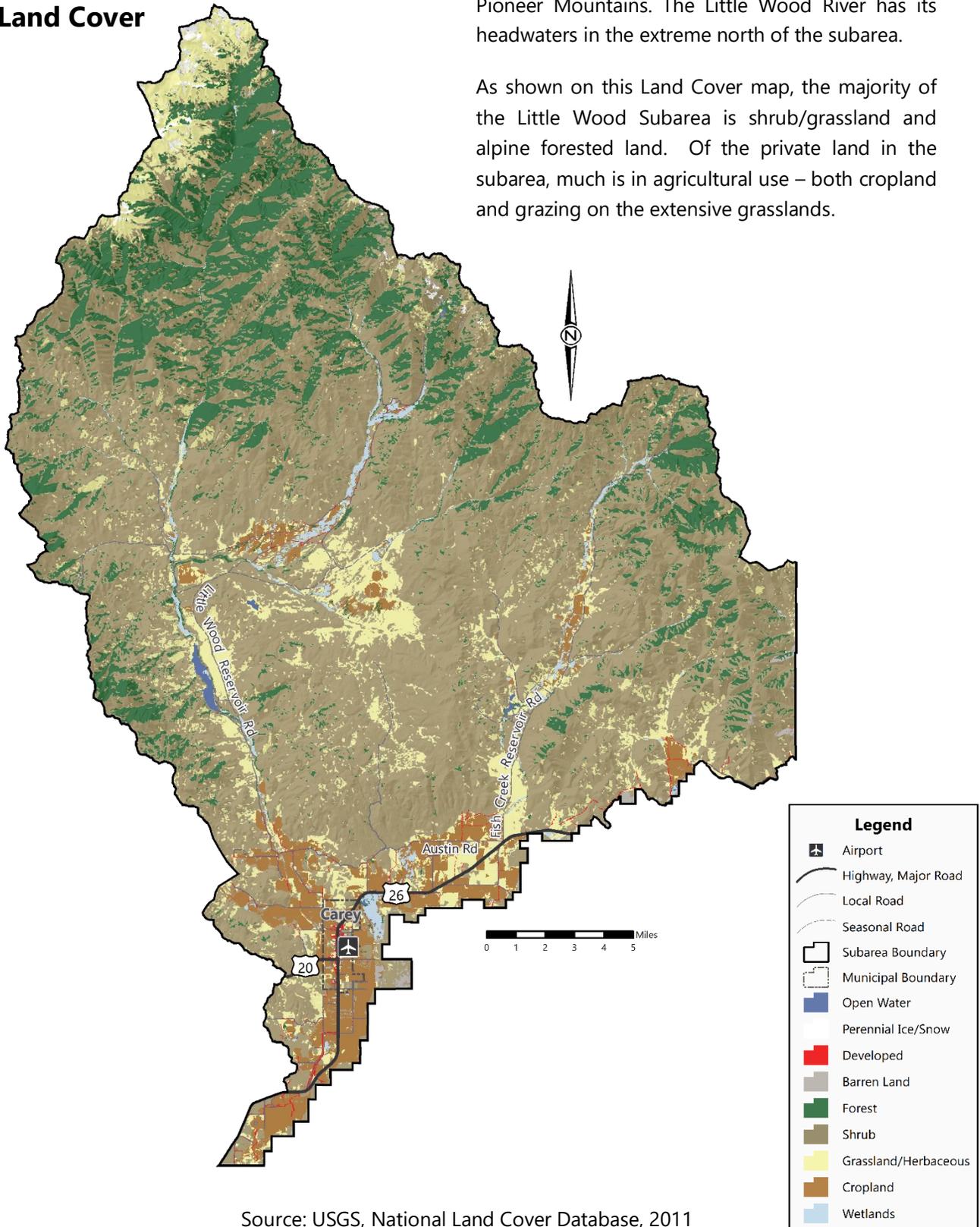


Land Cover

Land Cover

This subarea transitions from irrigated cropland to rolling foothills to the dramatic peaks of the eastern Pioneer Mountains. The Little Wood River has its headwaters in the extreme north of the subarea.

As shown on this Land Cover map, the majority of the Little Wood Subarea is shrub/grassland and alpine forested land. Of the private land in the subarea, much is in agricultural use – both cropland and grazing on the extensive grasslands.



Source: USGS, National Land Cover Database, 2011

Existing Land Uses

Agriculture

Farming and ranching are the predominant land uses in this subarea, and the lifestyle of many residents have strong agricultural roots. Many farms are family-owned, multigenerational enterprises. Little Wood Valley residents, whether or not directly engaged in agriculture, value the farm and ranch activities and share common interests in protecting working farms and ranches for future generations.

This subarea contains over 25,000 acres of prime agricultural soils. Farms range from small specialty crop endeavors to farms of hundreds of acres in size. Primary crops include alfalfa, hay and barley. Anecdotally, changes over the past decades include a trend toward fewer small family farms with farmlands consolidated into larger tracts.

The value of the farmland in this subarea is largely due to the Little Wood Irrigation District (LWRID), which has a significant amount of local control over water delivery. The LWRID encompasses 17,487 acres and it owns and operates a 3,000 kilowatt power plant at the Little Wood Reservoir Dam. (The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation owns the dam itself.) The power is sold to Idaho Power via a long term contract, and the revenue offsets costs of water delivery for district members.

The Little Wood River is classified as a “Dry Stream,” thereby eliminating any minimum stream flow designation. From the dam downstream, the water is managed by the LWRID in concert with Idaho Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation.

The Fish Creek Irrigation District also delivers water necessary for farming. It encompasses 14,553 acres. Fish Creek Reservoir currently has limited storage capacity due to the aging and deteriorating dam. A portion of the dam was removed for public safety

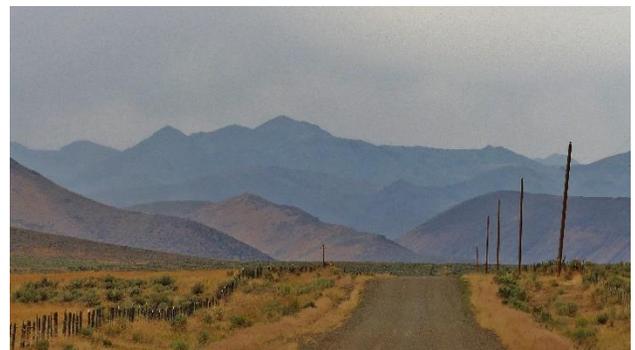


Photo credit - Diane Peavey

reasons and it now stores only a fraction of its original capacity. As a result, irrigation water is limited.

Ranching is widespread on lands less suitable for growing crops, and occurs on both private lands and on vitally important grazing allotments on publicly managed lands. Extensive cattle ranches and one of the most intact sheep ranching cultures in the West are found in this subarea. The majority of the extensive conservation easements here are held by ranching properties. Two large ranches – the historic Flat Top Sheep Ranch and Lava Lake Ranch are among the leaders in conservation.

The agricultural economy and lifestyle, as well as the commitment to conservation, led to formation of the Pioneers Alliance in 2007. It was created as a collaborative effort of existing organizations and individuals (including ranchers, local residents, conservationists and public lands managers) to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural values of the Pioneer Mountains and Craters of the Moon landscape.



Dirt road outside Carey - Carol Waller

Residential

Residences are more concentrated near the city of Carey and become widespread farther from town. Family homes and employee housing are common on farms and ranches. A scattering of rural subdivisions have been created over the last 20 years in the Little Wood Subarea. While these subdivisions have created additional residential building lots, the majority of these newly created lots remain entirely or mostly in active agriculture. Over 50% of the subdivisions created are cluster development subdivisions, which allow smaller residential lots and enable large tracts of land to remain in agriculture.

Recreation and Wildlife Habitat

The unbroken transition of forested uplands to desert ecosystems on public lands and large tracts of undeveloped private lands result in abundant wildlife in the subarea. It is a popular big game hunting area, and supports an important sage-grouse population. Passing through Craters of the Moon, pronghorn annually migrate between summer range along the upper Little Wood River and winter range in the Birch Creek drainage, a distance of approximately 100 miles, with some individuals traveling even farther. The migration route includes narrow segments along Highways 20/26/93 between Carey and Arco, as shown on the map in the Appendix.

Local guide services have offered backcountry hunting experiences in the mountains north of Carey for over 40 years. Several of the largest ranches in the area facilitate hunting and fishing through Idaho's Access Yes program. The biggest Blaine County concentration of Access Yes participants is in this subarea, as shown on the map in the Appendix. The Little Wood and Fish Creek reservoirs are both stocked by the Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game.

Camping is popular, particularly near the Little Wood and Fish Creek reservoirs, often in conjunction with hunting, fishing, and riding off-road vehicles on backcountry roads and trails. The Carey-Kimama motocross track east of Carey has operated under a valid Conditional Use Permit, but is currently closed (2018).



Young Anglers at Little Wood Reservoir-Mike McKenna

Public Facility Land Uses

The Blaine County Road and Bridge Department operates an 80-acre "Carey Gravel Pit" under a Conditional Use Permit. It is located at 50 North Laidlaw Park Road, approximately six miles northeast of Carey.

Southern Idaho Solid Waste (SISW) operates the Carey transfer station on 160 acres owned by Blaine County. The transfer station is located less than two miles west of Carey just off U.S. Highway 20.

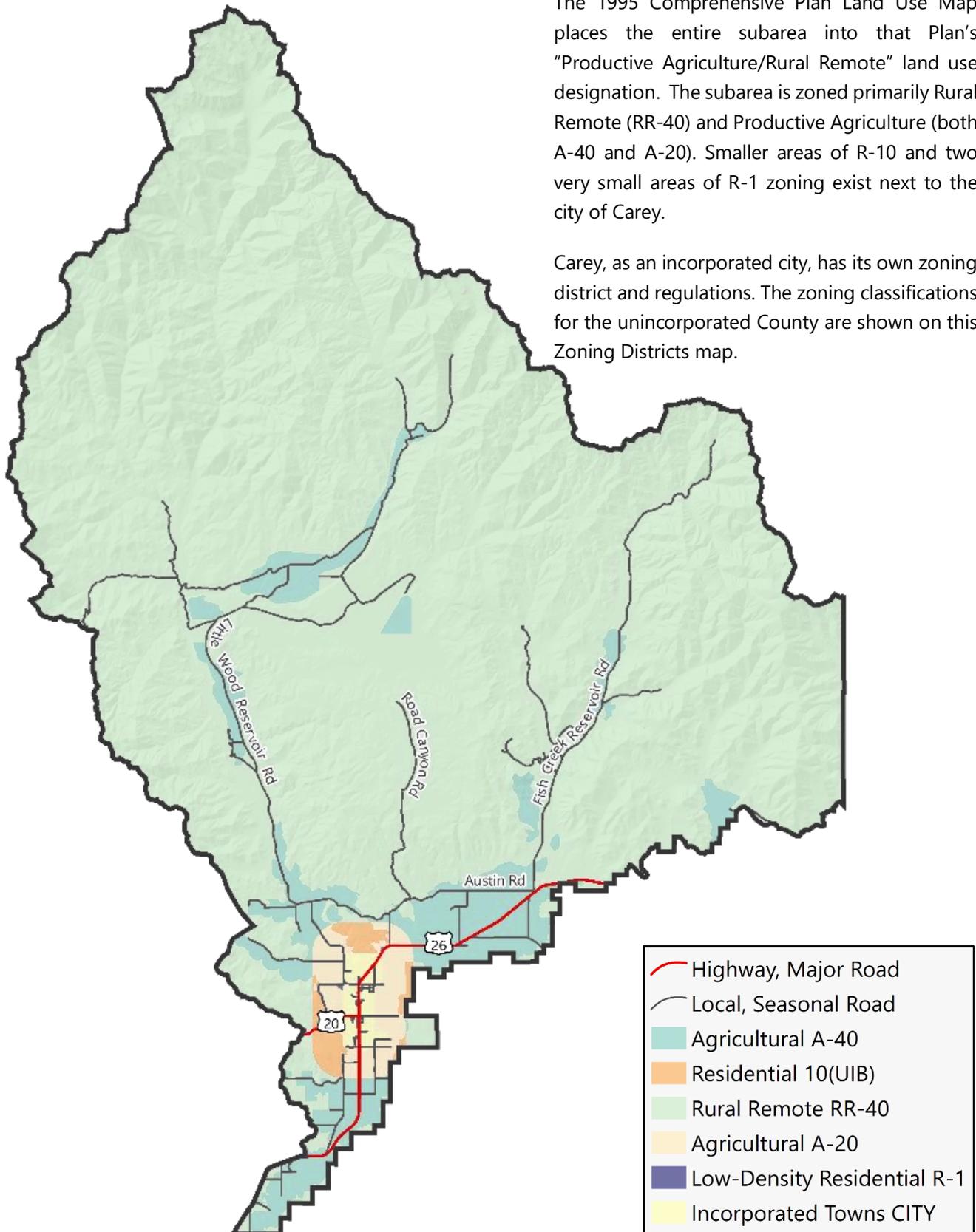
The Blaine County Waterways Department manages the main boat launch and set of ADA accessible docks at Little Wood Reservoir and the shore launch at Fish Creek Reservoir.

Regulations

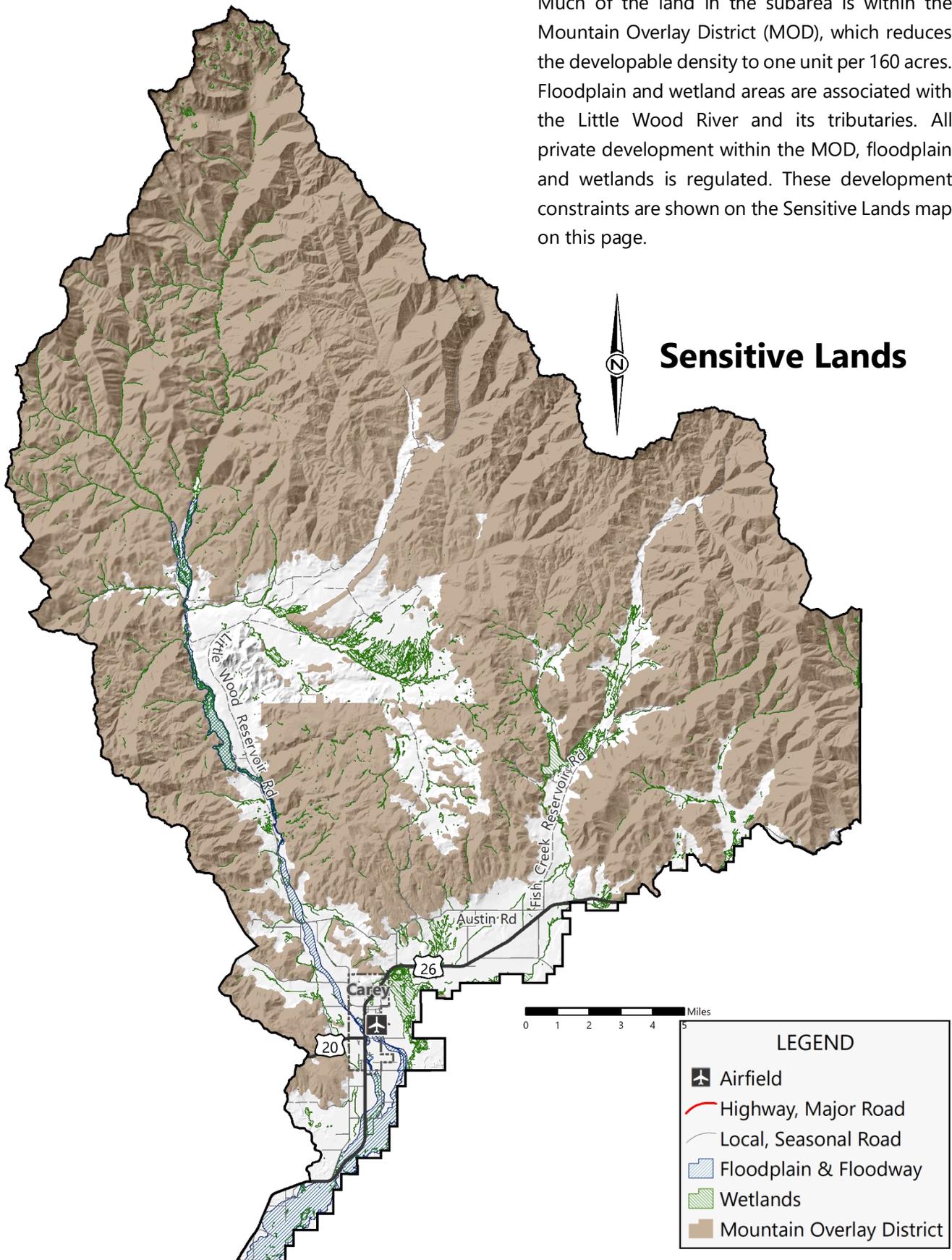
BI Zoning Districts

The 1995 Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map places the entire subarea into that Plan's "Productive Agriculture/Rural Remote" land use designation. The subarea is zoned primarily Rural Remote (RR-40) and Productive Agriculture (both A-40 and A-20). Smaller areas of R-10 and two very small areas of R-1 zoning exist next to the city of Carey.

Carey, as an incorporated city, has its own zoning district and regulations. The zoning classifications for the unincorporated County are shown on this Zoning Districts map.



Much of the land in the subarea is within the Mountain Overlay District (MOD), which reduces the developable density to one unit per 160 acres. Floodplain and wetland areas are associated with the Little Wood River and its tributaries. All private development within the MOD, floodplain and wetlands is regulated. These development constraints are shown on the Sensitive Lands map on this page.



Public Lands Regulations

Public lands are managed by the BLM, Bureau of Reclamation, USFS, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game and Idaho Department of Lands.

BLM

The BLM manages 100,500 acres in the subarea, primarily for authorized grazing and for recreation. These public lands are interspersed with private and state lands. The 4,265-acre Little Wood Wilderness Study Area (WSA) in the Pioneer Mountain Range has been determined to have potential wilderness values. The nearby 9,413-acre Freidman Creek WSA contains high topographic relief, and is managed as an area of solitude. Motorized access is prohibited in the WSA's. BLM has also designated the 7,753-acre Elk Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern, which is managed for elk winter range. Motorized vehicles are limited to roads and trails. All three of these areas are closed to all motorized vehicles in winter to minimize impacts to elk and deer.

Bureau of Reclamation

The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) manages several hundred acres around the Little Wood Reservoir including the campground with 16 recreational vehicle sites, four day-use area and a picnic area.

North of the reservoir off High Five Road is another BOR-managed dispersed camping area with four vault restrooms.

USFS

The USFS manages over 70,000 acres in the northern portion of the subarea, surrounding several private inholdings (mining claims). This area of the eastern Pioneer Mountains is remote and mostly roadless; access and therefore human activity is relatively limited.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

The Carey Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA), just east of Carey, encompasses approximately 750 acres owned and managed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The lake is shallow with a surface area of about 365 acres at high water. The main recreational activity at the WMA is fishing, primarily for largemouth bass and bluegill. The lake and surrounding marsh and uplands also provide an important stopover for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds as well as breeding and rearing habitat for resident birds.

Idaho Department of Lands

IDL manages many leases in this subarea, primarily for grazing.

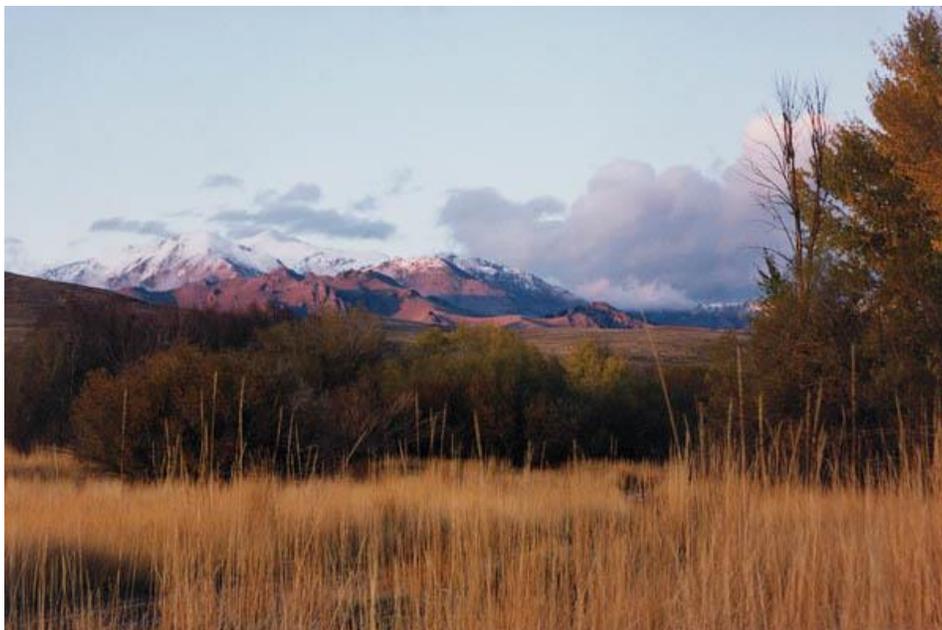


Photo credit - Diane Peavey

City of Carey

The Little Wood subarea is unique in that it includes an incorporated city centrally within it, which serves as the community hub for residents living somewhat distant from the cities of the Big Wood River valley. Because of the importance of Carey in this subarea, this chapter includes a short section on the city.

The City serves its residents and those of the subarea with a public school, a library, several churches, a post office, some small businesses and limited retail services. The Blaine County Fairgrounds and Road & Bridge and Noxious Weeds shops are in this town.

Demographics

The town of Carey was formed in 1884 by a Mormon colony and incorporated in 1919. With a 2010 census population of 604, Carey has around 200 housing units, the majority of which are single family units. Carey lost population in the Great Recession years, and has grown modestly since then. As compared to Blaine County as a whole, Carey has a younger median age and a larger average household size. It is considered a bedroom community to the Wood River Valley, with many residents commuting to jobs in and around Hailey.

Municipal Public Services and Infrastructure

The City of Carey provides water and wastewater service, road maintenance, planning and zoning, several parks and other local government functions. Some road and park maintenance costs are shared via memorandums of understanding with Blaine County Road and Bridge and the Blaine County Recreation District.

Approximately 80% of the population within Carey city limits are served by municipal water and wastewater. This population resides on about 1/2 of the incorporated land area. The wastewater system currently serves 230-240 connections, and is operating at about 50% capacity. The system currently discharges to the Little Wood River. The Public Works Director states that the water system has

a number of undersized pipes, which would need to be upgraded to serve future growth.



Photo credit - U of I Extension Office

The Carey Rural Fire District provides fire protection and rescue services to the City of Carey as well as areas of unincorporated Blaine County. The Blaine County ambulance district contracts with the Carey Rural Fire District to provide EMS services.

No health services are available in Carey. The closest clinics are in Hailey and Shoshone. A local Idaho bank provides banking and lending services, with a focus on farm and ranch needs.

Carey School

The Blaine County School District operates the Carey School, with 250 children grades K-12 enrolled in 2018. School enrollment has remained steady, with slight increases. The school serves as a community focal point in many regards. Of the 47 Carey school district employees, 30 live in the Carey area.



Photo credit - Blaine County School District

Buildout Analysis

To create this analysis, the GIS Department utilized zoning and other informational layers. The Little Wood subarea is unique in that nearly 40,000 acres are under conservation easements. These constraints, along with slope and floodplain density limitations have been incorporated into the subarea’s buildout analysis, shown below.

The zoning districts with the greatest residential development potential include the A-40 and RR-40 districts. However, development potential is limited by access and availability of services, along with an assumed desire to hold lands in agriculture. As such, this subarea is unlikely to build out to any numbers close to the calculated potential.

Little Wood Study Parcels*				25% Slope Decrease	Floodplain Decrease	Conservation Easement Decrease	Buildout Potential	Existing	Remaining Potential
Zone	Acres	Divider	Units	Units	Units	Units	Units	Units	Units
A-20	4,104	20	205	1	0	0	204	43	161
A-40	23,605	40	590	2	0	59	529	107	422
RR-40	95,718	40	2,393	223	0	888	1,282	12	1,270
R-10	1,447	10	145	17	0	0	128	3	125
R-1	24	1	24	0	2	0	22	1	21
Totals	124,874		3,333	243	0	947	2,143	165	1,978

* Does not include public lands.

Land Use Map

The proposed land use classification map includes areas of Productive Agriculture where irrigated lands exist, interspersed with Rural and Remote areas. The Residential designation is shown in the area suggested as potential lands for Carey’s Area of City

Impact. Two small areas of Recreation are shown – adjacent to Carey Lake, and at the location of the motocross track off US Route 20. Much of the land in this subarea is publicly managed -- this is designated as Resource Conservation. (See Land Use Map on next page.)

Issues and Opportunities

Community Input

A kickoff stakeholder meeting was held in June 2018 at Carey City Hall with a small number of community members. This meeting helped to inform the discussion topics for the online survey and the community meeting. The online survey was launched on July 6, 2018, and remained open until November 15, 2018. The community meeting (open house format) was conducted on August 10, 2018, at the Blaine County Fairgrounds during the Fair. Approximately five citizens participated at the Fair.

The complete online survey results are found in the appendix, and certain key results are noted in the Issues and Opportunities sections below. The vast majority (85%) of the survey-takers are permanent residents of the subarea (including within the City of Carey), and two-thirds have lived in the area for over 10 years. Respondents said that they most valued the natural beauty of the area, access to outdoor recreation and the rural/agricultural landscape. Changes in their neighborhood that respondents were most proud of included “clean-ups” and improvements at the Carey school. Changes that concerned them the most included losing businesses in Carey, especially the closing of the grocery store.

City of Carey and Carey ACI

The County and City of Carey have not yet adopted an Area of City Impact. The city’s Planning and Zoning Commission began discussions on the subject in the fall of 2018. Generally speaking, areas to the west of town between the existing City limits and Foothill Road could be appropriate for inclusion in an ACI, as land in this area is at an elevation that would allow for gravity sewer service. Wells in this area are also known to be productive. Annexation of new land in to City limits is not a high priority of the City at this time. Most survey respondents (88%) believe that development should occur on the vacant land within the city before growth occurs outside city limits. Establishing an ACI is an implementation goal of this

plan, in order to bring the County and city into compliance with Idaho statute. Negotiating an ACI boundary before development pressure begins is preferable.



Photo credit - Diane Peavey

Agriculture, Conservation and Wildlife Habitat

Agriculture in the subarea, as in many places, faces many issues including rising costs, uncertainty about water, climate change, and the ability of families to continue farming or ranching into the next generations. Local lenders have noted that succession planning is an issue, as a diminishing pool of next generation farmers is evident. The ability for newcomers to make a living from agriculture – whether from a local family or from outside the area – is financially challenging. Local lending practices are based on land value, so loans on smaller parcels would be more affordable and require a smaller down payment. A common inquiry is how small parcels of land can be split off for sons, daughters or new managers of a farm. Current County regulations do allow for small lots through the cluster development process, but require a subdivision process for even a single lot split. Facilitating a limited split of small parcels associated with larger farms and ranches could help with succession planning.

Agriculture and conservation in this subarea go hand-in-hand, particularly where ranchlands and wildlife habitat intermingle. Key issues that have been identified include protecting working farms and

ranches, conserving wildlife and their migration corridors, responding to wildfire, expanding economic and community development opportunities, deepening the engagement of ranchers in public lands management, addressing the future of state lands, and addressing issues related to sage-grouse.

The subarea contains extensive priority sage-grouse habitat, as shown on the map in the Appendix. In the spring, sage-grouse congregate and mate in leks. Female sage-grouse then usually nest within about 3 miles of a lek. Established leks can remain in the same location for many years. Numerous leks found in this subarea are mapped and monitored for sage-grouse management purposes. Land uses within five miles of leks are particularly important, as lek disturbance can affect mating, nesting, and other seasonal habitats. Sage-grouse are also affected by wildfire, grazing, fencing, and habitat fragmentation resulting from farming activities. Invasive species, such as cheatgrass, have increased wildfire frequencies and intensities, which threaten shrub-steppe ecosystems.

The pronghorn migration route is an important wildlife corridor and they face obstacles like fencing and roads. Unlike deer and elk, pronghorn rarely jump fences, making fence design in the corridor of critical importance. Highways are also obstacles for migrating animals. The Lava Lake Institute has partnered with agencies and private landowners to reduce fence conflicts in the migration corridor.



Greater sage-grouse - Larry Barnes

Abundant habitat also exists along the Little Wood and Fish Creek riparian corridors and at Carey Lake for other wildlife species such as migrating neotropical birds, nesting raptors, water-fowl, and aquatic mammals. The cottonwood forested “galleries” in these corridors should be protected wherever possible. Conflicts can occur with maintaining cottonwoods along canals from a water delivery standpoint. In 2007, the LWRID undertook a large clear cutting project along some canals to eliminate all cottonwood trees. Balancing the need for water delivery and the need to protect riparian corridors for wildlife and birdlife calls for collaboration and thoughtful solutions.

Water

Most of the original wells upstream of Carey are reasonably shallow. Changes in agricultural and irrigation practices have resulted in inconsistent recharging of the aquifer, resulting in several wells to need deepening. New wells or deepened wells south of Carey can be more than twice as deep as those north of town. Depth to reliable groundwater is a consideration for residential development.

Recreation, Hunting and Tourism

The area features some of the highest-quality seasonal big game hunting in all of Blaine County, providing economic benefits to the region. Local outfitters offer guided hunting in the eastern Pioneers, bringing many out-of-town visitors to the Idaho mountains. Seasonal fishing opportunities are also a draw, including ice fishing on the Little Wood reservoir.

Pass-through tourism traffic is also significant. The Visitors Center for the 1,100 square-mile Craters of the Moon Monument is located 25 miles east of Carey. (The Monument is described in more detail in the Craters & Yale Subarea.) Carey residents and business leaders have noted the absence of tourist-related facilities to serve visitors to the Monument, such as lodging, campground, groceries and restaurants. Taking advantage of the tourism traffic

generated by the Monument has been identified as an opportunity for Carey.

The Carey-Kimama Raceway motocross track was approved as a Conditional Use in 2012. The approval included camping associated with events at the track. The enterprise has faced water and cost challenges and its future is uncertain. The developers of the track had hoped to bring additional tourism to the area.

Economy and Social Services

Citizens and community leaders are gravely concerned that Carey's economy is fragile. The concern was amplified by the closure of the 120-year old local grocery store, Adamson's Market, in May of 2016. Efforts to find a buyer for the store have proved unsuccessful.

While a number of steady local businesses exist, the community has noted that additional restaurants and lodging/camping facilities would allow Carey to take advantage of pass-through tourist traffic. The Carey Chamber of Commerce is active in pursuing economic development opportunities for the area. Based on concerns about Carey's recovery from the Great Recession, the City of Carey and the Pioneers Alliance sponsored an economic study of the Carey region in 2011. The report lists a number of issues and opportunities for consideration (see Appendix).

No health services are available in Carey for residents of the subarea. Travel to Hailey, Shoshone or farther is necessary. No after school care or any form of registered child care exists in Carey, limiting options for working families.



Photo courtesy Blaine County

Sharps Fire

In 2018, the Sharps Fire burned nearly 65,000 acres in eastern Blaine County. Nearly all (95%) of the burned area is in the Little Wood subarea. The human-caused fire was started on July 28, 2018, six miles east of Bellevue. The fire burned USFS, BLM, State and private lands, and evacuations and road closures affected the entire local population. The fire was 88% contained after two weeks of firefighting by a national-level incident command team (housed at the Carey School), and fully contained in early September.

Post-fire restoration and erosion control are a high priority, particularly due to the fact that precipitation and snowmelt have the potential to deliver large amounts of sediment downstream to agricultural areas, the Little Wood Reservoir and the City of Carey. While each agency undertakes their own post-fire restoration efforts, the BLM¹, as the largest affected land agency, has completed post-fire analyses and recovery plans. The fire burned in mountain big sagebrush and low sagebrush areas, Douglas fir stands, quaking aspen groves, and riparian areas. These areas provided year-round habitat for greater sage-grouse, mule deer, and elk, and summer range for pronghorn. Areas affected include the Elk Mountain Crucial Elk Winter Range Area of Critical Environmental Concern² and of important sage-grouse habitat. Eleven grazing allotments on BLM land were affected as well as bottomlands notably along the Little Wood River and Baugh Creeks. While overall the soil burn severity was moderate to low, loss of soil productivity and seed bank resources will impact vegetation resources for wildlife habitat and expose the area to noxious weeds. Private property was also affected, particularly along the Little Wood River and in the Baugh Creek drainage.

A watershed analysis, road, bridge and culvert vulnerability report concludes that risks are relatively

low for roads, bridges and culverts. The BLM plans 600 acres of ground seeding, 10,200 acres of aerial native plant seeding, weed control on 2,400 acres and ten miles of fence repair. Also planned is signage indicating burned areas, and temporarily removing certain areas from livestock grazing to allow for soil and plant recovery. The aerial-seeded areas are considered a "landscape-scale" recovery effort, as seeding will cover state and private lands in the seeded areas.

The USFS has also identified a recovery plan for the affected land managed by the agency. Efforts include reducing threats to individuals using roads and trails in burned areas; preventing the spread of invasive and noxious weeds and reducing damage to the recreational road and trail system that may occur from increased runoff.

The County has partnered with the BLM, other agencies and nonprofits to develop a long-term action plan, including pursuing grant sources to help with restoration efforts. Partner organizations include 5B Restoration Coalition, a nonprofit established to protect and restore land and natural assets affected by wildfires, and the Pioneer Alliance, a coalition of ranchers, residents and nonprofits, who is helping to coordinate recovery efforts on private property.

Restoration will focus on instream woody treatments to capture sediment, prevent erosion and improve hydrology in impacted tributaries of the Little Wood River. Tributaries with the highest potential for post-burn increases in peak stream-flows include Hailey Creek, High Five Creek and Cold Springs Creek. Efforts also include culvert evaluation and armoring and ditch cleaning. Three private residences in the Muldoon Creek drainage are also under evaluation for erosion impacts. Restoration efforts could continue for up to a decade with monitoring at three, five and ten years' post-fire.

¹ See Appendix for acreage affect by agency, including private land

² Designated in the 1981 Sun Valley Management Framework Plan to protect elk winter range values



Photo credit – City of Carey

Desired Outcomes

Policy Statements:

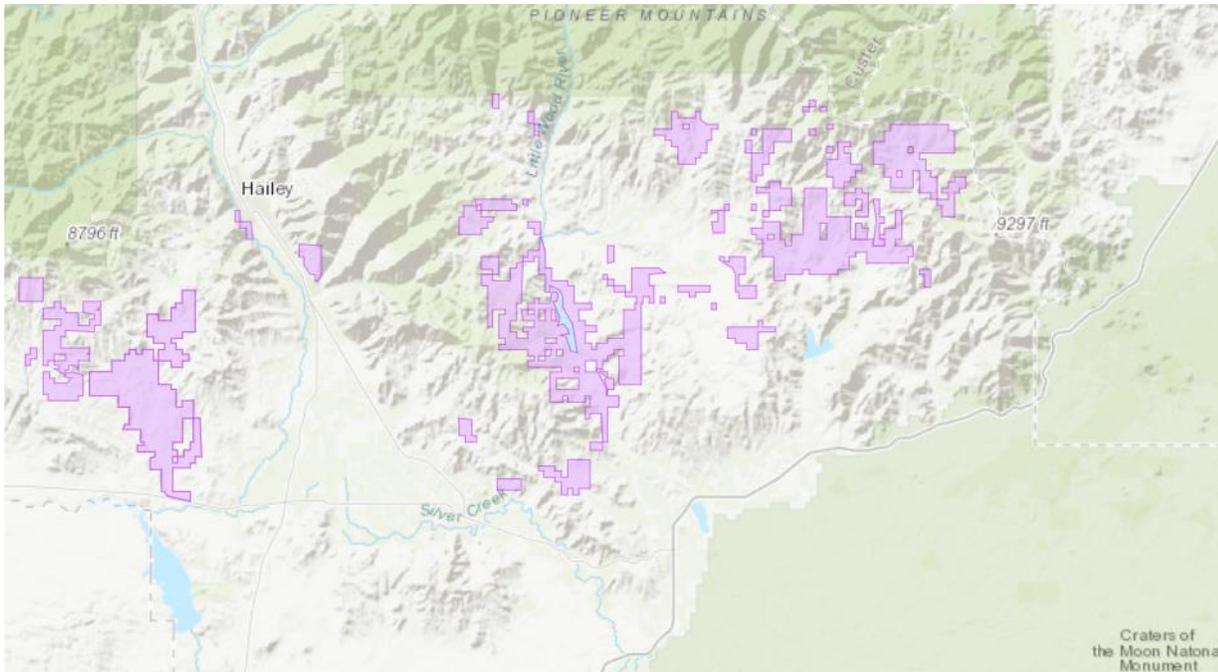
- LW-1 Recognize the unique lifestyle and needs of this agricultural area, where the farm/ranch lifestyle creates land use issues distinct from the Wood River Valley.
- LW-2 In cooperation with the Carey city government, pursue the negotiation of an Area of City Impact boundary and agreement. Include proximate lands that can most easily be served by municipal services.
- LW-3 Maintain 10- and 20-acre zoning around the City of Carey to discourage residential subdivisions outside city limits and encourage expansion within the existing incorporated city.
- LW-4 Consider zoning code provisions for properties in appropriate locations close to Carey that would allow for land uses that may take advantage of pass-through tourism, for example campgrounds and RV parks.
- LW-5 Review zoning and subdivision regulations to consider whether impediments exist to long term agricultural uses. Work with Little Wood area representatives to find best ways to remove such impediments so that agriculture may continue to thrive.
- LW-6 Consider changes to zoning and subdivision regulations to allow for single, small acreage lot/parcel splits on agricultural lands to facilitate succession planning for farmers and ranchers.
- LW-7 Collaborate with and continue to support the Pioneers Alliance and conservation groups working to protect working farms and ranches, open space, wildlife and habitat.
- LW-8 Continue to collaborate with entities providing restoration and mitigation following natural disasters such as the 2018 Sharps Fire.
- LW-9 Ensure that land use and zoning in pronghorn migration areas are compatible with these wildlife corridors. Promote best practices for pronghorn-compatible fencing in migration corridors. Work with partner agencies on issues such as fencing and utility corridors.

- LW-10 Careful land use decisions should be made within about three miles of known sage-grouse leks, with a goal of minimal disturbance. Utilize documents such as USGS “Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for Greater Sage-Grouse” and “Appendix V-3” for guidance.
- LW-11 Existing cottonwood galleries along Fish Creek and the Little Wood River should be protected wherever possible for their high wildlife habitat value. Seek opportunities to work collaboratively with irrigation companies to protect ditch-side vegetation, so long as natural water flows in rivers and streams remain the higher priority.
- LW-12 Work with the Carey Chamber, City of Carey, Sun Valley Economic Development, and other stakeholder groups to strategically address the Carey economy, including retention of existing businesses, adaptive re-use of closed businesses and development of new businesses, particularly those that serve pass-through tourist traffic.
- LW-13 Work with partner agencies to facilitate the provision of local health services and social services including but not limited to child care.
- LW-14 Explore ways in which the Blaine County Fair could benefit economic development in the Little Wood area.

APPENDIX

Headwaters Economics report, “Ideas for Economic Recovery” for Pioneers Alliance/City of Carey, March 2011. (link)

“Access Yes!” - Map of Properties



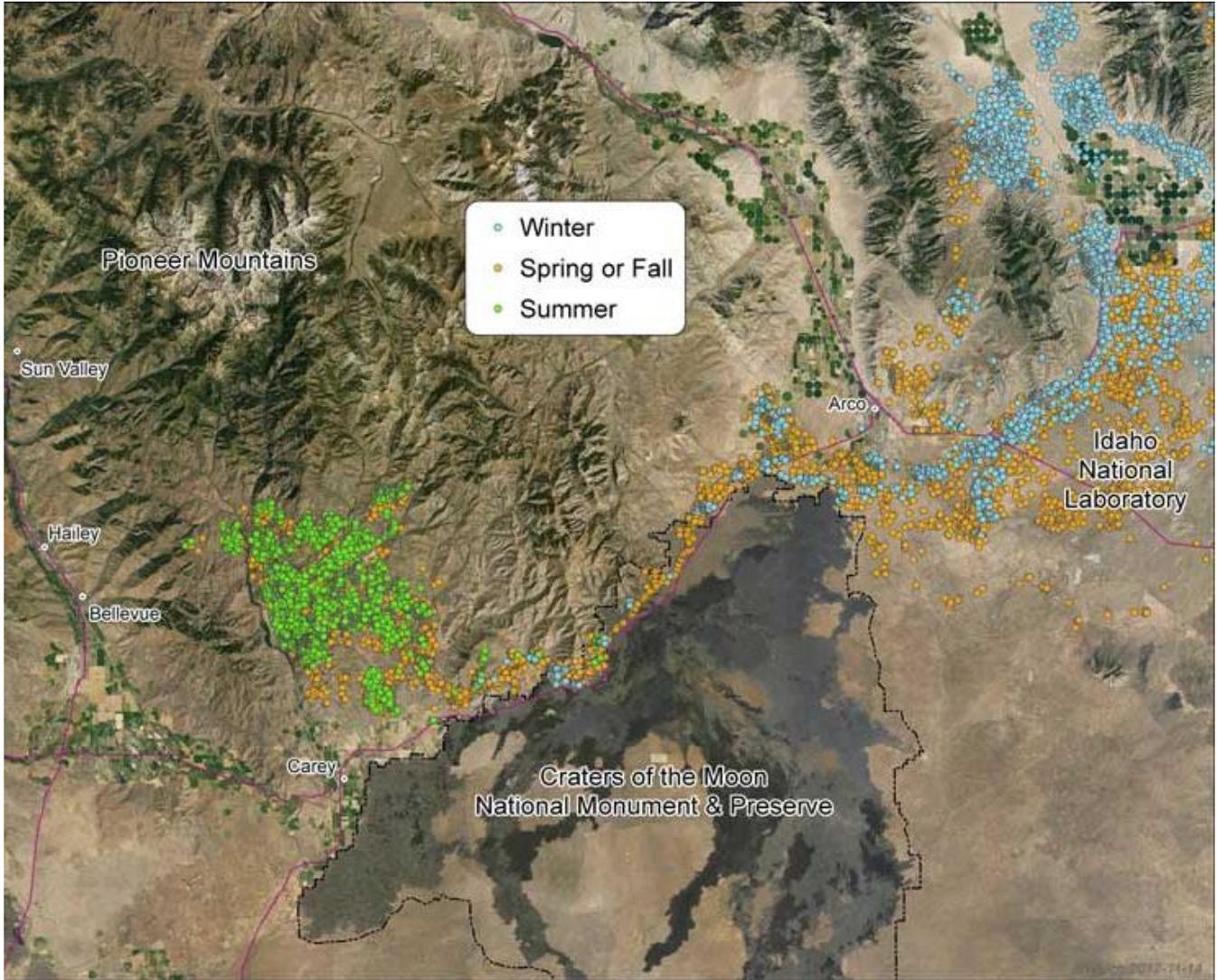
Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game

Priority Sage-Grouse Habitat

(map pending - ?)

USGS "Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for Greater Sage-Grouse" and "Appendix V-3" - LINKS

Pronghorn Migration Corridor



Lava Lake Institute

Sharps Fire Acres by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Acres
BLM	23,843
FS	11,305
State	10,031
Private	19,585
Other	0