

“Staying Focused”, Caribou-Targhee NF Watershed Restoration Program

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The Caribou-Targhee National Forest has fostered an active and integrated watershed restoration program in SE Idaho. The program relies on a strong internal and external partnership that crosses ownership boundaries to address complex issues and achieve successful results. The strong collaboration has creatively tailored efforts to address national and local initiatives while staying focused on improving water quality, stream conditions, fish habitat, aquatic passage, stream connectivity, and riparian habitat condition. At the same time project objectives satisfy multiple uses on forest and agricultural objectives off forest. Over the last five years significant restoration activities have occurred ranging from stream channel restoration, road obliteration, road and trail aquatic passage improvements and water diversion improvements. Nearly 20 miles of stream improvements and 300-500 acres of watershed improvements are accomplished annually along with other resource improvements. These accomplishments directly relate to improvements in water quality associated with states beneficial uses, total maximum daily loads and implementation plans.