



# ELMORE COUNTY PATHWAYS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACES ACTION PLAN

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AUGUST 2023



**AN ACTION PLAN OF  
GET HEALTHY IDAHO**



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to all the members of the public who participated in the public survey and open houses and shared ideas and recommendations for the future of active transportation throughout Elmore County.

This plan was informed by a Technical Advisory Group that brought together County and City representatives, partner agencies, and land managers, as well as members of various recreational groups throughout the County. Special thanks to the following groups and organizations for their participation and support throughout Phases 1 and 2 of this process.

- Bureau of Land Management
- Central District Health
- City of Glens Ferry
- City of Mountain Home
- Elmore County Commissioners
- Elmore County Planning Staff
- Elmore County Rural Development
- Elmore County Search and Rescue
- Glens Ferry School District
- Get Healthy Idaho Steering Committee
- Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
- Mountain Home School District
- U.S. Forest Service
- South Fork Boise River Senior Center
- South West Idaho Search and Rescue
- West Elmore County Recreation District
- Western Idaho Community Health Collaborative (WICHC)

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Plan prepared by Agnew::Beck Consulting and Alta Planning & Design.

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# CHAPTER 1: **INTRODUCTION**

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## INTRODUCTION

Elmore County is located in southwestern Idaho with a land area of 3,301 square miles. It's bordered by Boise County on the north side, Owyhee County on the south side, and Ada and Gooding Counties on the west and east sides. Elmore County has a wealth of open spaces and natural areas and serves as a recreational destination for a wide variety of users including hikers, bikers, equestrians, boaters, hunters, fishers, off-road vehicle users, campers and many others.

The Elmore County Pathways, Trails and Open Spaces Plan is an initiative of the Get Healthy Idaho grant program and is intended to support the County in taking strategic action to increase and enhance its system of recreational assets, including trails and pathways, with a primary focus on providing the infrastructure necessary to support positive physical and mental health outcomes for County residents. The Plan provides guiding principles to assist the County in leveraging resources and identifying investment opportunities that will result in enhanced services and recreational opportunities for Elmore County residents. This plan builds upon work completed for the 2021 *"Elmore County Access to Trails*

*and Open Space: A Vision Plan of Get Healthy Idaho"* and provides goals, guiding principles, objectives and actionable implementation items to improve the system of trails and open spaces throughout the County while simultaneously working to improve individual and community health outcomes for County residents.

Unlike many other recreation and open space plans, the Elmore County Pathways, Trails and Open Space Action Plan does not live under the umbrella of a single agency that will be responsible for implementing the plan's recommendations. This approach necessitates the continued development of strong interagency relationships and ongoing collaboration for implementing key projects throughout the County. The approach also serves as one of the strengths of this plan and the Get Healthy Idaho Initiative more broadly, as it encourages building resiliency through regional relationships and innovative implementation strategies that can withstand changes to local leadership and shifting budgets. It is also important to note that the scope of this plan does not include projects that fall solely within the bounds of an incorporated area. Projects that connect to assets within incorporated cities may be included, but the primary focus is on projects within unincorporated Elmore County.



## ABOUT THE WESTERN IDAHO COMMUNITY HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

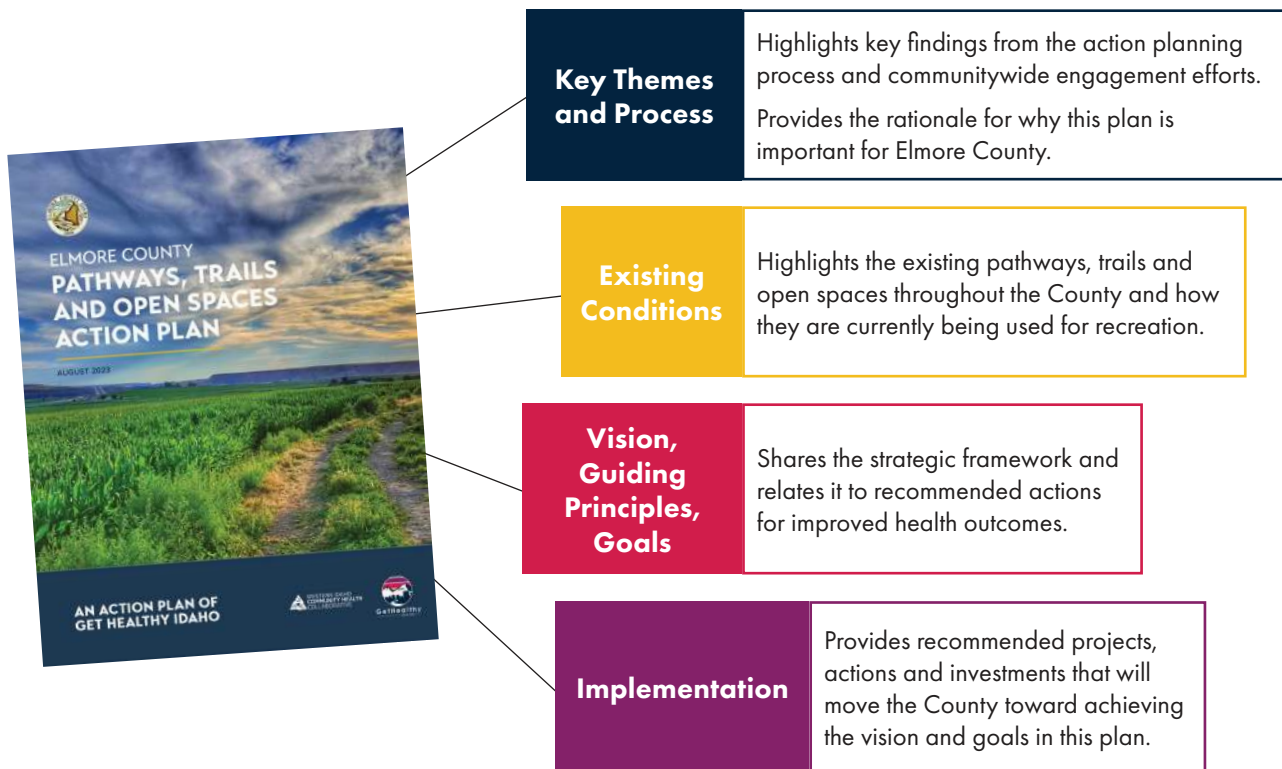
The Western Idaho Community Health Collaborative (WICHC) was selected as the first project funded through Get Healthy Idaho, in collaboration with the Elmore County Health Coalition (EHC). This Action Plan represents one of the steps the collaborative partnership is taking to help address health inequalities throughout Elmore County. More information about the Get Healthy Idaho initiative can be found online at: [www.gethealthy.dhw.idaho.gov](http://www.gethealthy.dhw.idaho.gov).

WICHC is a private-public partnership serving ten counties in western Idaho. By aligning public health, healthcare and community-based organizations, local, regional and state partners can address the root causes of complex health outcomes. Get Healthy Idaho is a strategic initiative of the Department of Health and Welfare and represents the Division of Public Health's statewide health improvement plan to address health disparities in Idaho communities. Get Healthy Idaho is focused on improving priority health indicators (diabetes, obesity, behavioral health and unintentional injury) and their root causes by identifying high-need communities and investing in local collaborative partnerships to create upstream, community-led solutions.



## HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

The graphic below summarizes the core content of this action plan.



CHAPTER 2:  
**KEY THEMES  
AND PROCESS**

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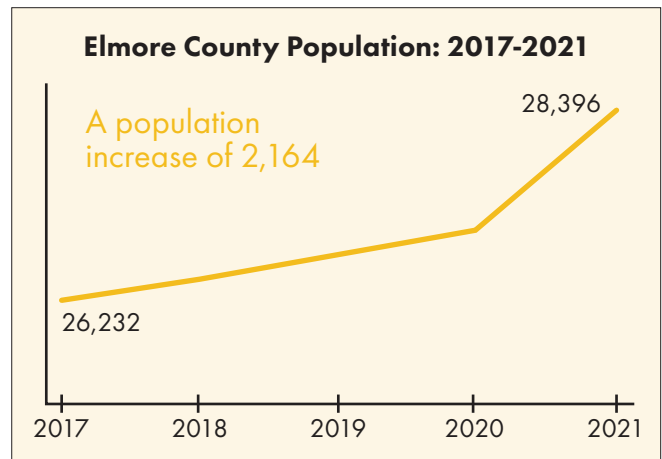
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## PLAN PURPOSE

Elmore County has a wealth of potential to create a trails and open space recreational system that will support a diverse user group, promote healthy outdoor activity, and be safe and accessible to all Elmore County residents and visitors. Now is the perfect time for the County to make these investments, as development pressures from statewide growth could impact feasibility over the next 20–50 years. The following reasons highlight why this Action Plan is important for the County and its residents.

### 1. GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

**Like many places throughout Idaho, Elmore County is experiencing population growth and increased pressures from development.** Elmore County has seen a population increase of just over 8% since 2017, which diverges from the negative growth that Elmore County experienced between 2010–2016. As the population grows in Elmore County and the surrounding counties (particularly Ada County), so does the demand for recreational amenities and destinations. Additionally, as new planned unit development occurs in less populated areas of the County, as is the case with the new Blacks Creek development and the Mayfield Springs Planned Community Project, additional trail and recreation infrastructure would ideally be included in initial development considerations. Without intentional development and improvement of active transportation amenities, this population growth signals the potential for overcrowded assets and thus damage to natural spaces and habitats throughout the County.



*There are not enough places to walk with my kids/family on a daily/weekly basis. I have to drive too far to access a nice trail. If there were more places to enjoy a nice walk or bike ride close to home we would use it very regularly.*

-Survey respondent

### 2. INCREASED ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY

**Despite the wealth of trails and state parks in the County, there are still significant barriers to residents accessing these amenities.** A geospatial analysis of the County identified that only 2% of Elmore County residents live within a 30-minute drive of a formalized trailhead, and 75% of residents live within 30 minutes of a state park. Barriers to recreational access in Elmore County are also greatly influenced by the lack of access to vehicles, which tends to impact lower income households more profoundly. Today about 6% of Elmore County households do not have vehicle access and 26% have access to only one vehicle.

### 3. IMPROVED HEALTH

**Addressing systemic physical and mental health barriers is a key factor in improving health outcomes in the County long-term.** Of Idaho’s 44 counties, Elmore County ranks 30th in Health Factors—that is, conditions (such as social determinants of health) that can be changed to improve health and opportunity. As of 2019, Elmore County had only 5.8 primary care physicians per 10,000 people. The mental health provider-to-patient ratio in Elmore County is 640:1, and large tracts of the County are still experiencing an overall health professional shortage. Diabetes and behavioral health are persistent challenges in the area. At nearly 12%, the portion of Elmore County residents living at or below the federal poverty level eclipses both state and national levels. An additional 28% of the County is made up of Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) households. Residents of such households are employed




but cannot afford basic needs such as housing, healthcare, food and transportation. The prevalence of certain chronic health conditions is nearly three times higher in ALICE families with lower income levels (e.g., \$25,000 annually) than in households with higher incomes (e.g., \$75,000-plus annually). The County has struggled to make the shift to a proactive, upstream approach to addressing social determinants of health, and there is no unified healthcare model that goes beyond capturing and sharing data about health disparities to get at the underlying causes of those disparities. As a result, low-income, Latinx, veteran and other community members continue to experience health inequities, which were exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### 4. PARTNERSHIP & COORDINATION

**There is currently no long-range plan or significant partnership effort guiding coordinated improvements and investments into pathways, trails and open spaces throughout the County.** Outside of this planning initiative, there has been no comprehensive planning effort or significant partnership structure to address Countywide active transportation and open space improvements, investments and barriers. This plan attempts to set the stage for ongoing regional collaboration and planning involving trails and open spaces, and the initial priority actions that can help spur additional investment and support.

#### 5. COMMUNITY DEMAND

**There is strong community support for pathways, trails and recreational amenities.** The public has weighed in to support prioritizing continued investment in making pathways, trails and open spaces more accessible, safer and more supportive to a broader range of users in the County.



*As we grow the nice areas, the trails and parks are becoming crowded, and we would benefit from more useable spaces.*

-Survey respondent

## PLAN PROCESS & ENGAGEMENT

The Elmore County Pathways, Trails and Open Spaces Plan was developed through a participatory process that included the involvement of Elmore County, incorporated cities, land management agencies, partner agencies and nonprofits, and specific user groups, as well as feedback from residents of Elmore County. This planning process was initiated in 2021 with the development of the *Elmore County Access to Trails and Open Spaces Vision Plan* and was reignited in March of 2023 with the development of this Action Plan. A subsequent implementation phase is intended to pick up this work in the Fall of 2023 when specific priority projects will receive additional planning, partnership development and funding research. Ongoing implementation of priority projects will begin in 2024.

Along with gathering community and stakeholder feedback, development of this Action Plan included an in-depth analysis of the existing conditions in Elmore County (discussed in Chapter 3 of this report) that helped inform the approach to the proposed objectives, policies, and potential projects. Below is a summary of each phase of this ongoing process.

### PHASE 1: Visioning (2021)

Phase 1 provided the foundation for Elmore County to take next steps in developing a focused action plan that identifies specific trails and open space projects and initiatives.

### PHASE 2: Action Plan (2023)

Phase 2 was designed to collect information from the public, key stakeholder groups and partner agencies to inform the goals, policies and actions that would become the final recommendations in this Action Plan. This phase also helped establish an understanding of community priorities and identify use patterns for existing County assets.

### PHASE 3: Implementation Plan (2023-2024)

In Phase 3, the priority recommendations from Phase 2 will guide the establishment of partnerships and funding; a select group of recommendations from the Action Plan will be implemented. Phase 3 also focuses on creating a partnership structure to ensure long-term collaboration around the priorities and desired outcomes identified in Phase 2.

### PHASE 4: Ongoing Project Implementation (2024 and beyond)

Phase 4 will involve continued improvements to the Countywide system of pathways, trails and open spaces to achieve the goals and vision established through this planning process and ultimately improve health outcomes for residents in Elmore County.



## ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY KEY THEMES

Listening to and learning from members of the public, specific recreational groups, County and City representatives, land management agencies and other key stakeholders highlighted the following key themes. These themes represent an aggregation of input and interests that helped guide decision-making throughout the process of making this Action Plan, as well as the formation of this Action Plan's strategic recommendations. See Appendix A for more detailed summaries of engagement opportunities.

**1. Elmore County residents and visitors highly value the existing pathways, trails, open spaces and outdoor recreational opportunities.** Interviewees, survey participants and open house attendees reflected upon the high value of the trails and open spaces throughout the County, sharing fond memories and highlighting their desire to see these assets protected, improved and expanded throughout the County.

*I would like to see more opportunities for all age groups to gather and recreate with family and friends on the weekends. Doing these things helps with mental health and boosts our economy by attracting visitors.*

-Survey respondent

**2. A correlation between outdoor recreation and health.** The results of engagement efforts highlighted a strong correlation between outdoor recreation and improved mental and physical health. Survey respondents expressed that they feel better when recreating outdoors, that they believe outdoor recreation is important for mental health, and that the community benefits from well-maintained outdoor recreation opportunities.

**3. There is support for exploring funding opportunities and potential projects.** Many respondents agreed that it feels practical to explore further funding opportunities and increase investment in Elmore County's open spaces and trails. The allocations of those funds could be directed toward any of the potential project ideas suggested by survey respondents, including trail creation, park development, improved amenities, increased wayfinding signage and improved partnerships.

*Any investment in recreational activities for families, kids, teens, and people would be great. We have too little positive recreational opportunities.*

-Survey respondent

**4. Small improvements and investments have the potential to greatly increase system usability and user experience.** Partners and participants frequently noted that small changes such as more accessible maps and wayfinding signage would make a big difference in creating more accessible spaces and encouraging residents to safely engage in outdoor recreation throughout the County.

**5. Elmore County residents are optimistic about the future of trails, open spaces and recreational opportunities, but they recognize challenges to the long-term health and sustainability of these assets.** Many participants noted that public spaces and trails have experienced increased use but do not often have the maintenance schedule or resources necessary to keep them functioning at full capacity. Additionally, as population growth continues in Idaho, participants and partner agencies are aware that acting quickly will be important to long-term system health.

*Idaho is a beautiful state. We should be able to visit our mountains and lakes with the confidence that when we get there, we can actually safely use them.*

-Survey respondent

CHAPTER 3:  
**EXISTING  
CONDITIONS  
ANALYSIS**

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## EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS

Understanding the existing conditions of the Elmore County trails, pathways and open spaces system is critical to providing recommendations and policy suggestions for system-wide improvements. This chapter provides an analysis of the trails, pathways and open spaces, and it assesses Elmore County residents’ access to these assets. This section aims to evaluate the current accessibility and quality of trails and open spaces, while also identifying opportunities and constraints for enhancing access and implementing new facilities. By analyzing factors such as population access, future growth, environmental constraints, and land ownership, this analysis aims to inform decisions and prioritize actions for improving access to outdoor recreation in natural areas. Using Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques, this analysis incorporates data collection, verification, and mapping to provide a summary of open space and trail conditions. Additional existing conditions information and maps can be found in Appendix B.

## EXISTING TRAILS INVENTORY

For the purposes of this study, trails are defined as natural surface and paved trails that are open to non-motorized recreation uses, such as hiking and mountain biking. Open space is typically defined as natural or naturalized landscapes that are designated for recreation, preservation, or conservation. Because this study is focused on promoting access to recreation opportunities and enabling active lifestyles, the emphasis of the open space analysis is placed on recreation opportunities.

Based on available data, the existing Elmore County trail network encompasses 1,203 miles of trails, as depicted in Table 1. Trails in the network are designated for varying uses—non-motorized, motorcycle, ATV, and jeep—and are organized into a hierarchy as shown in Figure 1. For example, hiking is allowed on trails designated for motorcycles or ATVs; ATV use is allowed on trails designated for Jeeps, but not on trails designated for motorcycles. **For example, smaller motorized vehicles (like motorcycles) are allowed on trails designated for larger motorized vehicles (like jeeps), but not vice versa.** Trails designated for non-motorized uses only, such as hiking or mountain biking, make up only 8% of the total trail network, which is not ideal. While non-motorized uses are allowed on all trails, trails designated for motorized uses are less desirable for non-motorized recreationists due to user conflicts, trail quality and overall user experience. The geographical distribution of the existing trails reveals a notable concentration in northern Elmore County, while southern Elmore County shows a relative scarcity of trail options. Identifying and addressing these critical gaps in the trail network and trail uses becomes essential to ensuring equitable access to recreational opportunities throughout the County.

Table 1: Elmore County trail network

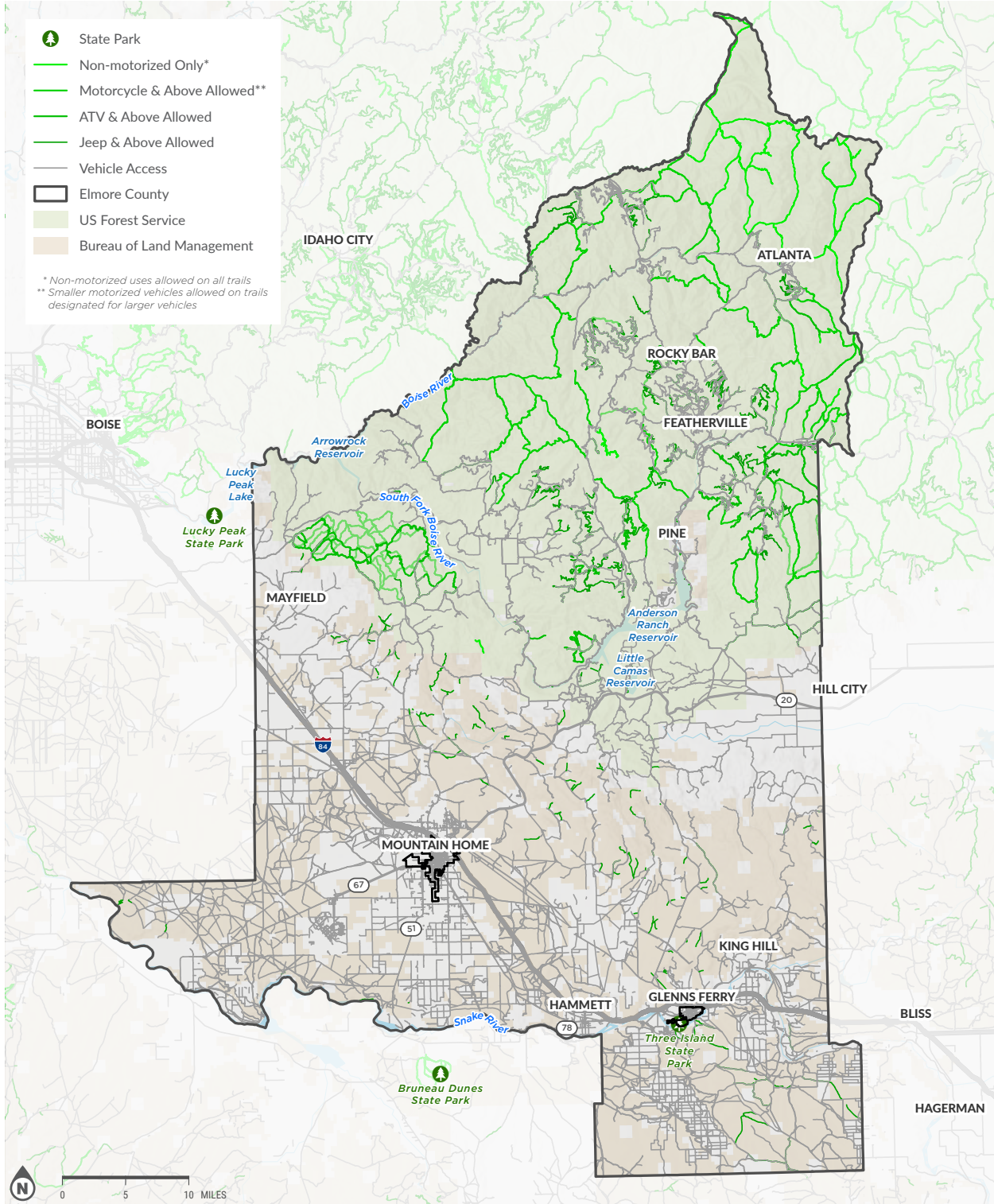
Trail User Designation	Existing Length (miles)	Percentage of Trail Network
Jeep	385.81	32%
Jeep Seasonal	196.59	16%
ATV	82.35	7%
ATV Seasonal	84.20	7%
Motorcycle	256.94	22%
Motorcycle Seasonal	97.87	8%
Non-Motorized Only	99.70	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,203.45</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

Map 1: Existing Trails & Open Space

# EXISTING TRAILS & OPEN SPACE

ELMORE COUNTY TRAILS & OPEN SPACE ACTION PLAN



## EXISTING OPEN SPACES

Besides community parks that fall within municipal boundaries in Mountain Home and Glens Ferry, formalized open space in and around Elmore County is limited to a few state parks and recreation areas. However, much of the County is designated as public lands, open to public access, and is used for a variety of active recreation activities, such as hunting, informal hiking (i.e., user-created trails), horseback riding, etc.

## STATE PARKS

There are three state parks within close proximity to Elmore County residents: Three Island Crossing State Park, Bruneau Dunes State Park, and Lucky Peak State Park. Recreation activities available at each state park are outlined in Table 2.

Table 2: Recreation activities available at nearby state parks

Recreation Activities	Three Island State Park	Bruneau Dunes State Park	Lucky Peak State Park
Bicycle trails	x	x	x
Bird watching	x	x	x
Disc golf	x		x
Fishing	x	x	x
Hiking trails	x	x	x
Historical markers	x	x	
Horseback riding		x	
Paved pathways			x
Swimming			x

Source: Alta Planning & Design

## OTHER RECREATION ATTRACTIONS

The abundance of public land in Elmore County presents opportunities for experiencing nature and being active. However, outside of state parks and trail systems, formalized areas that have well-known or accessible opportunities for non-motorized recreation are limited to only a few open space resources. Below is an incomprehensive list of recreation attractions in Elmore County:

- Anderson Ranch Reservoir
- Crater Rings National Natural Landmark (NNL)
- Three Island Crossing Overlook
- Municipal parks

## POPULATION PROXIMITY & ACCESS

Elmore County offers diverse landscapes and recreational opportunities to its residents, characterized by a distinct geographical division. The northern region features high mountains and alpine vegetation, creating an attractive setting for outdoor activities. In contrast, the southern part of the County has a gentler terrain that supports agriculture and serves as the main population center. This section aims to better understand the proximity and accessibility to nature-based, active recreation opportunities for Elmore County residents.



## POPULATION DENSITY & DISTRIBUTION

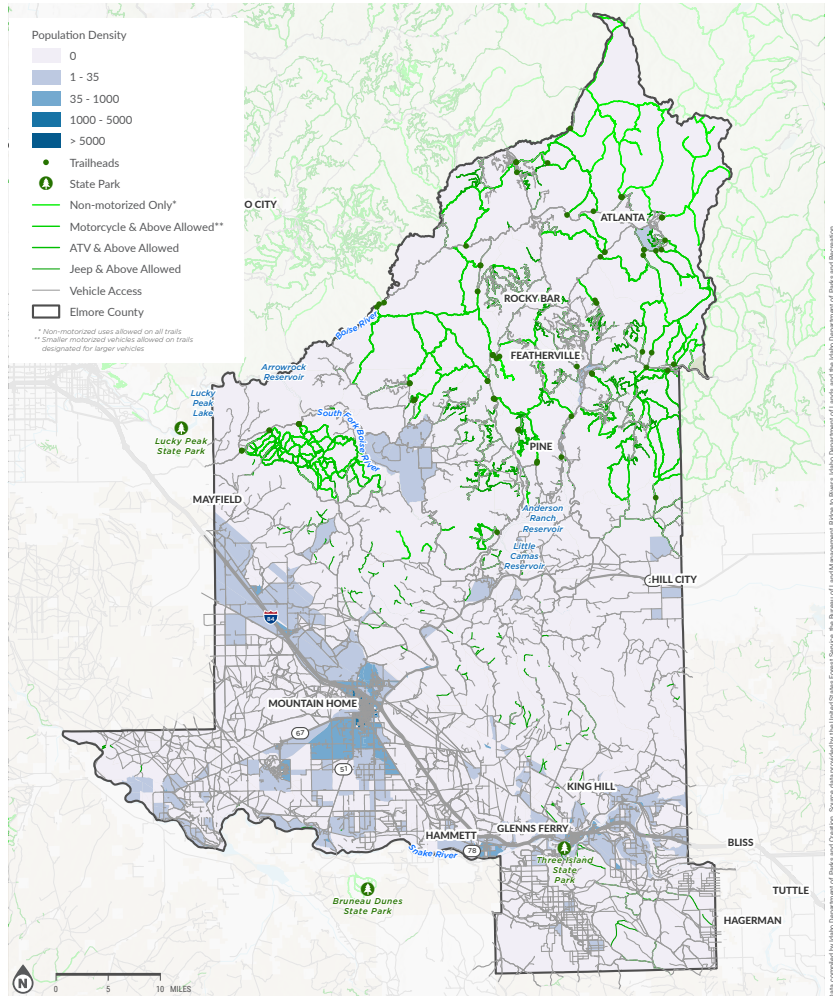
Overall, the County experiences relatively low population density compared to urban areas, with a total population of 28,666. Map 2, adjacent, illustrates the population density in Elmore County and the relationship between population centers and current trails and open space assets. Because of the rugged, mountainous terrain of the northern region that is less conducive to development, most of the County’s population is located along the I-84 corridor, including the communities of Mountain Home, Glens Ferry, Hammett and the Mountain Home Air Force Base.

To better understand and quantify residents’ proximity to trails and open space, a travel shed analysis was conducted to examine how many people live within reasonable distance of specific recreation points (not including municipal parks). Such a study builds on the premise that people are more likely to be physically active when recreation opportunities are easily accessible, noting that an individual’s willingness to travel for recreation varies from person to person and may depend on various factors, such as the type of recreational activity. This travel shed analysis considered two “reasonable distances” from trails and open spaces, driving times of 15 and 30 minutes. Furthermore, the analysis took into account three travel sheds: (1) travel to and from trailheads and state parks, (2) travel to and from state parks only, and (3) travel to and from trailheads only.

Map 2: Population Density

### POPULATION DENSITY

ELMORE COUNTY TRAILS & OPEN SPACE ACTION PLAN



Larger map images can be found in Appendix B





Map 3, adjacent, illustrates the results of the analysis. When considering all trails and open space assets, including state parks and other recreation attractions, 81% of the County’s population is within a 15-minute drive of existing nature-based recreation opportunities, and 99% is within a 30-minute drive. When considering access to state parks only, 8% of the population is within a 15-minute drive, while 76% is within a 30-minute drive. These results are largely driven by the presence of two state parks (Three Island Crossing and Bruneau Dunes) within the populous I-84 corridor. When considering access to trailheads only, the results are significantly different and less optimistic: less than 2% of the population is within a 15-minute drive; similarly, less than 2% is within a 30-minute drive.

The analysis reveals that residents in the northern half of the County have reasonable access to hiking and other trail-based recreation but lack access to other formalized recreation assets like state parks. And residents living along the I-84 corridor, particularly in Mountain Home and Glenns Ferry, must travel long distances for trail-based recreation activities but have good access to state parks.

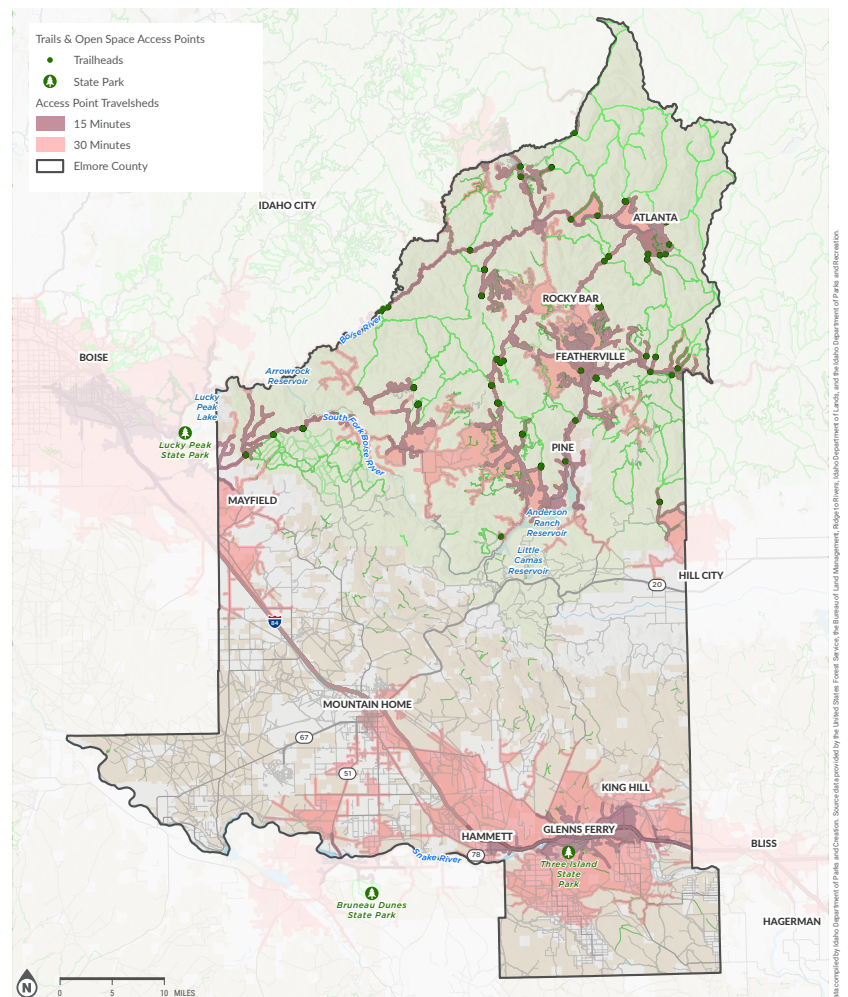
It is important to note that this analysis is based on available data for formalized recreation assets such as trailheads and state parks. On-the-ground observations and stakeholder input revealed that non-motorized recreation is also taking place in areas that have not been designated or formalized for recreation (e.g., user-created trails without trailheads).



**Map 3: Access to Trails & Open Space**

**ACCESS TO TRAILS & OPEN SPACE**

ELMORE COUNTY TRAILS & OPEN SPACE ACTION PLAN



*Larger map images can be found in Appendix B*

## **LAND OWNERSHIP & MANAGEMENT**

The land ownership and management section of the spatial analysis conducted focuses on understanding who owns and manages the land being considered for trail and open space improvements in Elmore County. Examining land ownership patterns and management designations can help inform the implementation of trail and open space projects.

Elmore County's land ownership is divided among various entities. The largest share, accounting for approximately 67% of the County, is held by federal government agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Department of Defense. Private ownership represents 26% of the County, encompassing 522,354 acres. State-owned land comprises over 6% of the County, totaling more than 120,355 acres. These figures highlight the diverse land ownership distribution within Elmore County and provide a foundation for understanding the dynamics of land use and management in the region.

Map 4 on the following page provides an overview of the land ownership distribution in Elmore County. The northern half is predominantly occupied by the U.S. Forest Service, while the southern half is primarily managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Private lands, agricultural lands and areas designated for Department of Defense use are in the central portion. Additionally, scattered throughout the County are lands designated for recreation purposes, known as Lands of Endowment.

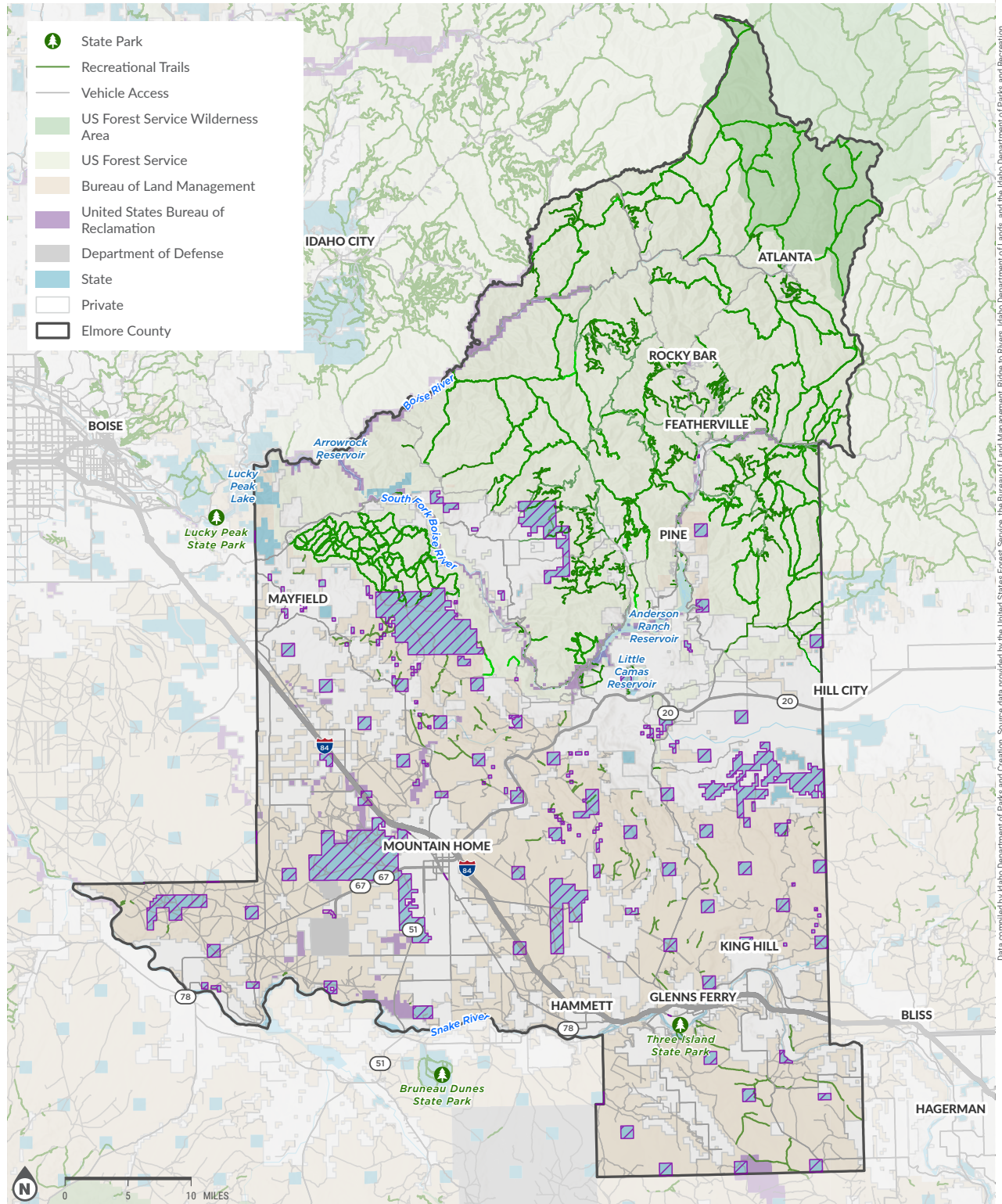
Collaboration and coordination among the diverse range of stakeholders involved, including landowners, land managers, local agencies and community organizations, is crucial to achieving successful outcomes in trail and open space initiatives. By fostering partnerships and establishing clear communication channels, these stakeholders can work together effectively to navigate the complexities of obtaining necessary permissions, addressing land use regulations, and garnering support for such endeavors. The collective efforts of these entities will lay the foundation for a collaborative approach to ensure the development and preservation of trails and open spaces, benefiting the entire community.



Map 4: Land Management

# LAND MANAGEMENT

ELMORE COUNTY TRAILS & OPEN SPACE ACTION PLAN



# CHAPTER 4:

# **PLAN FRAMEWORK**

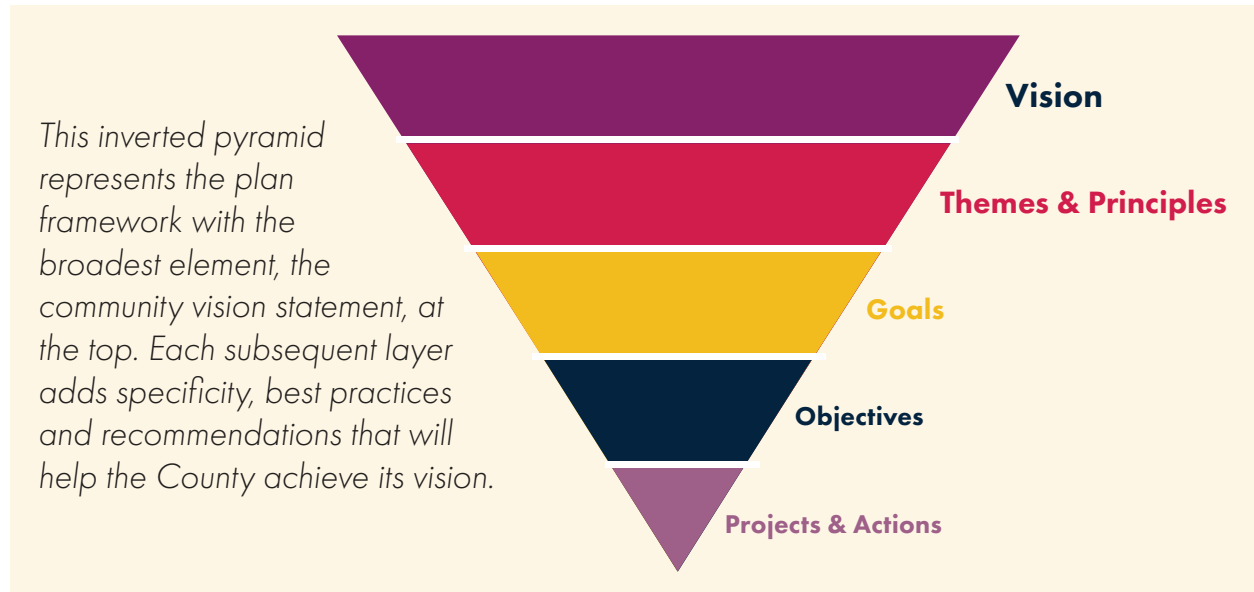
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## PLAN FRAMEWORK

Based on the existing conditions, expected growth patterns, community and partner input and best practice research, the following vision statement, principles, goals, and objectives were developed to support the long-term health of Elmore County’s trails, pathways and open spaces, and the physical and mental health of Elmore County residents.



### VISION STATEMENT

Elmore County’s trails and open space system aims to enhance the quality of life and health of residents by expanding outdoor recreation opportunities for all, creating year-round interest and a variety of uses, while preserving the unique character and natural resources that make Elmore County special.



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following guiding principles provide a framework for decision-making and investment.

All actions and potential projects should be in alignment with these guiding principles.

### Theme 1: Recreation for All

- » Principle 1: Planned trails and open spaces should be within close proximity to Elmore County residents.
- » Principle 2: The trails and open space system should provide something for everyone.
- » Principle 3: Outdoor recreation should be accessible in all seasons.

### Theme 2: Preservation and Stewardship

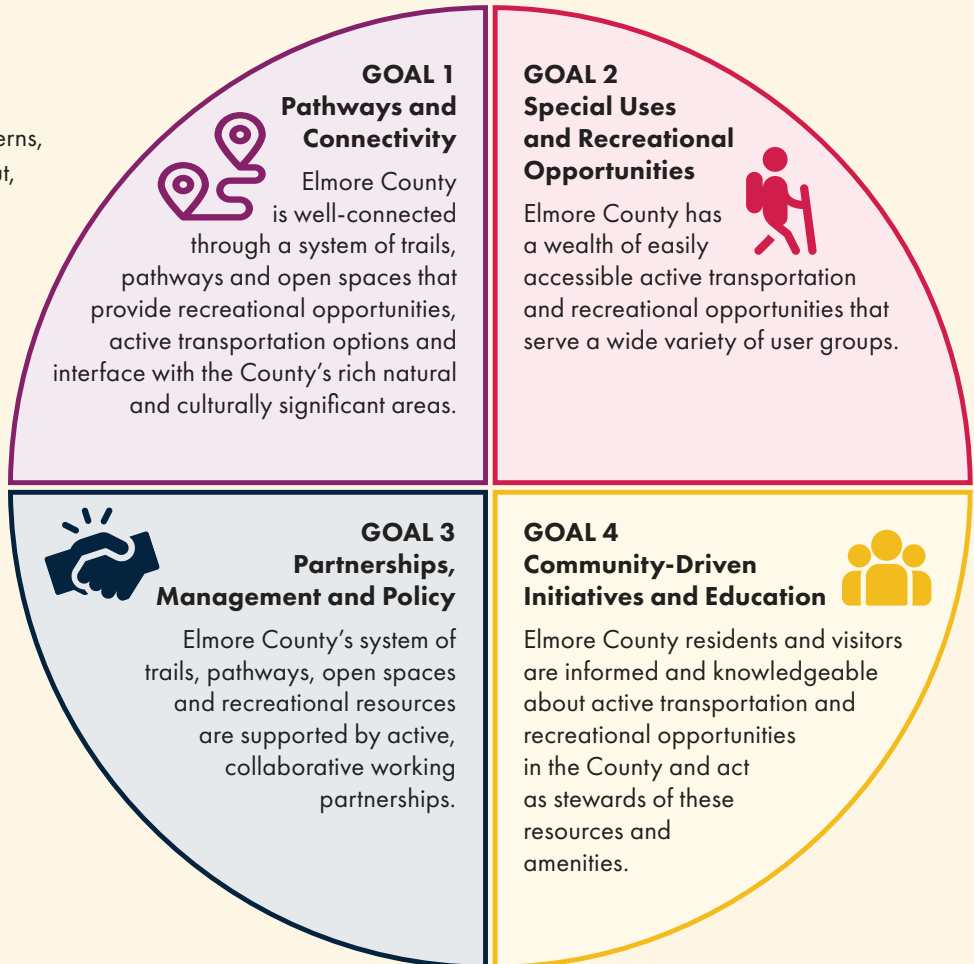
- » Principle 1: Respect local communities and culture, and preserve the communities' unique identities.
- » Principle 2: Preserve agricultural lands.
- » Principle 3: Access to formalized trails and open space should not come at the expense of healthy wildlife habitat or natural resources in Elmore County.
- » Principle 4: Trails and open space should both celebrate and preserve historically significant assets.

### Theme 3: Education and Safety

- » Principle 1: The trails and open space system should prioritize safety.
- » Principle 2: Information about the trails and open space system should promote its safe, responsible use, and should be clear, intuitive and accessible to everyone.

## GOAL AREAS

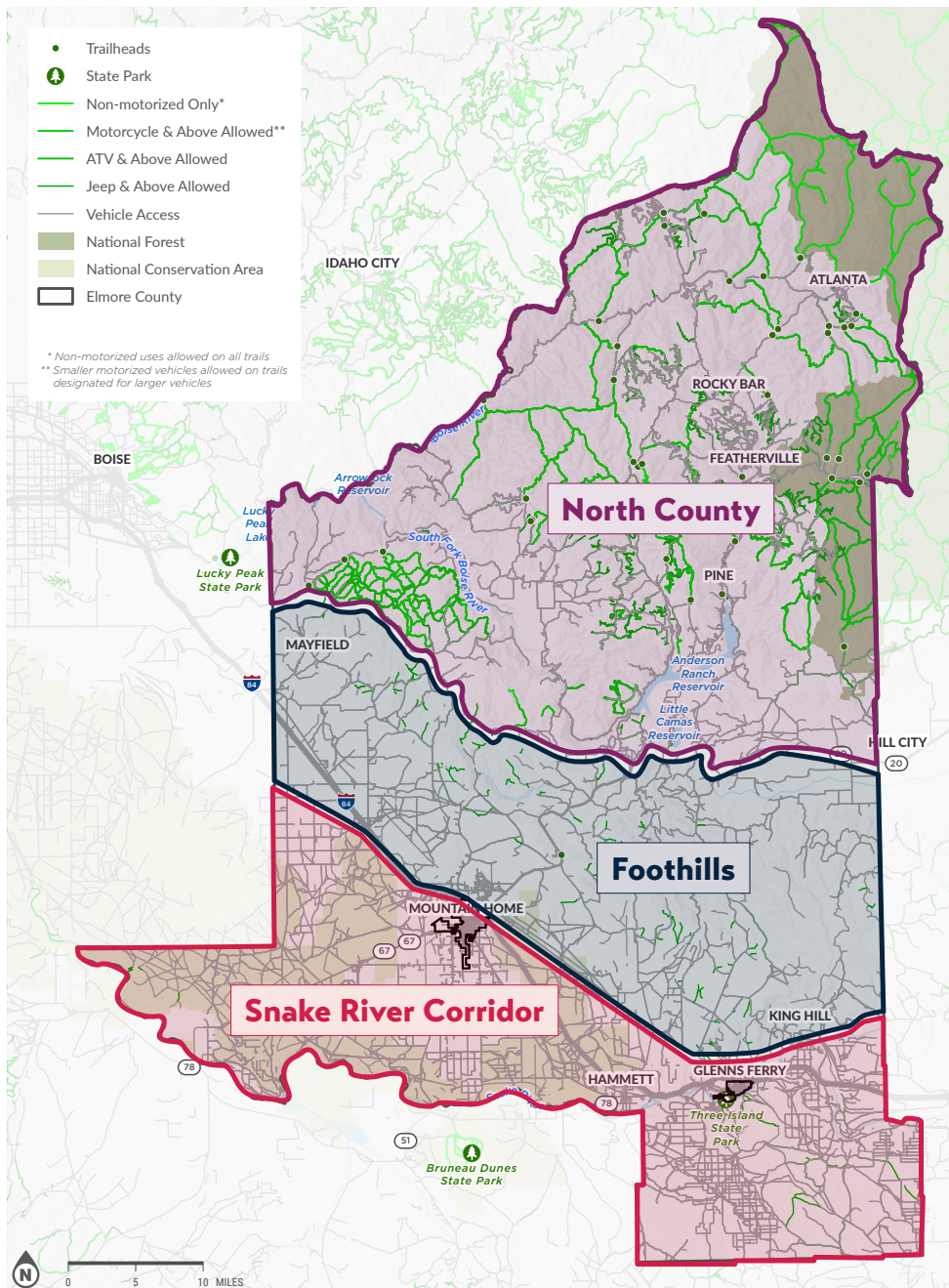
Based on expected growth patterns, community and stakeholder input, and best practice research, the following goal statements were developed to support the vision and principles of this plan.



## KEY PROJECT SUBAREAS - CHARACTERISTICS & STRATEGIES

Elmore County is a large, ecologically and topographically diverse area. This plan identifies three distinct segments of the County. The overall goals and objectives outlined above apply to all areas of Elmore County. Each of these areas has unique physical features and other characteristics that distinguish it from other parts of the County, and consequently, distinct recommended approaches. Subarea characteristics and recommended strategies are identified below.

Map 4: Elmore County Subareas



### North County Subarea

**DESCRIPTION:** “North County” is partially bounded by Highway 20 and by the southern edge of Boise National Forest to the south, and it includes the entire northern portion of Elmore County to its northern border. North County is the most heavily forested and mountainous area of Elmore County, containing the southern and western edges of the Sawtooth Range, and rising to just over 10,000 feet at Snowside Peak, the fifth-highest peak in the Sawtooths. In addition to Boise National Forest, parts of Sawtooth National Forest and Sawtooth National Recreation Area are within Elmore County. The Middle and South Forks of the Boise River drain from this range, running west into Arrowrock Reservoir on the western boundary of Elmore County. Two other reservoirs are heavily used recreation destinations in North County—Anderson Ranch Reservoir and Little Camas Reservoir, which are surrounded by formal campgrounds and informal campsites. The communities of Pine and Featherville lying along the South Fork Boise River are the most populous areas of North County, which also contains the unincorporated community of Atlanta and the historic “ghost town” (and former Elmore County seat) Rocky Bar.

**ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:** This area has the most formalized and connected trail system and the largest number of formalized campsites. However, residents repeatedly note that trails are not as well-marked as

they would like, can be difficult to find and access and/or have limited parking. North County sees heavy seasonal use in summer, particularly along the South Fork Boise River and nearby reservoirs. Variations in reservoir water levels that can impact campsites and water access, and overlapping management jurisdictions among the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Idaho State Parks Department and Elmore County complicate availability and maintenance of recreation amenities and services provisions. This area also sees significant motorized and non-motorized use in all seasons, including in the winter when snowmobiling, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are popular.

**RECOMMENDED APPROACH:** Investing in wayfinding, trailhead maps and trail signage, as well as developing a consolidated online guide to Elmore County trails in this area could significantly increase ease of access. Opportunities to more formally separate motorized and non-motorized uses in both summer and winter seasons should be further examined to deconflict trails as Elmore County’s population and recreation use continue to increase. Aim for continued investments into additional trails and recreation opportunities. Continuing conversation and partnership among federal, state, county and city agencies, and creating joint plans or management agreements, is a best practice that could be of particular help in managing resources and ensuring visitor safety in popular recreation areas of North County.





## Foothills Subarea

**DESCRIPTION:** The “Foothills” is defined by Interstate I-84 to the south and contains the entire length of Highway 20 that passes through Elmore County. The landscape in this area largely consists of high desert flatlands and hills rising northward, with picturesque rocky outcrops and craggy extrusions. This subarea covers the “middle band” of the County and includes the areas of King Hill on the east side and Mayfield on the west side, as well as the northern outskirts of the cities of Glens Ferry and Mountain Home. Significant features include Bennett Mountain, Castle Rock, Teapot Dome, Oregon Trail Hot Springs, Mountain Home Reservoir, Long Tom Reservoir and Canyon Creek. Public lands in this area are managed mainly by the Bureau of Land Management.

**ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:** Segments of trail are sprinkled throughout this subarea, providing “out-and-back” experiences but little to no opportunity to link trail segments together for a longer experience or to create trail loops. Similarly, in-town pathways do not connect to existing trails, limiting access and incentivizing driving. The significant features in this area are generally accessed by informal/undedicated trails and lack significant recreation investments. Although Foothills public lands are largely managed by one agency (Bureau of Land Management), significant swaths of private land would have to be navigated, or permissions granted by landowners, to build out a large, interconnected trail system in this area. Also, funding for trail investments is limited.

**RECOMMENDED APPROACH:** This area presents an opportunity to create an interconnected, multi-user trail system that would showcase popular places and historic areas. Because most of the County’s population lives along the I-84 corridor, creating 3–5 additional trails in this area would significantly increase the percentage of Elmore County’s population living within 30 minutes of a trailhead. Similarly, developing a connection from the Mayfield area into existing trails systems and recreation amenities in Ada County would unlock and significantly increase trail, pathways and recreation access for Elmore County residents. Within this subarea, there are

also opportunities for recreation investments in scenic/significant places such as local reservoirs/wetlands and along the historic Oregon Trail. Other parts of Idaho with areas like Elmore County’s “Foothills” where investments have been made in “town-to-trail” linkages and coordinated trail and pathways systems have seen significant resident use increase. From a planning and management standpoint, there seems to be opportunity for involving local users and user groups in fundraising and trail-building and maintenance in this area. Finding appropriate and easy methods for private landowners to grant access or donate recreation easement will be a key part of creating an interconnected trail system here.





### **Snake River Corridor Subarea**

**DESCRIPTION:** One of Idaho’s most significant natural features, touching nearly every part of the state, the Snake River winds its way through southern Elmore County on its path westward toward the Columbia River Basin. The “Snake River Corridor” subarea covers the southern portion of the County from I-84 to the Snake River (Elmore County’s southern boundary) and contains the cities of Glens Ferry and Mountain Home, the unincorporated community Hammett, and Mountain Home Air Force Base, making it by far the most populous area of the County. The Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey Conservation Area lies partially within Elmore County here, and a portion of C. J. Strike Reservoir and related campgrounds sit along the southern border. Three Island Crossing State Park and an Oregon Trail Interpretive Site are located near Glens Ferry, attracting activity from residents and visitors travelling the interstate.

**ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:** A collaborative effort to designate and invest in the Snake River Water Trail, connecting Glens Ferry and Three Island Crossing State Park on the east into Farewell Bend State Park in Oregon on the west has been in place for many years, and has official Idaho State Park designation. The National Park Service can also designate National Water Trails, though this has not been put in place for the Snake River at this time. Investments in river access have been made along the waterway over the years, though there remain many opportunities for additional investments, including the possibility of a “Snake

River Greenway” along the river serving bikes and pedestrians. Commuters between the City of Mountain Home and the nearby Air Force Base 13 miles away are interested in a multi-use pathway and/or designated pedestrian-bike route to enable alternate transportation to work as well as recreation and exercise. An old rail spur offers a potential means of connecting these two population centers. Completion of the Heritage Trail in Glens Ferry would connect the city to Three Island Crossing State Park, delivering increased trail, pathway and recreation access to the entire community, but the project has been held up by the need to navigate Pacific Union railroad crossing access.

**RECOMMENDED APPROACH:** This subarea presents the biggest opportunity to connect Elmore County’s population centers to each other. Building active transportation to connect Mountain Home, Glens Ferry, the Air Force base and Hammett would allow for greater non-automotive mobility in the southern region of the County. These regional non-motorized trail investments could also connect into municipal pathways and trails and help overcome safety concerns by adding appropriate crossing infrastructure over highways, rail lines and irrigation infrastructure. This subarea would greatly benefit from the coordination of county, city and land management leadership in the identification of routes and sites suitable for new investment and connectivity. Lastly, since this is the most populous geographic subarea in the County, extensive community engagement will be critical in designing connections that best meet the needs of residents.

### Snake River Water Trail

The purpose of a “water trail” or “blueway” is to allow and encourage access by (usually) non-motorized craft such as rafts, canoes, kayaks and paddleboards along a waterway by investing in campsites, put-ins/take-outs and other facilities such as viewpoints, interpretive elements, picnic areas and restrooms serving boaters and other users. Often a system of related pathways and trails is created alongside the waterway. For more information about the Snake River Water Trail, visit: [www.snakeriverwatertrail.org](http://www.snakeriverwatertrail.org).

The Snake River Water Trail has already seen significant planning and partnership development and today serves as one of the largest recreational draws in Southern Idaho. The recommendations in this plan related to the Snake River Water Trail are generally for minor improvements that would make it easier for Elmore County residents to access this valuable resource.



Source: Snapshot from Snake River Water Trail Reach Maps



## TOP 13 PRIORITY PROJECTS & ACTION ITEMS

While dozens of potential improvements and recommendations could enhance the system of active transportation and recreation opportunities throughout Elmore County, this list represents the highest priority actions, projects and investments. These projects were identified as potential priorities for a number of reasons ranging from greatest potential impact, near-term feasibility and public/stakeholder support.

1. Install trail maps, trail markers and improved wayfinding signage on existing trails and trailheads on public lands throughout northern Elmore County.
2. Identify and develop a trail connection from the Mayfield area into Ada County trails and recreational amenities such as Ridge to Rivers trail system, Oregon Trail, Boise River Greenbelt and Lucky Peak State Recreation Area.
3. Complete the hardscaping of the Heritage Trail south of Glens Ferry that connects residents and visitors to Three Island State Park amenities.
4. Formalize the "Teapot Dome" trail and improve trailhead access and parking along Highway 20 north of Mountain Home.
5. Develop example land use regulations that could be incorporated into local ordinances requiring or incentivizing pathway, open space and trails investments in areas of new development or redevelopment throughout Elmore County.
6. Establish a regional partnership to plan and develop a "Foothills" trail system connecting existing formal and informal trails and investing in new trail infrastructure in the area north of I-84 between Mountain Home and Mayfield, and along Highway 20.
7. Reconvene a regional partnership group to further develop and build a Snake River Trail and Water Trail recreational corridor that includes water-based amenities such as docks and access points for put-in/take out, as well as land-based amenities such as trails and pathways, along an identified greenway parallel to the river for pedestrians, bikers and other non-motorized users.
8. Create a commuter pathway or trail connecting Mountain Home to the Mountain Home Air Force Base, possibly following the historic rail spur.
9. Install new boat docks and ramps at Anderson Ranch Reservoir.
10. Create or utilize an existing public land trust or management entity for trail easement dedication and open space preservation in Elmore County, providing a pathway and process for private landowners to contribute to active transportation and recreational opportunities on their lands.
11. Conduct an analysis of campgrounds in northern Elmore County and identify potential new campground sites and improvements to existing campgrounds with a particular focus on maintaining a viable campground inventory in the face of possible water level changes at Anderson Ranch Reservoir.
12. Create and regularly update a website (or other communication channels) that aggregates important information about the pathways, trails, open spaces and recreational amenities available in Elmore County across jurisdictions and management areas.
13. Work with Elmore County, land management agencies and other local governments to formally adopt this Action Plan as a guiding framework for regional decision-making and collaboration.

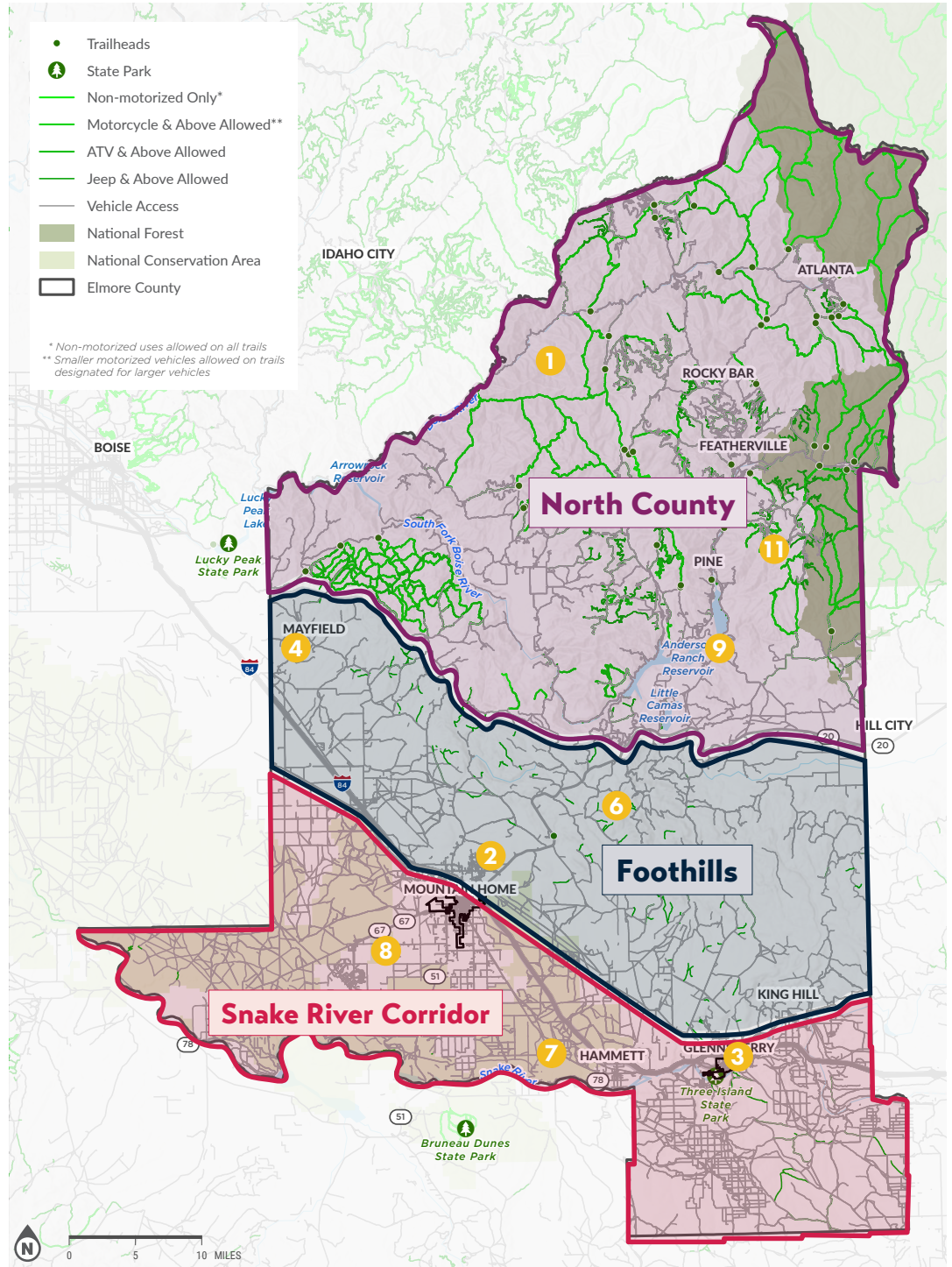
Map 5: Top 13 Priority Projects & Action Items

**Recommended Policies**

- 5 Develop example land use regulations that could be incorporated into local ordinances requiring or incentivizing pathway, open space and trails investments in areas of new development or redevelopment throughout Elmore County.
- 10 Create or utilize an existing public land trust or management entity for trail easement dedication and open space preservation in Elmore County, providing a pathway and process for private landowners to contribute to active transportation and recreational opportunities on their lands.
- 12 Create and regularly update a website (or other communication channels) that aggregates important information about the pathways, trails, open spaces and recreational amenities available in Elmore County across jurisdictions and management areas.
- 13 Work with Elmore County, land management agencies, and local governments to formally adopt this plan as a guiding framework for regional decision making and collaboration.

**EXISTING TRAILS & OPEN SPACE**

ELMORE COUNTY TRAILS & OPEN SPACE ACTION PLAN



## **GOALS, OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES**

The goals, objectives and strategies identified below are designed to support the vision and guiding principles for pathways, trails, open spaces and active transportation investments throughout Elmore County.



### **Goal 1: Pathways and Connectivity**

Elmore County is well-connected through a system of trails, pathways and open spaces that provide recreational opportunities and active transportation options and interface with the County’s rich natural and culturally significant areas.

Objective A: Work with local jurisdictions to create or improve town-to-trail connections.

Objective B: Improve access to and management of existing trails and natural spaces on public lands.

Objective C: Create new trails and develop connected trail systems to serve all areas of Elmore County, with an emphasis on trails that increase recreation and active transportation access in areas where this is lacking.

Objective D: Ensure that land use policies encourage or require trails and pathways infrastructure within new development and redevelopment areas.

Objective E: Protect, preserve and highlight historic Oregon Trail routes and other significant sites.

Objective F: Maintain and increase funding resources for trail and pathway investments.

#### **Recommended Actions that Support this Goal**

1. Complete the hardscaping of the Heritage Trail south of Glenns Ferry that connects residents and visitors to Three Island State Park amenities.
2. Formalize the “Teapot Dome” trail and improve trailhead access and parking along Highway 20 north of Mountain Home.
3. Create a commuter pathway or trail connecting Mountain Home to the Mountain Home Air Force Base, possibly following the historic rail spur.
4. Identify and develop a trail connection from the Mayfield area into Ada County trails and recreational amenities such as Ridge to Rivers trail system, Oregon Trail, Boise River Greenbelt and Lucky Peak State Recreation Area.

## **Goal 2: Special Uses and Recreational Opportunities**

Elmore County has a wealth of easily accessible active transportation and recreational opportunities that serve a wide variety of user groups.

Objective A: Work toward separating and formalizing areas for non-motorized and motorized uses wherever possible.

Objective B: Users, user groups, landowners and land management agencies work closely together to identify and improve or create new trails and other recreational amenities serving specific recreational user groups and uses, including:

- Cyclists
- Equestrians
- Hikers/runners
- Boaters and water sports
- Winter uses such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing
- Passive recreation such as bird-watching and wildlife viewing

Objective C: Create or update pathways, trails, and recreational amenities throughout Elmore County to accommodate and serve adaptive users, challenged athletes and older adults.

Objective D: Identify and work to preserve and protect culturally, historically and naturally significant areas, particularly those at risk or experiencing degradation from high use.

### **Recommended Actions that Support this Goal**

1. Install new boat docks and ramps at Anderson Ranch Reservoir.
2. Conduct an analysis of campgrounds in Northern Elmore County and identify potential new campground sites and improvements to existing campgrounds with a particular focus on maintaining a viable campground inventory in the face of a possible water level changes at Anderson Ranch Reservoir.

### **Goal 3: Partnerships, Management and Policy**

Elmore County's system of trails, pathways, open spaces and recreational resources are supported by active, collaborative working partnerships.

Objective A: Develop or renew management agreements in areas where multiple jurisdictions have management authority, and where trail and pathway routes and connections cross jurisdictions.

Objective B: Regularly convene management partners to review and update this Action Plan, and to assess the health of the system, monitor and adjust management agreements and identify opportunities for new investment and improvements.

Objective C: Identify and implement policies, practices and enforcement approaches that are effective, consistent with management best practices, and informed and understood by local communities and user groups.

#### **Recommended Actions that Support this Goal**

1. Establish a regional partnership to plan and develop a "Foothills" trail system connecting existing formal and informal trails and investing in new trail infrastructure in the area north of I-84 between Mountain Home and Mayfield, and along Highway 20.
2. Reconvene a regional partnership group to further develop and build a Snake River Trail and Water Trail recreational corridor that includes water-based amenities such as docks and access points for put-in/take out, as well as land-based amenities such as trails and pathways, along an identified greenway parallel to the river for pedestrians, bikers and other non-motorized users.
3. Develop example land use regulations that can be incorporated into local ordinances requiring or incentivizing pathway, open space and trails investments in areas of new development or redevelopment throughout Elmore County.
4. Create or utilize an existing public land trust or management entity for trail easement dedication and open space preservation in Elmore County, providing a pathway and process for private landowners to contribute to active transportation and recreational opportunities on their lands.
5. Work with Elmore County, land management agencies and other local governments to formally adopt this Action Plan as a guiding framework for regional decision-making and collaboration.





### **Goal 4: Community-Driven Initiatives and Education**

Elmore County residents and visitors are informed and knowledgeable about active transportation and recreational opportunities in the County and act as stewards of these resources and amenities.

Objective A: Boost communications to inform community members and the general public about active transportation and recreational amenities throughout Elmore County.

Objective B: Provide ongoing opportunities for the public to engage with and provide feedback to partner agencies, land managers and landowners about improvements to active transportation, recreational opportunities and use management.

Objective C: Identify ways in which volunteer groups and local organizations can contribute to the maintenance, management and investment in active transportation and recreational opportunities throughout Elmore County.

#### **Recommended Actions that Support this Goal**

1. Install trail maps, trail markers and improved wayfinding signage on existing trails and trailheads on public lands throughout northern Elmore County.
2. Create and regularly update a website (or other communication channels) that aggregates important information about the pathways, trails, open spaces and recreational amenities available in Elmore County across jurisdictions and management areas.



# CHAPTER 5: **IMPLEMENTATION**

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## **POLICIES & ACTIONS**

Projects and actions identified in this table were generated from a range of stakeholder interviews, advisory group members and suggestions from the public, along with findings from a review of existing conditions and ongoing efforts in the County. Feasibility for most projects in these tables will be determined by the presence of a local jurisdiction, land management agency or user group leading the project. Projects and actions highlighted in the tables following were identified as potential priorities during this action planning process. A project may be identified as a priority for its level of popularity, its ease of implementation, or its potential to help achieve the mission outlined in this Elmore County Pathways and Open Spaces Action Plan. All projects and actions identified in this phase of the planning process will require additional evaluation, impact assessments and partnership conversations prior to implementation.



The potential partners and stakeholders in the tables following represent only a small sampling of the participating groups that should be included in the planning and design efforts of these identified projects. A full analysis of partners and stakeholders should be conducted as each project is implemented.

Goal Area 1: Pathways and Connectivity			
Action or Policy	Next Steps and Recommendations	Potential Partners and Stakeholders	Intended Outcomes
Complete the hardscaping of the Heritage Trail south of Glens Ferry that connects residents and visitors to Three Island State Park amenities.	Conduct a site analysis to identify the best connection into Three Island State Park and apply for funding to complete the project.	Elmore County, Glens Ferry, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, private landowners, Union Pacific, Glens Ferry residents and visitors	Complete the hardscaping to allow for easier access into Three Island State Park and improve safety outcomes for users.
Formalize the “Teapot Dome” trail and improve trailhead access and parking along Highway 20 north of Mountain Home.	Conduct a site analysis and apply for project funding. Identify any sensitive resources near the project site.	Elmore County, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Land Management, Western Elmore County Recreation District	Improve site access and availability for a wider range of recreational users.
Create a commuter pathway or trail connecting Mountain Home to the Mountain Home Air Force Base, possibly following the historic rail spur.	Create a strategic plan for trail development, including an analysis of land ownership, potential constraints and opportunities for funding.	Elmore County, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Land Management, Western Elmore County Recreation District, Mountain Home, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Union Pacific, user representatives	Connect Mountain Home to Mountain Home Air Force Base with a continuous and safe non-motorized pathway. The pathway would enable easier active transportation between one of the area’s largest employers and the County’s population center.
Identify and develop a trail connection from the Mayfield area into Ada County trails and recreation amenities such as Ridge to Rivers trail system, Oregon Trail, Boise River Greenbelt and Lucky Peak State Recreation Area.	Create a strategic plan for trail development, including an analysis of land ownership, potential constraints and opportunities for funding.	Elmore County, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Land Management, Western Elmore County Recreation District, Ridge to Rivers, Ada County, developers, private landowners, user representatives	Increase access to existing regional recreation assets and expand active mobility opportunities around new development in western Elmore County.
Explore the possibility of creating new non-motorized trails, pathways and improving existing connections linking the following destinations: - Pine to Featherville - Mountain Home to Glens Ferry - Hammett to Glens Ferry - Hammett to King Hill	Conduct connection-specific strategic plans, identify potential funding sources and convene partners and landowners around specific pathway connections.	Elmore County, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Western Elmore County Recreation District, Mountain Home, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Glens Ferry, Hammett, Pine, Featherville, user representatives, other representative interests identified in the planning process	Create connectivity between population centers throughout Elmore County so that residents and visitors can more easily utilize non-motorized transportation options to get around the County. These pathways could serve both mobility and recreational purposes.
Create a new recreational pathways system west of the Mountain Home Air Force base.	Conduct a master planning process with a focus on identifying the specific opportunity areas around Mountain Home Air Force Base.	Elmore County, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Land Management, Western Elmore County Recreation District, Birds of Prey Center, private landowners, user representatives	Create a new multi-use pathway system in the Bureau of Land Management land west of Mountain Home Air Force Base to provide additional recreational opportunities to individuals living at the base and in Mountain Home and other locations in the southern part of the County.
Explore the possibilities of increasing access to Bennett Mountain.	Conduct a site-specific strategic plan to identify opportunities for and constraints to increasing access to Bennett Mountain.	Elmore County, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Western Elmore County Recreation District, private landowners, user representatives	Enable access to one of Elmore County’s notable summits and create additional recreational opportunities and interfaces with nature.
Create additional pathways and trails that connect population centers to C.J. Strike Reservoir. Improve existing infrastructure at the reservoir such as boat docks, restrooms and campgrounds.	Conduct a site analysis and apply for project funding. Identify any sensitive resources near the project site.	Elmore County, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Land Management, Western Elmore County Recreation District, private landowners, user representatives	Improve site access and availability for a wider range of recreational users.

Goal Area 2: Special Uses and Recreational Opportunities			
Action or Policy	Next Steps and Recommendations	Potential Partners and Stakeholders	Intended Outcomes
Install new boat docks and ramps at Anderson Ranch Reservoir.	Conduct a site analysis to identify locations for new ramps and docks, and apply for funding.	Elmore County, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, recreational users	Improve access to water-based activities at Anderson Ranch Reservoir.
Conduct an analysis of campgrounds in northern Elmore County. Identify potential new campground sites and improvements to existing campgrounds with a particular focus on maintaining a viable campground inventory in the face of possible water level changes at Anderson Ranch.	Conduct a site analysis to identify locations for potential new campgrounds and improvements to existing campgrounds.	Elmore County, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, recreational users	Expand and preserve camping access in Northern Elmore County.
Create and/or preserve equestrian-focused trail opportunities, including adding horse trailer parking and identifying equestrian-only trails.	Create an equestrian user focus group to identify desired improvements and investments. Identify locations for new improvements and infrastructure.	Elmore County, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, equestrian users	Solidify Elmore County as a destination for equestrian users in southern Idaho.
Develop a “bikeway” bike path and/or route along the Highway 20 corridor connecting Mountain Home and Hill City to recreation opportunities in other parts of Elmore and Camas Counties, such as Castle Rocks/Cat Creek Canyon, Bennett Mountain and Soldier Mountain recreation area.	Conduct a regional site analysis to identify potential connection locations, constraints and opportunities.	Elmore County, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Western Elmore County Recreation District, Mountain Home, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Glens Ferry, Hammet, Pine, Featherville, user representatives and other representative interests identified in the planning process	Improve bike infrastructure throughout the County, enabling active transportation connections and increasing recreational ridership.
Build a boardwalk walking trail with viewing platforms in/around Mountain Home Reservoir area.	Create a site master plan with a focus on creating a natural trail and boardwalk around the reservoir.	Elmore County, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Land Management, Western Elmore County Recreation District, Mountain Home, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Union Pacific, user representatives	Create a new space for active mobility with a focus on creating positive interfaces with nature.
Add and improve boat ramps and docks at specific locations throughout the County, including Deer Creek, along the Snake River, Anderson Ranch Reservoir, etc.	Conduct a regional assessment of boating infrastructure and address deficiencies by adding additional ramps and docks. Apply for specific project funding.	Elmore County, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Western Elmore County Recreation District, Mountain Home, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Glens Ferry, Hammet, Pine, Featherville, user representatives and other representative interests identified in the planning process	Increase waterfront recreational opportunities throughout the County with a specific focus on human-powered craft and swimming opportunities.
Prioritize and create ADA-compliant amenities, pathways, trails and recreational opportunities.	Conduct an assessment of recreational amenities throughout the County and identify areas and specific activities that have deficiencies for ADA-compliant accessibility.	Elmore County, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Western Elmore County Recreation District, Mountain Home, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Glens Ferry, Hammet, Pine, Featherville, user representatives and other representative interests identified in the planning process	Ensure recreational opportunities are designed to be accessible to all individuals and meet ADA standards.
Leverage existing cultural assets such as wineries, Blue Bird Trail, Glens Ferry water trail and others to create unique recreational opportunities and partnerships.	Work with local economic development departments and partners to showcase regional and cultural assets as part of recreation and active lifestyles.	Elmore County, Elmore County Economic Development Authority, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Western Elmore County Recreation District, Mountain Home, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Glens Ferry, Hammet, Pine, Featherville, private businesses and landowners	Increase recreation and improve health outcomes for Elmore County residents by creating new active experiences that draw users who might not traditionally engage with outdoor recreation and active mobility.

<b>Goal Area 3: Partnership, Management and Policy</b>			
<b>Action or Policy</b>	<b>Next Steps and Recommendations</b>	<b>Potential Partners and Stakeholders</b>	<b>Intended Outcomes</b>
Reconvene a regional partnership group to further develop and build of a Snake River Trail and Water Trail recreational corridor that includes water-based amenities such as docks, access points for put-in/take out, as well as land-based amenities such as trails and pathways, along an identified greenway route parallel to the river for pedestrians, bikers and other non-motorized users.	Invite and convene partners and stakeholders and conduct a collaborative planning process focused on opportunities, constraints and funding availability.	Elmore County, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Land Management, Western Elmore County Recreation District, Mountain Home, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Glens Ferry, Hammet, Union Pacific, user representatives	Continue to increase access to the Snake River Water Trail and plan for additional parallel amenities such as a greenbelt, shade structures and other desired improvements along the Snake River.
Develop example land use regulations that can be incorporated into local ordinances requiring or incentivizing pathway, open space and trails investments in areas of new development or redevelopment throughout Elmore County.	Convene a regional planning team to evaluate existing land use regulations and propose changes and improvements to make it easier to create active recreation opportunities for Elmore County residents.	Elmore County, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Western Elmore County Recreation District, Mountain Home, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Glens Ferry, Hammet, Pine, Featherville, developers, landowners	Create land use regulations that support the desired recreational amenities, pathways and trails outcomes identified in this Action Plan.
Create or utilize an existing public land trust or management entity for trail easement dedication and open space preservation in Elmore County, providing a pathway and process for private landowners to contribute to active transportation and recreational opportunities on their lands.	Convene a group of interested stakeholders and conduct a strategic planning process for a new or improved land trust in Elmore County.	Elmore County, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Western Elmore County Recreation District, Mountain Home, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Glens Ferry, Hammet, Pine, Featherville, developers, landowners	Set the stage for long-term land acquisition, protection of natural spaces and collaborative land management structures.
Increase the maintenance schedule for all trails, pathways and trailhead amenities throughout the County.	Maintenance and improvements.	Elmore County, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, user groups	Ensure that trails, pathways and recreational spaces are well-maintained to ensure a desirable and safe recreation experience.
Implement and advertise a trails and pathways rating system.	Convene a group of trails and pathways managers to identify the metrics for evaluating trail ratings and ease of use. Identify the most effective platform for distributing and updating this information.	Any agency or group who manages formal trails and pathways throughout the County.	Help users select the recreational experience that best suits their desire and level of expertise.
Implement management strategies to reduce user conflicts.	Work with all management agencies to identify existing conflict areas and problem sites. Implement strategies to reduce user conflicts.	Any agency or group that manages formal trails and pathways throughout the County.	Improved user experiences and safer trails for all users.

<b>Goal Area 3: Partnership, Management and Policy</b>			
<b>Action or Policy</b>	<b>Next Steps and Recommendations</b>	<b>Potential Partners and Stakeholders</b>	<b>Intended Outcomes</b>
Install trail maps, trail markers and improved wayfinding signage on existing trails and trailheads on public lands throughout northern Elmore County.	Assess existing trailheads and identify opportunities to improve wayfinding, signage and educational materials throughout the County.	Any agency or group that manages formal trails, pathways or open spaces throughout the County.	Increase user satisfaction and safety by providing informational materials and wayfinding at all formalized recreational opportunities.
Create and regularly update a website (or other communication channels) that aggregates important information about the pathways, trails, open spaces and recreational amenities available in Elmore County across jurisdictions and management areas.	Identify a lead agency that will maintain and update a website for Elmore County recreational opportunities. Partner with key stakeholders and land management agencies to regularly update the information on the website.	Any agency or group that manages formal trails, pathways or open spaces throughout the County.	Ensure all users have access to accurate and up-to-date information about the trails and recreational opportunities, as well as any ongoing considerations that may make certain activities less safe or enjoyable.
Create and distribute recreational opportunity maps highlighting opportunities for specific user groups.	Inventory and compile all maps and ensure they are up-to-date with helpful information. Distribute updated maps via websites and social media, as well as physical copies throughout the County.	Any agency or group that manages formal trails, pathways or open spaces throughout the County.	Ensure that all users know where recreational opportunities exist in their community and throughout the County.
Host seasonal classes promoting safe trail and open space use with general guidelines and user-specific information, such as avalanche classes for skiers and snowshoers.	Work with interested agencies and user groups to offer and promote educational classes and hands-on learning opportunities. Evaluate interest after a set period of time and adjust based on user feedback.	Any agency or group qualified and willing to provide accurate and helpful educational opportunities.	Ensure users can safely recreate throughout Elmore County.

# APPENDICES



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**APPENDIX A: DETAILED PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY**



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# Appendix A – Detailed Public Engagement Summary

## Survey Summary

### Executive Summary

The Elmore County Trails, Pathways, and Open Space Survey aimed to engage Elmore County residents and collect the community's valuable input regarding the future of their open space and trails. The survey was open May 17th through June 12th, 2023, and received 352 responses.

The survey was distributed via SurveyMonkey and by paper copies which were advertised through numerous public channels including project and partner webpages, social media, email list serves, flyers and during in-person events.

### Survey Key Themes

Several key themes emerged from the survey results. These included a desire to increase accessibility and maintenance of Elmore County's open spaces and trails; a correlation between outdoor recreations and health; and support for future exploration of funding opportunities and potential projects.

#### **Desire for Increased Accessibility and Maintenance:**

There was agreement among survey respondents that Elmore County open spaces and trails have limited accessibility and options for outdoor recreation. While respondents expressed overall satisfaction with Elmore County's open spaces and trails, some voiced concerns about the lack of specialized trails, maintenance issues, and lack of wayfinding signage. Aspirations for the future of Elmore County open spaces and trails include increasing accessibility in these ways and through the preservation and maintenance of those spaces.

#### **Correlation between Outdoor Recreation and Health:**

Notably, respondents strongly correlate outdoor recreation with improved mental and physical health. This was expressed through agreement with health statements such as feeling better when recreating outdoors, believing outdoor recreation is important for mental health, and that the community benefits from well-maintained outdoor recreation opportunities.

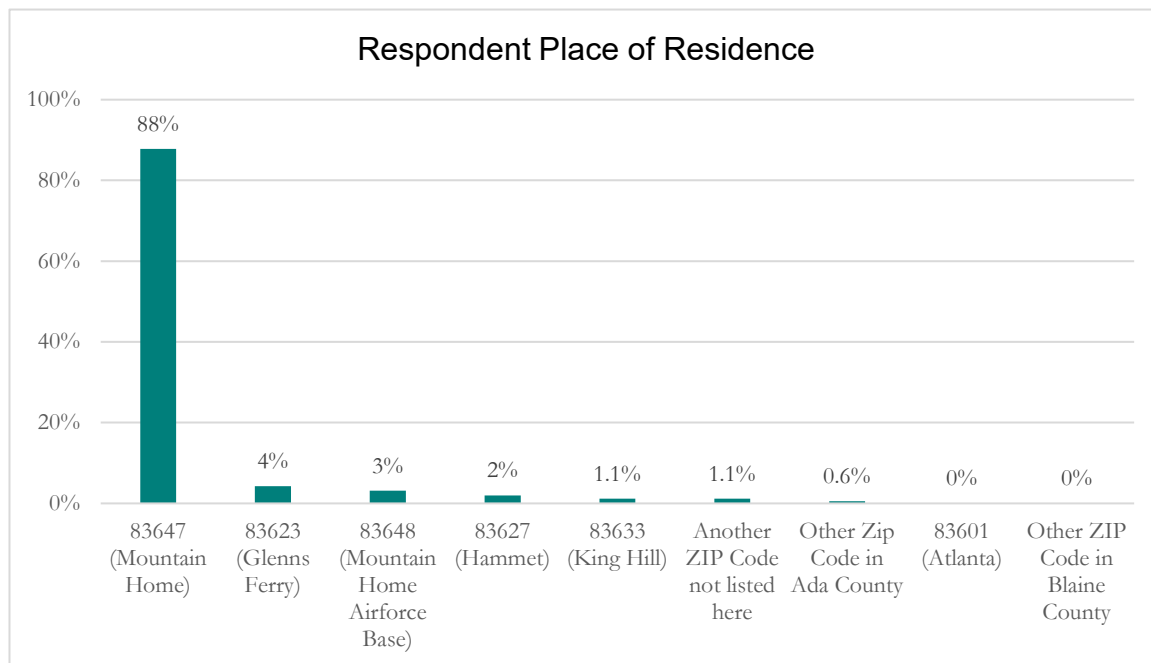
#### **Support for Exploring Funding Opportunities and Potential Projects:**

Many respondents agreed that it felt practical to explore further funding opportunities and increase investment in Elmore County's open spaces and trails. The allocations of those funds could be directed toward any of the potential project ideas expressed by survey respondents which included trail creation, park development, improved amenities, increased wayfinding signage, and improved partnerships. The survey identified two primary focus areas within Elmore County to begin potential project ideas which is shown later in this analysis.

## Respondent Information

There was a wide range of participation from survey respondents based on their selections in the optional demographics section.

- **Age:** All age groups (18 to 65+) were represented in this survey. However, there was an underrepresentation of individuals from the age group 18-24, which represented only 2% of total responses.
- **Race and Ethnicity:** Elmore County’s overall racial distribution is reflected in the survey responses, however there is a slight underrepresentation from Black, Asian or Asian American, and Native American communities. Combined survey responses from these racial and ethnic communities represented only 5% of the overall survey responses, whereas these combined groups account for approximately 8% of Elmore County’s total population.
- **Household Income:** As of 2021 data, Elmore County reported an annual median household income of approximately \$48,475. Survey respondents’ self-reported income highlights are shown below.
  - The largest percentage (26%) of respondent’s self-reported annual income ranging from \$100,000 to \$150,000.
  - Notably, about 16% of respondents earn less than the 2021 median household income of \$48,475, while 10% of respondents earn over \$150,000.
- **Place of Residence:** Respondents to the survey represented various jurisdictions within Elmore County with a majority of respondents residing in Mountain Home.
- **Recreation Location:** Respondents noted that they generally recreate in or near Mountain Home, Pine, and Featherville the most.



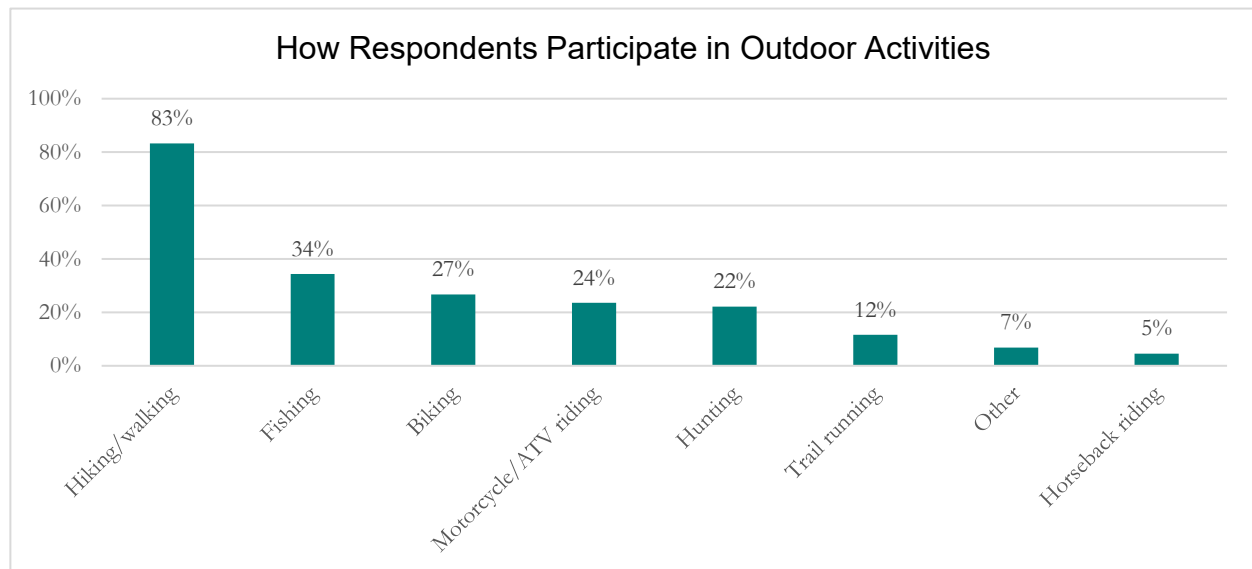
## System Use

### Recreational Outdoor Activities

Respondents expressed that they engage in the following recreational outdoor activities:

- Hiking/Walking
- Fishing
- Biking
- Motorcycle/ATV riding
- Hunting

Other common answers include camping, kayaking, boating, rockhounding, and foraging.



A majority of respondents (62%) stated that their primary activity when accessing trails and open spaces is hiking or walking; all other activities were substantially less (9% or fewer based on responses). There are several other uses for the trails that residents may use. While these user groups are smaller than those who typically engage in recreational activities in Elmore County, these groups are still significant and should be considered in all planning initiatives involving park assets.

#### Most Utilization by Group:

**Primary Activity:** Trail runners and bikers  
**Place of Residence:** Mtn Home AFB and Hammett  
**Self-Reported Annual Income:** \$150-300k and \$30-50k  
**Age:** 45-64 and 25-44

#### Least Utilization by Group:

**Primary Activity:** Hikers and horseback riders  
**Place of Residence:** King Hill and Glenns Ferry  
**Self-Reported Annual Income:** \$15k or less, \$300k+ and \$15-30k  
**Age:** 18-24 and 65+

#### Utilization of Open Spaces and Trails

When respondents were asked to share how often they use or visit the trails, most respondents (65%) indicated that they access trails a few times a month or more frequently. Less frequent visits accounted for about 35% of all responses.

## Satisfaction with Elmore County Trails, Pathways, and Open Spaces

### General Satisfaction

Generally, respondents expressed a high level of satisfaction with the Elmore County open spaces and trails; 42% said they were either extremely satisfied or satisfied with the system overall and 38% expressed neutral feelings. The 20% of respondents who said they were dissatisfied with open spaces and trails in Elmore County gave the following reasons:

- There are not enough trails for various exclusive purposes, i.e. hiking-only trails, biking-only trails, off-roading-only trails, etc. Additionally, there are not enough trails accessible throughout Elmore County.
- Lack of trail maintenance.
- No trail wayfinding signage or public awareness of how to access trail and open spaces.
- Lack of scenery and shade.

#### Most Satisfied Groups:

**Primary Activity:** Hunters and trail runners

**Place of Residence:** Mtn Home AFB and Mtn Home

**Self-Reported Annual Income:** \$300k+ and \$75-100k

**Age:** 65+ and 25-44

#### Least Satisfied Groups:

**Primary Activity:** Bikers and horseback riders

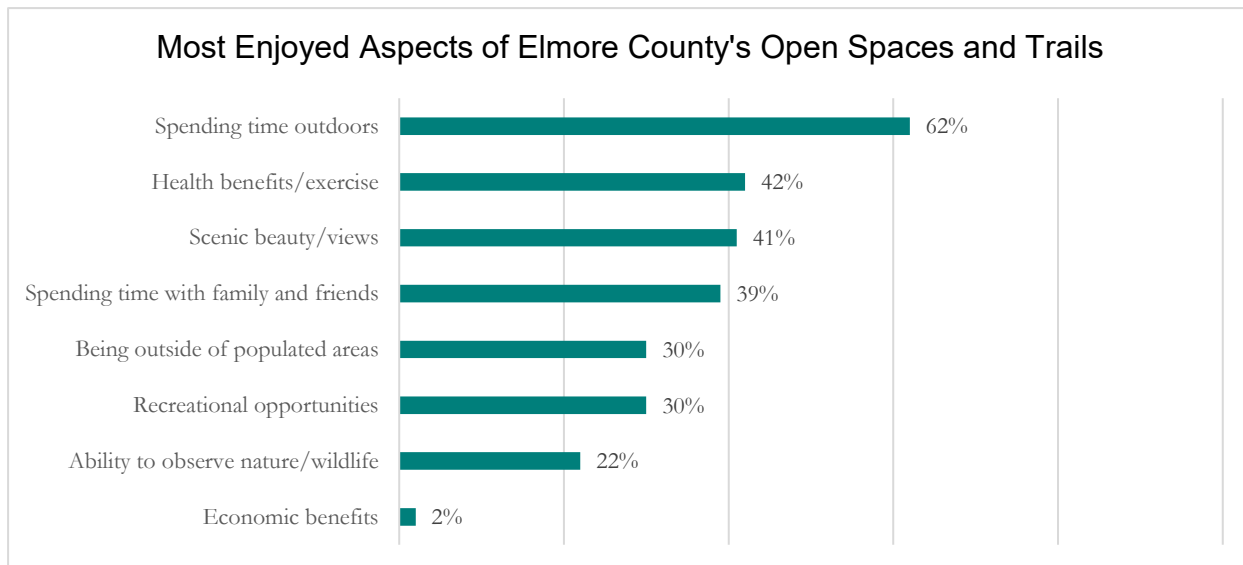
**Place of Residence:** Hammett and King Hill

**Self-Reported Annual Income:** \$15-30k and \$30-50k

**Age:** 18-24 and 45-64

### Enjoyed Aspects of Elmore County's Open Spaces and Trails

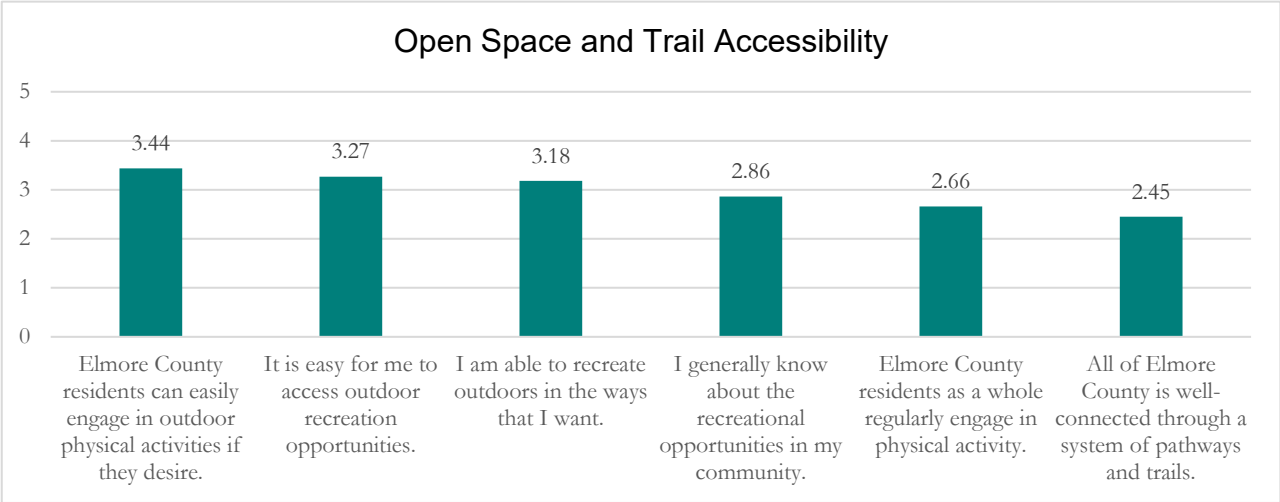
When asked what they personally enjoy most about Elmore County open spaces and trails, respondents indicated that they find spending time outdoors (62%) the most enjoyable aspect followed by enjoying the health benefits (42%) and enjoying the scenic beauty (41%). Notably, economic benefits weren't an aspect respondents felt brought them joy when engaging in outdoor activities.



# Community Health and Activity

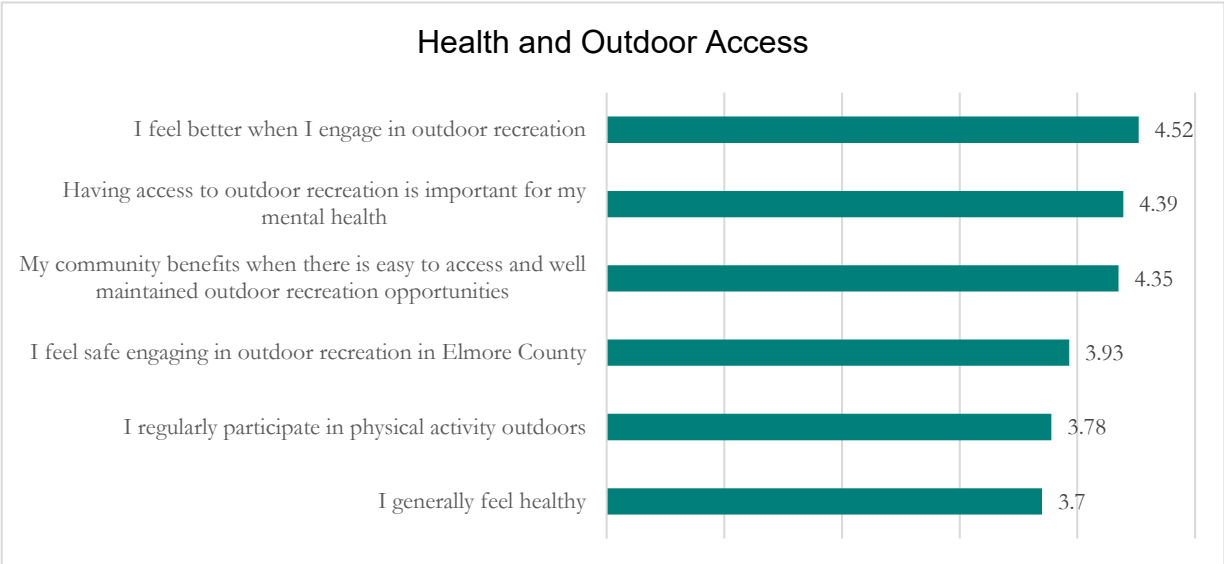
## Open Space and Trail Accessibility

Survey respondents expressed moderate to low agreement when asked about Elmore County’s open space and trail accessibility. The highest rated statements were directly about accessibility: “Elmore County residents can easily engage in outdoor physical activity if they desire” (a weighted average score of 3.44), “It is easy for me to access outdoor recreation opportunities” (3.27), and “I am able to recreate outdoors in the ways that I want” (3.18). The lowest rated statements were related to knowledge about recreational opportunities in Elmore County (2.86), County residents as a whole engaging in regular physical activity (2.66), and the County trail system being well connected (2.45).



## Health and Outdoor Access

When asked about the health benefits and general benefits related to outdoor access, respondents felt that there was a strong correlation, expressing that they felt better when recreating outdoors (a weighted average score of 4.52), outdoor recreation is important to their mental health (4.39), and that the community benefits from well-maintained outdoor recreation opportunities (4.35). Outdoor recreational safety (3.93), regular









## Phase I Vision Statement

*Elmore County's trails and open space system aims to enhance the quality of life and health of residents by expanding outdoor recreation opportunities for all, creating year-round interest and a variety of uses while preserving the unique character and natural resources that make Elmore County special.*

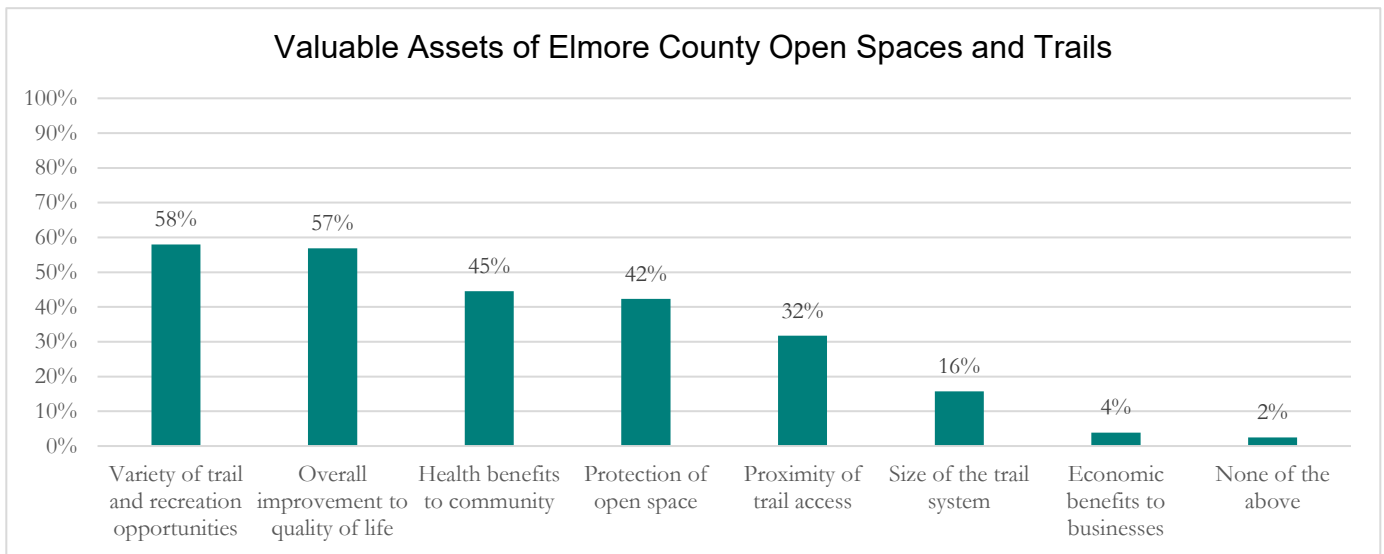
Most respondents (84%) agreed that this vision statement captures the general vision for Elmore County's open spaces and trails over the next 10-20 years. Further suggestions recommended by respondents included: noise and pollution control, public safety, and accessibility for all residents.

## Opportunities and Challenges

### Valuable Elmore County Open Spaces and Trails Assets

Respondents noted that their most valued assets of Elmore County's open spaces and trails were a variety of trail and recreation opportunities (58%), overall improvement to quality of life (57%), and health benefits to the community (45%). Less value was placed on the size of the trail system (32%) and the economic benefits to businesses (4%).

Notably, when cross-referenced with respondent's primary activity, place of residence, self-reported annual income, and age, the most valued asset was overall improvement to quality of life.



### Opportunities for Improvement to Elmore County Open Spaces and Trails

Respondents advocated for improvements to the Elmore County open space and trail system and specifically hoped potential future actions could include:

- A larger, more connected trail network that allows for specialized use on designated trails, i.e. hiking-only trails, motorized-only trails.
- Local public education on Elmore County accessing open spaces and trails.
- Improved year-round accessibility.
- Improved maintenance and cleanliness of trail network.
- Creation of County trail rating to indicate to users the difficulty level of each trail.
- Expansion of wayfinding signage and amenities like bathrooms, water fountains, etc.

- Partnership among relevant entities to support community-expressed expansion of Elmore County open spaces and trails.
- Improved public safety.
- Expansion of equine access, trailhead parking.

**Potential Challenges for Elmore County Open Spaces and Trails**

Survey respondents noted the following potential challenges as possible barriers for Elmore County open spaces and trails to consider:

- Population growth and increased trail access could more quickly deteriorate existing trails i.e., increased litter, lack of trailhead parking, lack of maintenance support.
- Funding.
- Motorized vehicle use on trails.
- Private land ownership.
- Rule enforcement.
- Limited accessibility.
- Lack of land preservation and urban development.

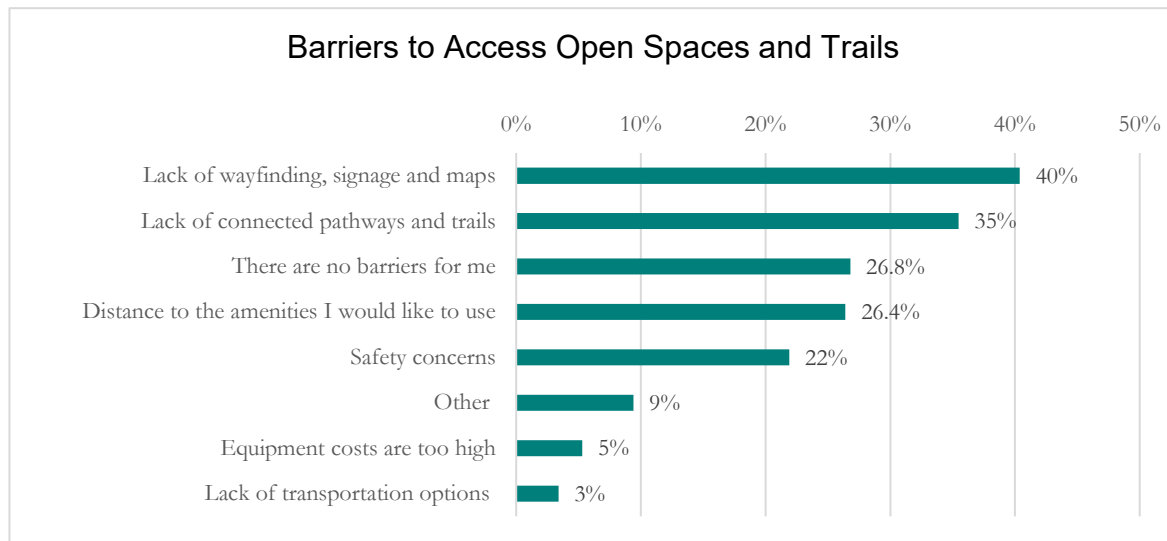
**Travel Time to Access Open Spaces and Trails**

Survey respondents indicated that they would be most willing to travel 11-30 minutes (19.7%) to access open spaces and trails, followed by traveling over an hour (19.4%). Respondents were less willing to travel 31-59 minutes to access open spaces and trails.

**Barriers to Access Open Spaces and Trails**

Respondents felt that the highest barriers to accessing Elmore County open spaces and trails were a lack of wayfinding, signage, and maps as well as a lack of connected pathways and trails. Notably ~27% of respondents felt as though there were no barriers to access. Respondents didn’t indicate that high equipment costs or lack of transportation options were large barriers that prevented them from accessing Elmore County open spaces and trails.

Barriers where respondents selected other included lack of awareness, limited trail options, weather and heat, limited campsite availability, lack of amenities (docks, ramps, bathrooms, etc.), and lack of time.



# Investments and Connections

## Elmore County Focus Areas

Respondents were asked about where they would most like to see investments made to Elmore County open spaces and trails through selecting up to three focus areas on the map shown below. While all focus areas had support for more investment, the three following areas were identified as the highest priority:

1. Focus Area 2 (57.1%)
2. Focus Area 5 (52.1%)
3. Focus Area 4 (29.9%)

Most respondents selected specific focus areas based on living near or in those locations. The section below shows the results when cross-referenced with respondent’s primary activity, place of residence, self-reported annual income, and age.

### Focus area preference by primary activity:

- Focus Area 2: Horseback riders, motorized vehicle users, hunters, and fishers
- Focus Area 5: Hikers, trail runners, and bikers

### Focus area preference by place of residence:

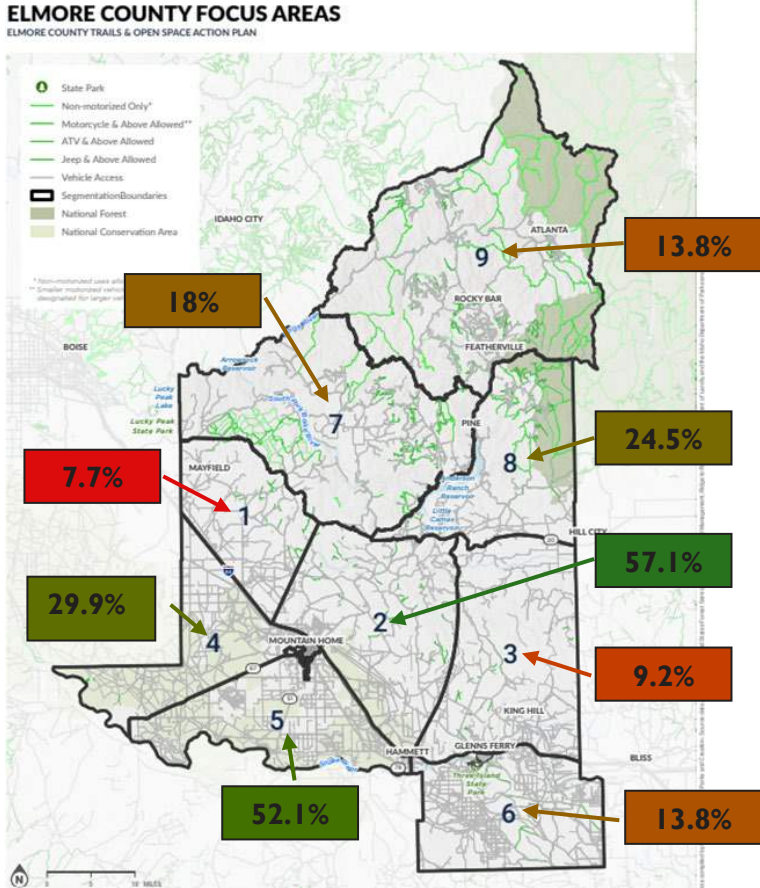
- Focus Area 2: Hammett, Mountain Home, and Mountain Home Airforce Base
- Focus Area 3: Glens Ferry and King Hill

### Focus area preference by self-reported annual income:

- Focus Area 5: \$15k or less, \$15-30k, \$30-50k, \$150-300k, and \$300k+
- Focus Area 2: \$50-70k, \$75-100k, \$100-150k, and \$150-300k

### Focus area preference by age:

- Focus Area 5: 18-24yo and 25-44yo



## **Funding Support**

Survey respondents noted that they would generally support increasing funding to expand and improve Elmore County open space, parks, and trails (66%). Respondents who were unsure (25%) outnumbered the respondents who said that they wouldn't support increased funding (9%).

Furthermore, when clarified that Idaho communities are allowed options to increase funding for open spaces, parks, and trails through increased user fees, voter-authorized levies, grants, and voter-authorized recreation taxing districts, respondents overwhelmingly said that they would support (91%) the idea of exploring opportunities for additional funding for Elmore County open spaces, parks, and trails.

## **Project Ideas**

Below is a list of projects based on survey responses that is organized from most requested to least requested. Some options have further details like specific locations, amenities, etc.

1. Create more trails. Recommended areas include:
  - a. Mountain Home
  - b. Glens Ferry
  - c. Pine-Featherville Road
  - d. Bennett Mountain
  - e. Lucky Peak
  - f. Bumgarner to Curlew
  - g. Foothills toward Anderson
  - h. Eureka Cave
  - i. Snake River
  - j. Pine
  - k. Hammett
  - l. Oregon Trail
2. Create or designate specific use trails. Recommended types include:
  - a. Bike trails
  - b. Hiking or walking trails
  - c. Motorized trails
  - d. Equine trails
  - e. Paved trails
3. Develop and improve parks. Recommended park types and locations include:
  - a. Splashpad
  - b. Hammett
  - c. Alongside the Brown Belt
  - d. Dog parks
  - e. Legacy Park improvements
  - f. Pickleball courts
  - g. Mountain Home
  - h. Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) park
4. Create more free or low-cost amenities. Recommended amenities include:
  - a. Pool
  - b. Playground equipment
  - c. Indoor activity center

- d. No-fee campsites
- e. Drinking water fountains
- f. Benches
5. Offer outdoor engagement opportunities, especially for teens and children
6. Develop trail connections
7. Increase wayfinding signage
8. Improve lake, reservoir, and river areas. Recommended locations include:
  - a. Alongside the Brown Belt
  - b. Anderson Dam
9. Improve trail maintenance
10. Develop marketing to promote awareness of the County's open spaces and trails. Recommended outreach includes:
  - a. Website
  - b. Booklets
11. Require payment from out of county residents accessing Elmore County open spaces and trails
12. Increase shaded areas
13. Increase enforcement. Recommended enforcement types include:
  - a. Overstayed campers
  - b. Specific trail use
  - c. Police patrol along the Brown Belt
14. Improve and add trailhead parking
15. More green spaces
16. Increase accessibility for those without reliable transportation

#### ***Additional Ideas***

This list comprises suggestions that were only mentioned once and had no other survey respondents request for these project ideas.

- Open closed logging roads
- Offer year-round fishing near Mountain Home
- Create watering areas for big and small game
- Open old mining sites for rockhounds
- Preserve flora and fauna
- Clean up Glens Ferry Creek
- Add more fishing stock
- Rate the current trail system (easy to difficult)
- Invest in equestrian facilities at Optimist Park

# Public Open House Summary

## Overview

Central District Health and the Western Idaho Community Health Collaborative, alongside Agnew::Beck Consulting hosted two community workshop style open houses (one in Mountain Home on July 25 and in Glens Ferry on August 1, 2023) with the intent to hear additional community feedback related to the desired future of the pathways, trails and open spaces throughout Elmore County. The open houses featured informative materials and numerous ways for participants to provide feedback and engage with the planning process. Each open house featured the following:

- Project and existing conditions information
- Discussion of the public survey results
- Opportunities to share additional aspirations and hopes for recreation and natural spaces throughout the County
- A station to provide input related to the draft vision, goals and objectives of the plan
- Opportunities to provide input on identified projects and actions and an interactive map to add new and additional projects to the planning process.

15 members of the public participated between the two open houses and provided valuable information about the prioritization of projects and actions in the final Action Plan.

## Prioritizing Objectives

<b>Goal 1: Pathways and Connectivity</b>	
Objective A: Work with local jurisdictions to create easily accessible towns to trail connections in areas of protected growth	8
Objective D: Maximize available resources and funding while seeking additional sources of funding to continue to expand and improve upon the recreational trails and open spaces system throughout the County.	7
Objective B: Improve access and management of existing trails and natural spaces on Federal lands.	2
Objective C: Explore opportunities for trail and pathway system development along key corridors including along the Snake River and I-84.	2
<b>Goal 2: Special Uses and Recreational Opportunities</b>	
Objective B: Work with specific user groups and land management agencies to create new spaces that serve one or more type of recreational activity in the County	5
Objective A: Seek input from users and specific recreational groups to monitor system use and identify gaps and opportunities for investments to ensure everyone has access to the type and quality of recreational spaces that will keep them active year-around	4
Objective C: Focus investments to create safe spaces for recreation throughout the County for all user groups	1

### **Goal 3: Partnerships, Management and Policy**

Objective A: Regularly convene a group of partners and management agencies to assess the health of the system and identify opportunities for new investment and improvements to existing facilities.	3
Objective C: Implement system wide policies that encourage residents and visitors in Elmore County to regularly use county-wide amenities and reduce user conflicts	1
Objective B: Identify enforcement mechanisms that are effective, easy to understand and supported by the community of recreational users.	0

### **Goal 4: Community Driven Initiatives and Education**

Objective A: Create wide-reaching and effective communication channels to inform the public about critical system information and ways to stay safe while using the recreational amenities throughout the County	2
Objective B: Provide opportunities for the public to engage with partner agencies, land managers and other individuals within the community about how they would like to use the recreational system in Elmore County	2

## Projects and Actions Map

### **North County Suggestions**

Focus on non-motorized trails, separate from motorized and formalize

Possible reservoir water level rise could impact use and ability to camp along rivers etc. Be part of conversation about relocating amenities, add additional campsites

Keep North County habitat intact so we can keep seeing moose, elk, mountain lions, beavers, black bears, wolves and deer

Trinity Area access road maintenance - access road past Anderson Dam

“This is like a city” needs improved management maybe garbage fees to backhaul emergency response, no fire district – county responsible for services. PILT funds from feds

Trailhead maps everywhere

Create improved joint management strategies between NFS, local jurisdictions, Elmore County and IDPR. Involve stakeholders and local residents/second homeowners in the process of initiating a strategic action plan for this area.

### **Foothills Suggestions**

Opportunities at Mtn. Home reservoir like kayaking

Oregon Trail walking path is a great idea, important for connection eastward and westward. Would help to plant elm or something

Hot lava fields- hunters who would use

Include a launch platform for paddleboards, kayaks, maybe a skate park too. Intentionally on a map include two places.

## Snake River Suggestions

Trailheads at Little Canyon Creek and Idaho St (Parking on Upper). Maybe connect into highway 30 regional park, and connect Hammett to Glens Ferry

River float trail Glens Ferry to Hammett and further

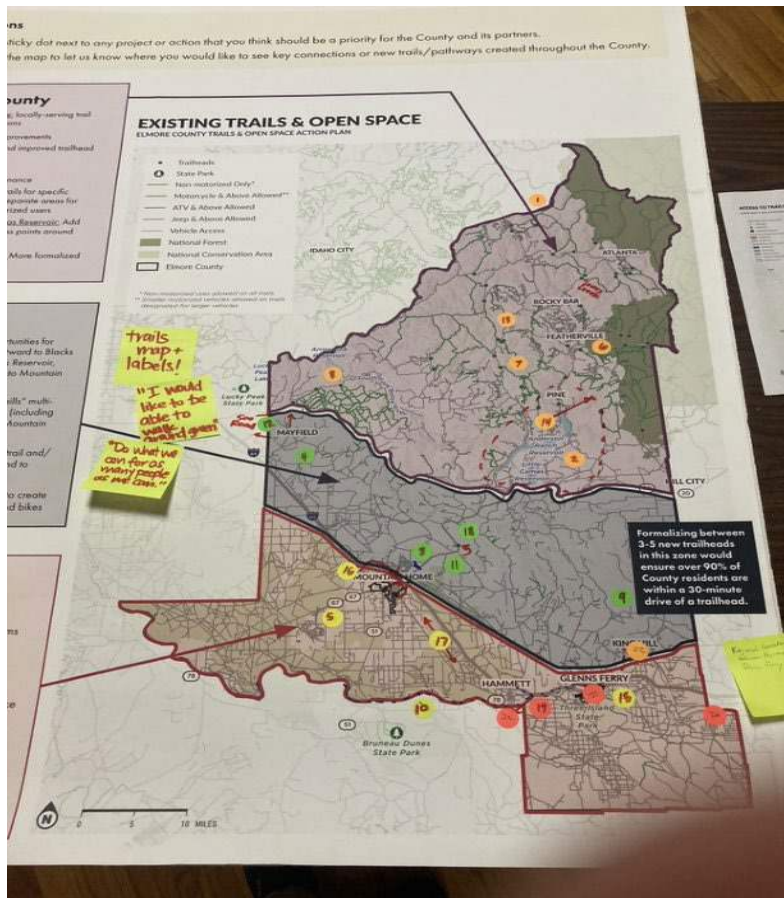
Create a walking path from end of existing to Western Elmore Rec onto existing neighborhood with walking paths to connect through town better

Glens Ferry - Connect downtown to Three Islands (get it done)

Rail line spur trail/pathway to connect pike/ped access to MHAFB

Add non-motorized boat docks to snake River at Hammett and King Hill to create a more useable section of the Snake River for Kayakers, paddleboards, and other non-motorized watercraft.

Finish the Heritage trail paved connection South of Glens Ferry, near Three Island State Park.





## Prioritizing Potential Projects and Actions

<b>Pathways and Connectivity</b>	
Create a Snake River Water Trail corridor that supports a variety of uses including walkers, runners, bikers, boating and fishing access points. Potentially connect this system to Ada and Canyon County	6
Enabling access to Bennett Mountain	5
Improving access into CJ Strike Reservoir	4
Connecting Mountain Home to the Mtn. Home Airforce Base	4
Connecting Mtn. Home to Glens Ferry	3
Increase recreation opportunities N of I-84 to bring more opportunities close to population areas	2
Create a new pathway system W of the Mtn. Home Airforce base	1
Connecting Pine and Featherville and around the Pine and Featherville area	0
Around the upcoming Black Creek Road Development	0
<b>Special Uses and Recreational Opportunities</b>	
Leverage existing cultural assets such as the County's wineries, Blue Bird Trail and Glens Ferry Water Trail.	3
Create pathways, trails and improvements for equestrian users with a specific focus on providing enough space for horse trailer parking and safe trail conditions for horses and equestrians.	3
Create additional campsites.	3
Add and improve boat ramps and docks at specific locations including Deer Creek, along the Snake River, Anderson Ranch Reservoir, etc.	2
Create an OHV (Off-Highway Vehicle) Park as a dedicated space for off-road vehicles with specific amenities such as single-track trails, muddy and rocky areas, and varying terrain types.	2
Prioritize and create ADA accessible amenities, pathways, trails, and recreational opportunities	1
Create trails that are safe for hunters and non- hunters	1
Create motorized use pathways for dirt bikes, ATVs and other off- road vehicles	0
Implement improvements at existing campsites.	0
Improve snowmobile trails in Northern Elmore County	0
Increase access to Eureka Cave for all users.	0
<b>Partnership, Management and Policy</b>	
Create opportunities for private landowners to participate, donate, contribute to increasing trails and open spaces	4
Create a land trust to preserve and expand access to key open spaces and potential trial connections	3

Implement and advertise a trails and pathways rating system to indicate ease of use and access.	3
Increase the maintenance schedule for all trails, pathways and trailhead amenities throughout Elmore County.	2
Create pathways and recreational amenities with shade and other ways to enjoy exercising during the hottest months of the summer.	2
Create programming and guided opportunities to recreate in open spaces and natural area	1
Create a formalized open space and trails management/ partnership structure	1
Increase the number and maintenance of restrooms and trash receptacles at trailheads around the County	1
Implement management strategies to reduce user conflicts – could include single direction trails, single use trails, trail use schedules, speed reduction gates for bikers and motorized users, trail widening, etc.	0
Improve access and efficiency of emergency medical services and search and rescue operations	0
Invest resources in managing invasive and economically damaging invasive species	0

### ***Community Driven Initiatives and Education***

Invest in the development of an Elmore County recreational use, pathways and open space website or app that enables users to get up to date and easily accessible information.	3
Create and distribute recreational opportunity maps highlighting opportunities for specific user groups.	2
Create and distribute wayfinding materials for key destinations and recreational areas.	2
Conduct a public education campaign to let people know of the assets and recreational opportunities available in Elmore County	1
Create efficient and far-reaching communications channels to provide updates to users about trail closures, conditions and other points of information	1
Host seasonal classes promoting safe trail and open space use with general guidelines and user specific information such as avalanche classes for skiers and snowshoers	1

**APPENDIX B: EXISTING CONDITIONS MAPS**

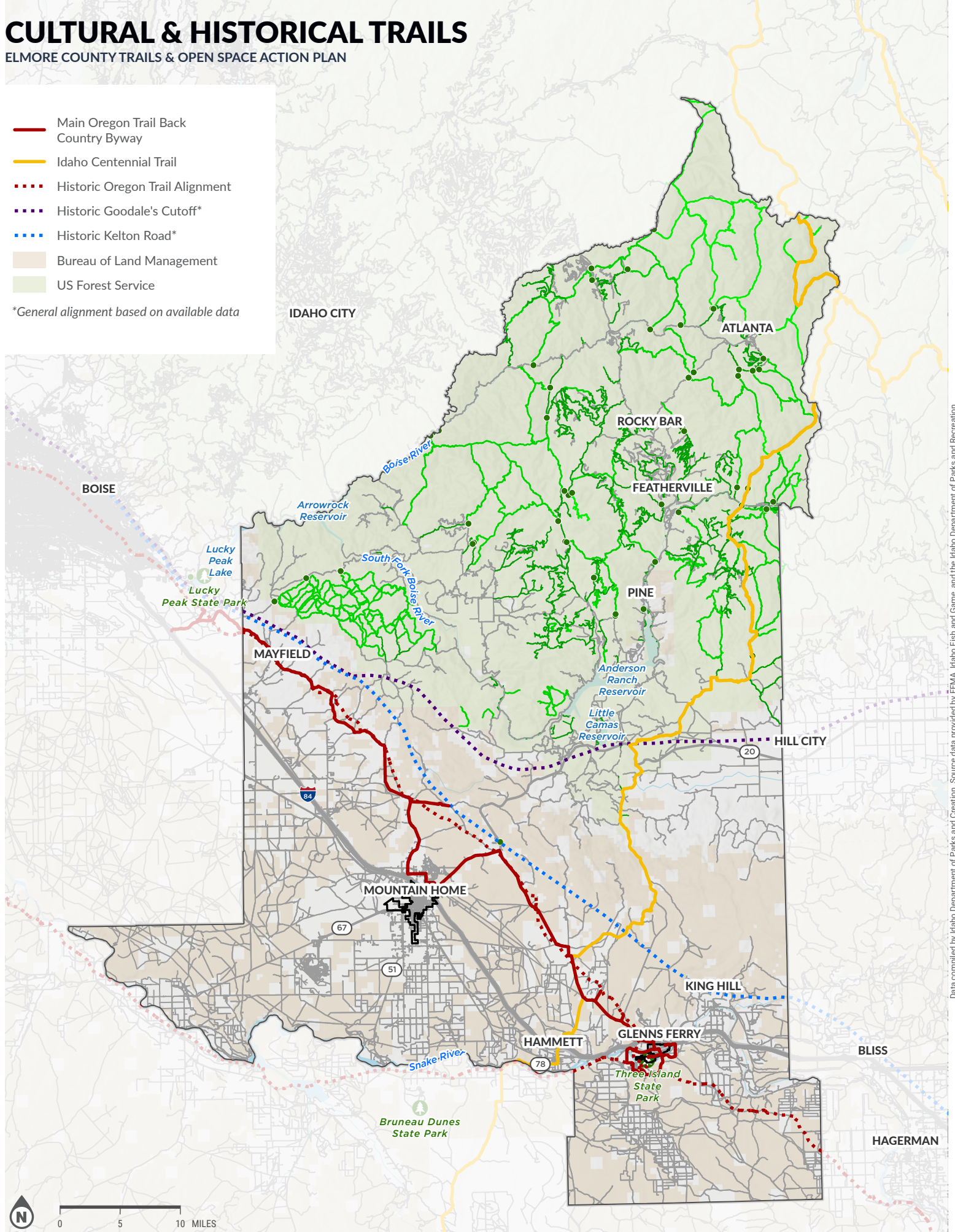


# CULTURAL & HISTORICAL TRAILS

ELMORE COUNTY TRAILS & OPEN SPACE ACTION PLAN

- Main Oregon Trail Back Country Byway
- Idaho Centennial Trail
- - - Historic Oregon Trail Alignment
- - - Historic Goodale's Cutoff\*
- - - Historic Kelton Road\*
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service

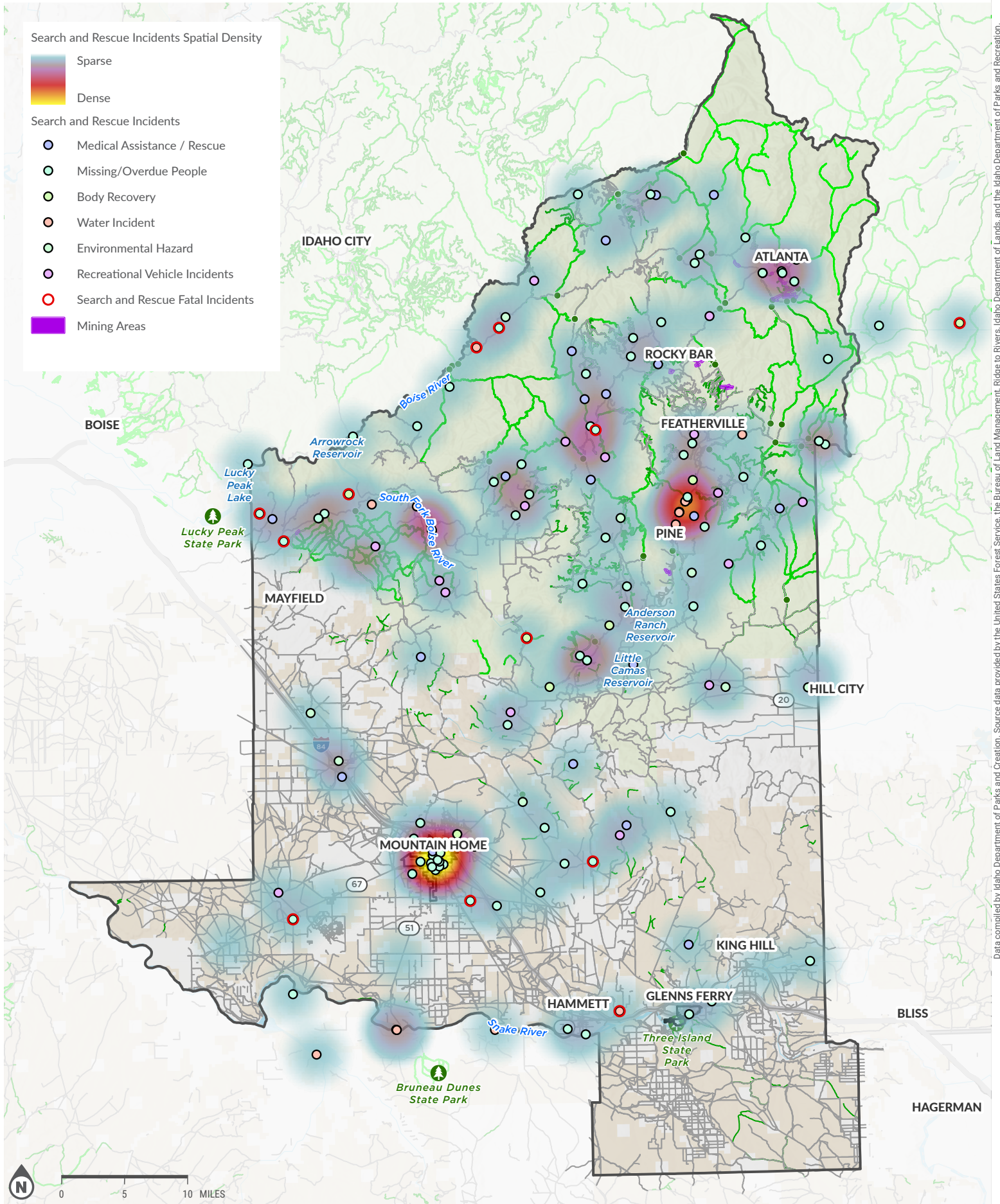
\*General alignment based on available data



Data compiled by Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. Source data provided by FEMA, Idaho Fish and Game, and the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation.

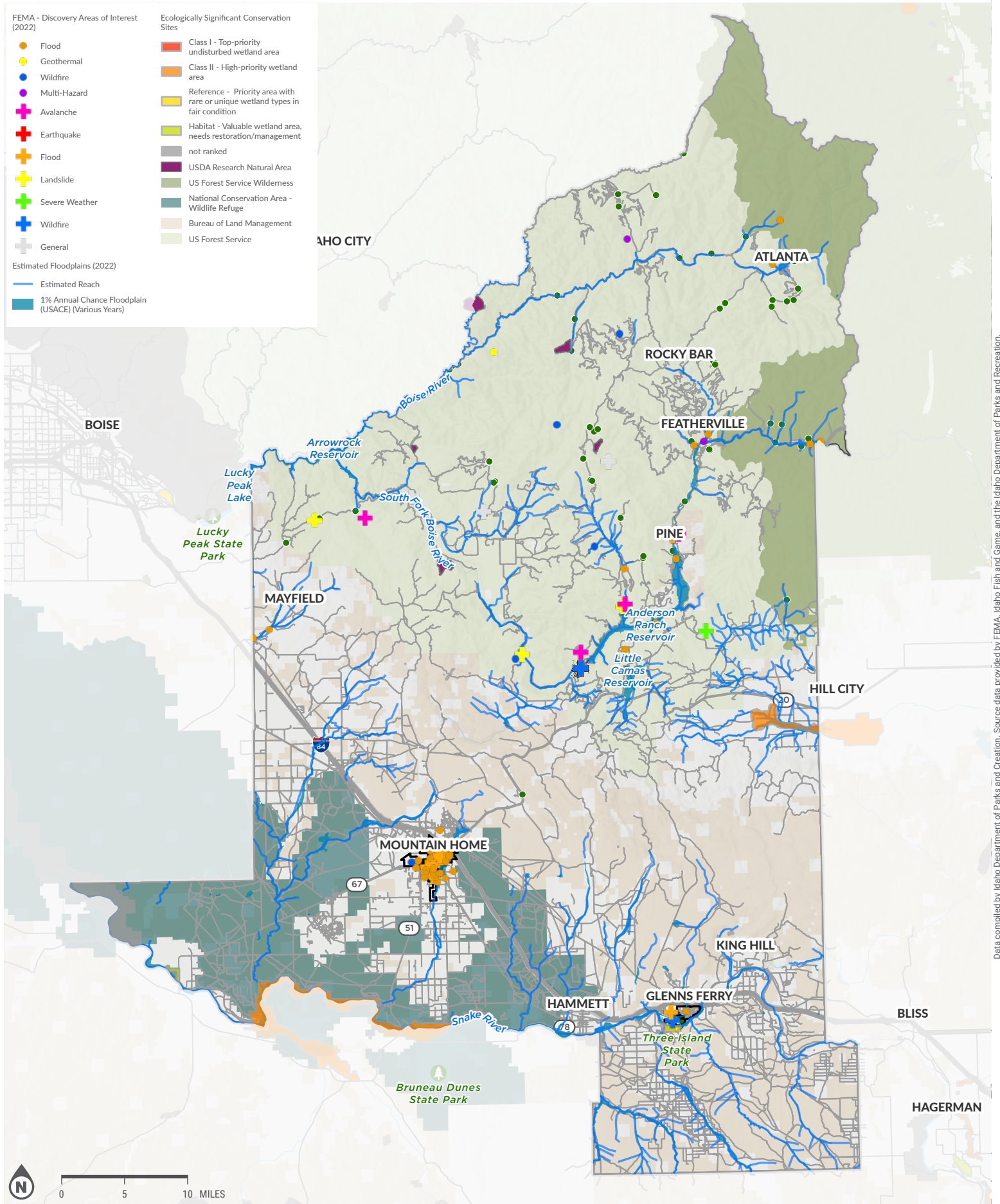
# EMERGENCY INCIDENTS

## ELMORE COUNTY TRAILS & OPEN SPACE ACTION PLAN



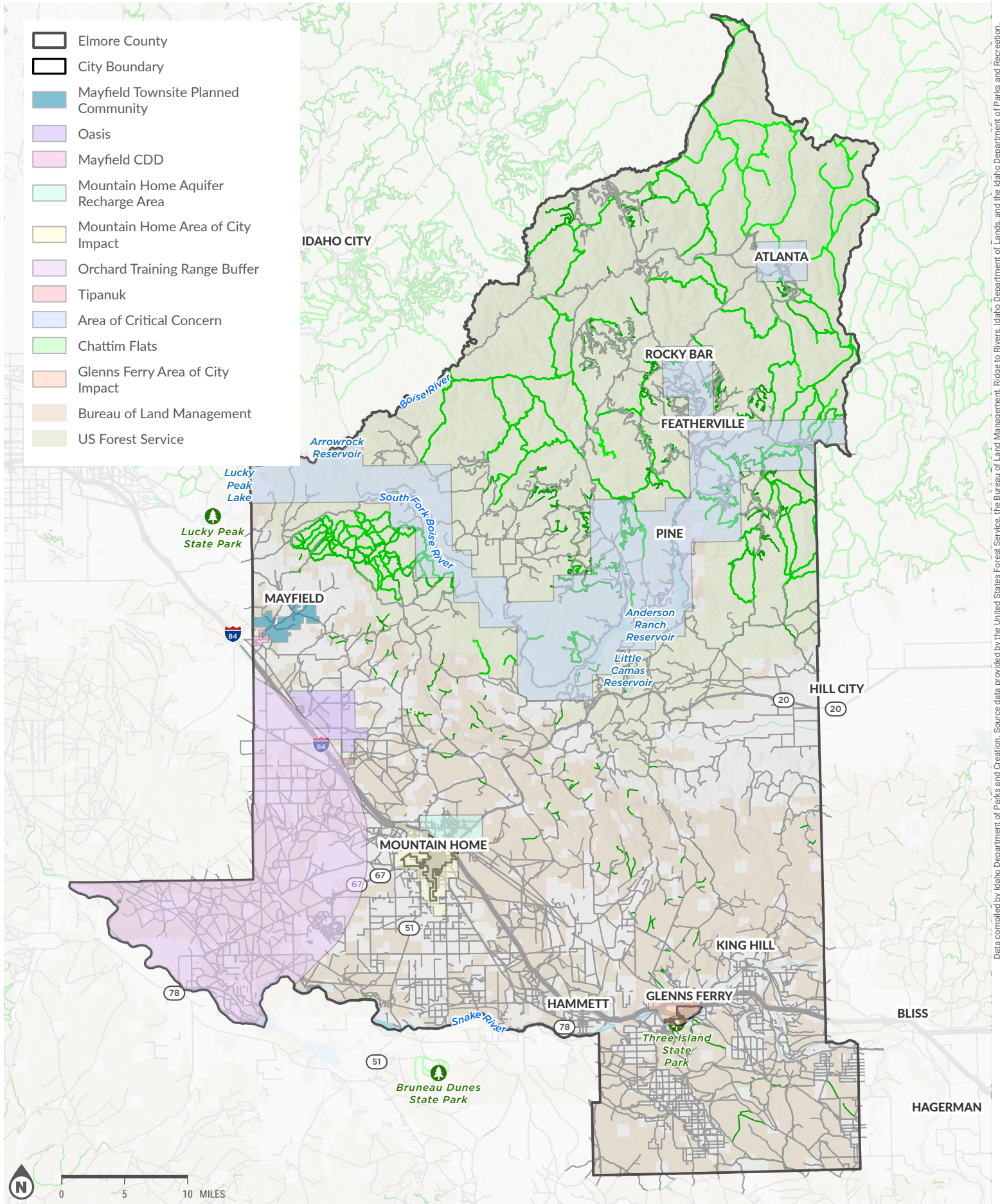
# ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS

## ELMORE COUNTY TRAILS & OPEN SPACE ACTION PLAN



# FUTURE GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

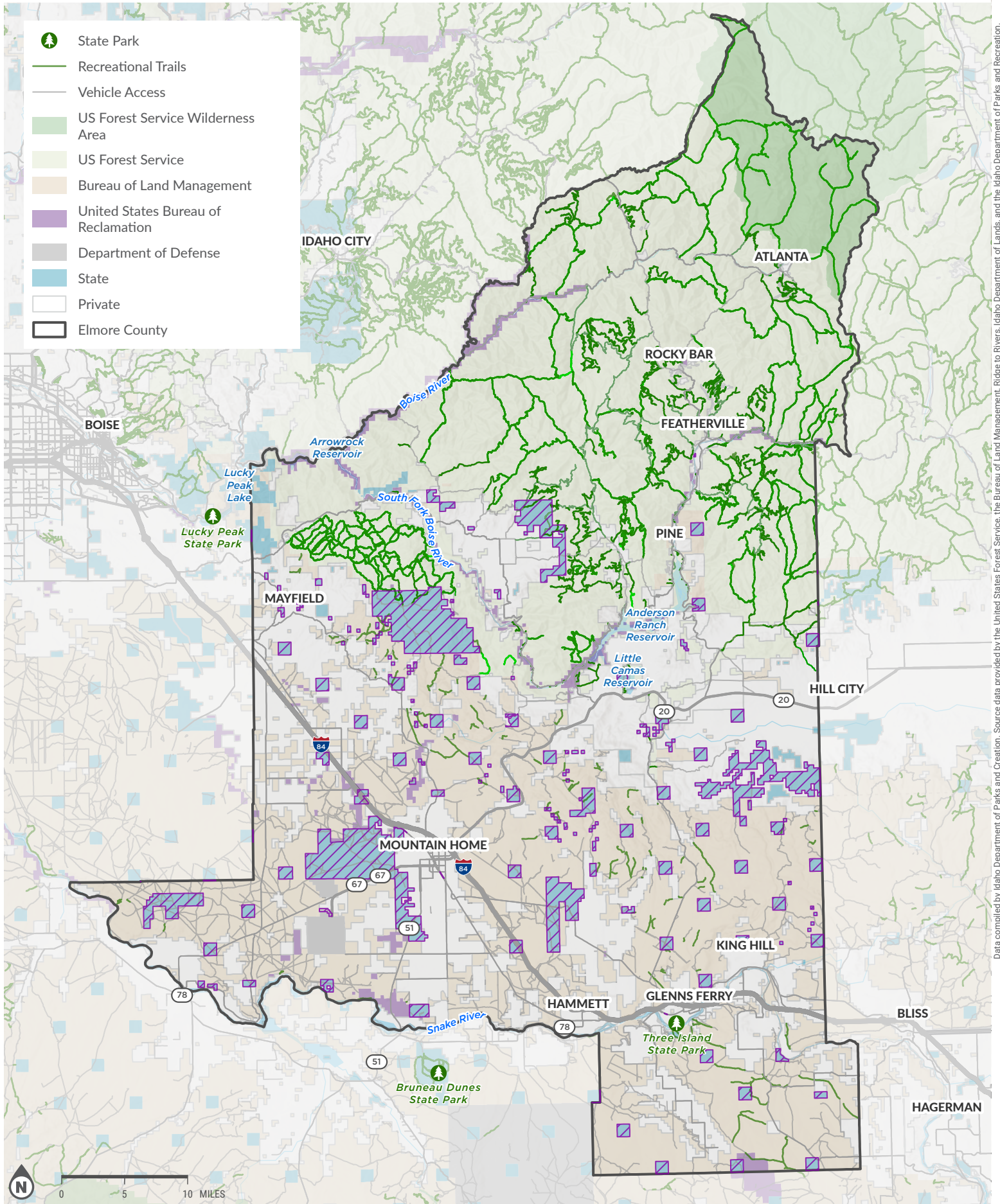
ELMORE COUNTY TRAILS & OPEN SPACE ACTION PLAN



Data compiled by Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. Source data provided by the United States Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, Riggs to Rivers, Idaho Department of Lands, and the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation.

# LAND MANAGEMENT

## ELMORE COUNTY TRAILS & OPEN SPACE ACTION PLAN

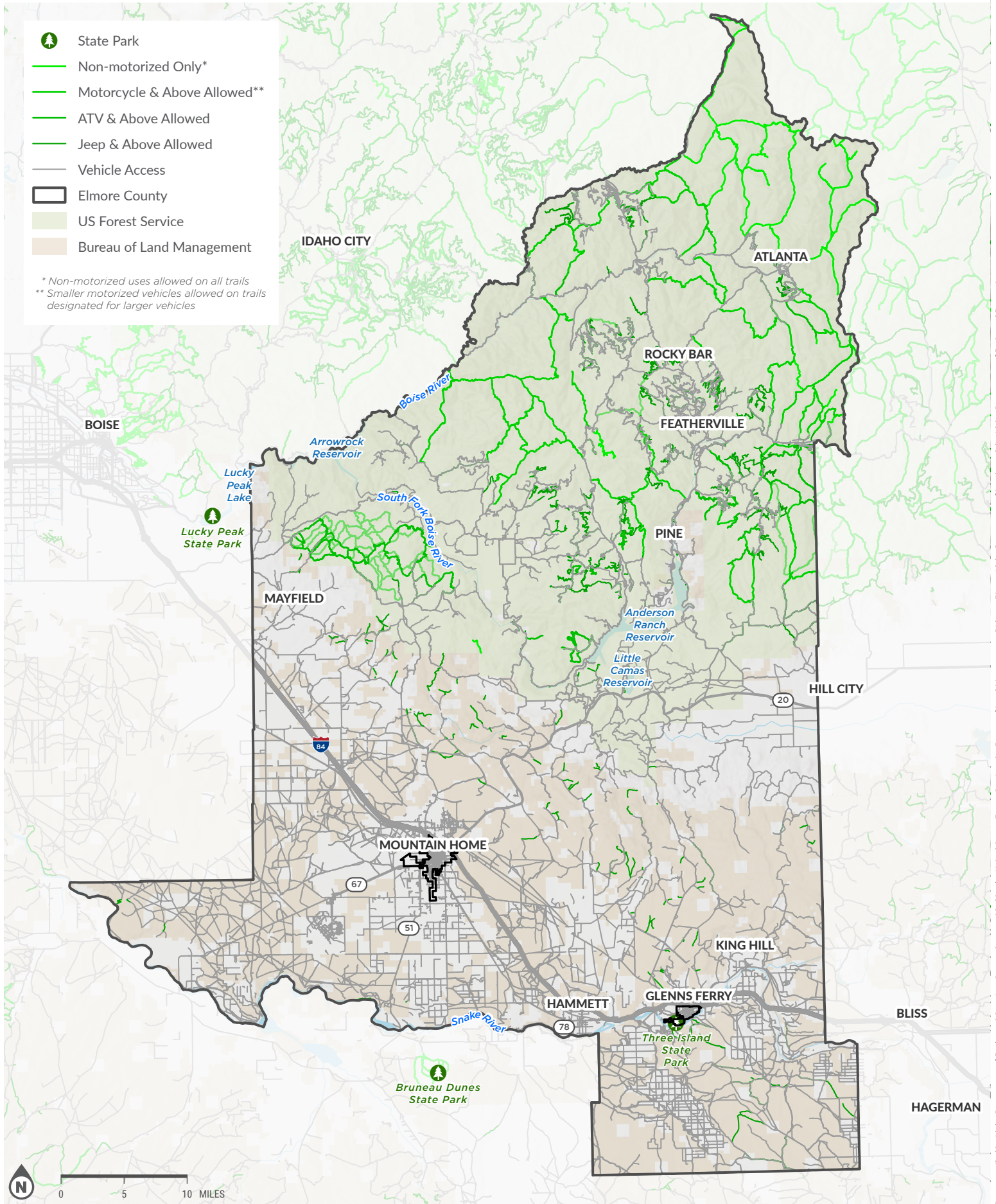


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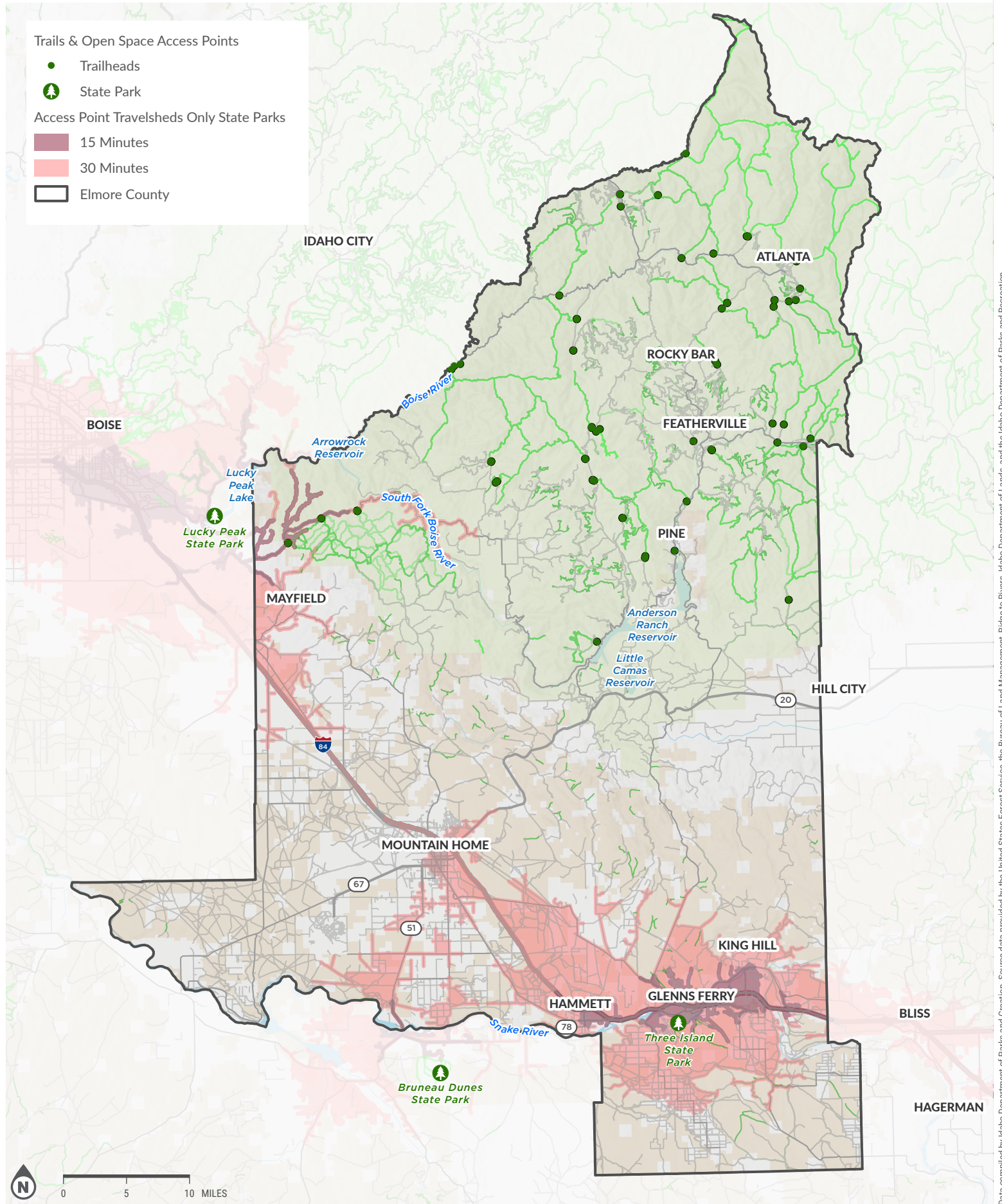
# EXISTING TRAILS & OPEN SPACE

## ELMORE COUNTY TRAILS & OPEN SPACE ACTION PLAN



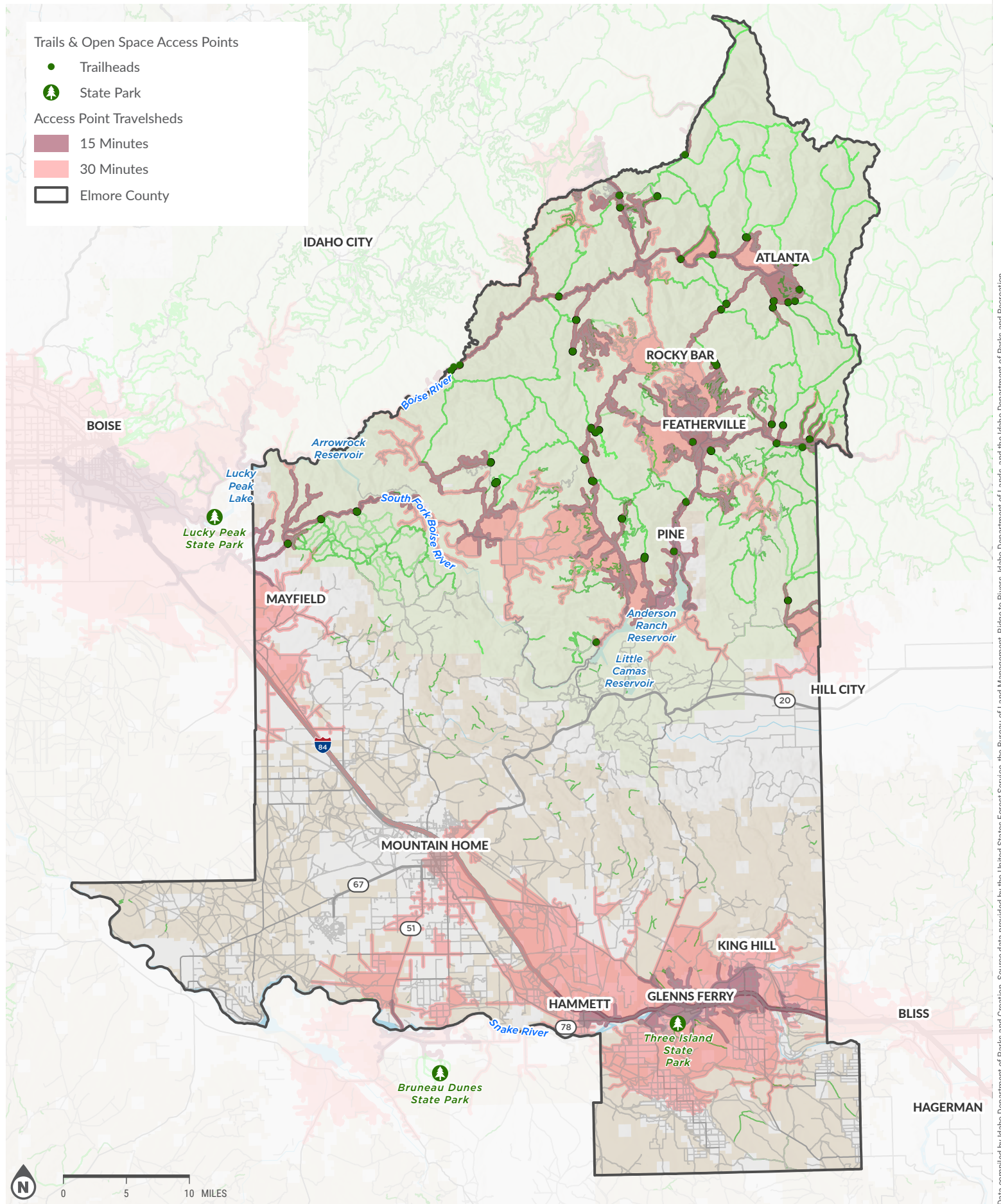
# ACCESS TO STATE PARKS

## ELMORE COUNTY TRAILS & OPEN SPACE ACTION PLAN



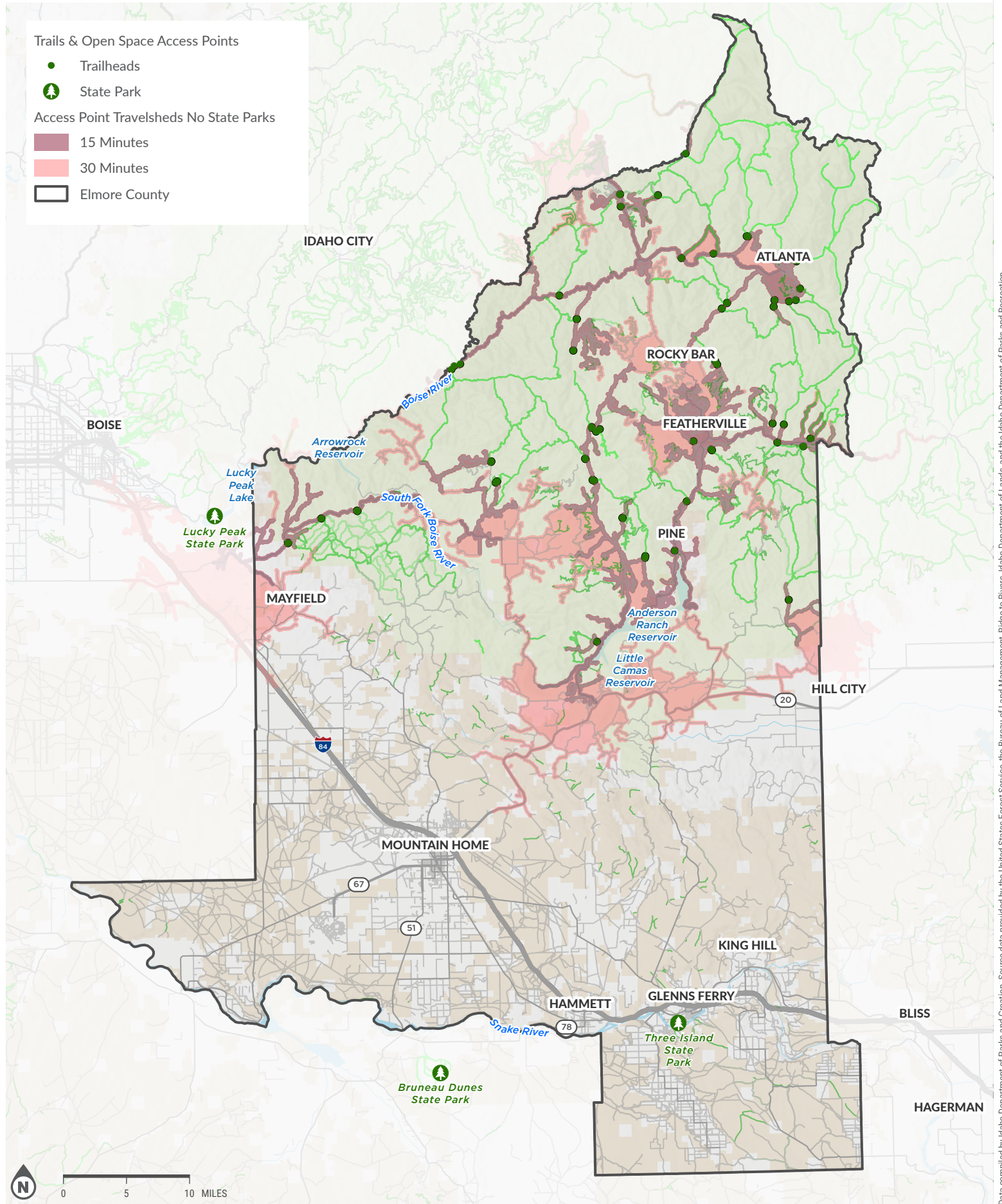
# ACCESS TO TRAILS & OPEN SPACE

## ELMORE COUNTY TRAILS & OPEN SPACE ACTION PLAN



# ACCESS TO TRAILHEADS

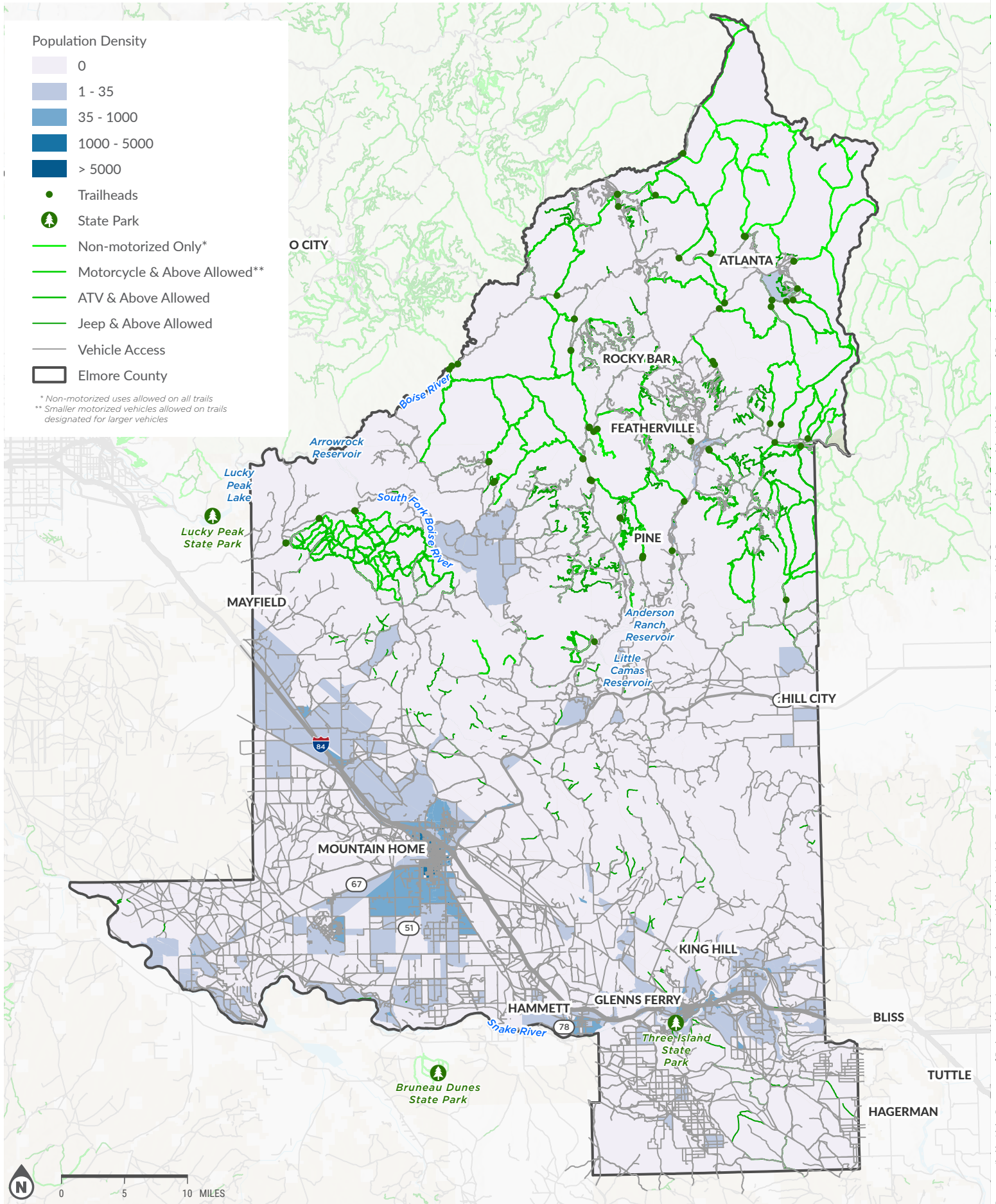
## ELMORE COUNTY TRAILS & OPEN SPACE ACTION PLAN



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# POPULATION DENSITY

## ELMORE COUNTY TRAILS & OPEN SPACE ACTION PLAN





**GetHealthy**  
IDAHO