

The Wildlands Network project is the Western [Wildway](#) to "[connect](#)" conservation land, including large [swaths](#) of Idaho. Here are their [partners](#) that include several UN NGOs.

Next is the Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative ([Y2Y](#)) to "connect and protect habitat". [Partners](#) include IUCN, USFS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Conservation [Society](#), Nature Conservancy in Idaho, and National Wildlife Federation. This [map](#) shows their land grab goal, including Idaho, and this [pdf](#) shows just how much land they have taken in the last 20 years.

The Heart of the Rockies [Initiative](#) by the Brainerd Foundation uses land trusts and conservation easements to convince land owners to turn over their land. The current focus is on the High [Divide](#) area as shown on this [map](#) which encompasses much of Targhee. Brainerd also wants Island Park caldera declared a national monument which over 90% [opposed](#). They did achieve success in getting Boulder-White [Clouds](#) designated as a wilderness area. The federal government allocated almost 18 million dollars for this group to invest in getting Idaho private land owners to turn over their land to conservation easements and property acquisition. Grantees to this initiative are [here](#) and a [map](#) of grants for the priority areas. The Idaho Department of Lands also takes [land](#) through conservation easements. For more information on conservation easements and how they are being used to take land from Idahoans, Sara Hall wrote an excellent 4 part [series](#) about this on her blog, The Daily Herb.

The Wilderness Society is working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Western Governors Association ([WGA](#)) to assist with the [creation](#) of wildlife corridors. The WGA signed a memorandum of understanding ([MOU](#)) with other federal agencies to accomplish this and for [mapping](#) in 2011. The USFS participates in this as well.

And if that isn't enough there is the Interior Columbia Basin Strategy. In the upper left hand corner of this [link](#) there is a map of the area affected, covering most of Idaho. Here is the [strategy](#) to "protect" this area. The plan has already completed [spatial](#) data which means they know every [geographic](#) detail of the area.

Because of advocacy (lobbying) [efforts](#) by the Wildlands Network and others, a rule on connectivity was included in the 2012 Forest Management Plan. Y2Y, Wildlands Network, Defenders of [Wildlife](#), and the [Center](#) for Large Landscape Conservation are now looking at using this new rule in forest management [plans](#) as another avenue to connect wildlife corridors.

Idaho Roadless [rules](#) cover 13.5 million acres (62% of all national forestland in Idaho). The BLM and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service administer another 11.2 million acres of roadless forestlands. That's one-fifth the area of the entire state of Idaho! Roadless areas in Idaho forests can be found [here](#). This is another land grab heavily supported by environmental groups to ban access and restrict use of Idaho forests.

Now all of these projects look like they are overlaying and bumping into each other. But, they are all working together on each project, helping each other to close off and control as much land as possible, in as many ways that are possible.