

## **THE RELATIONSHIP OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND LAND TRANSACTIONS ON PLUM CREEK LANDS**

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Plum Creek is a large private land owner in several western counties where rapid growth is occurring. Population growth in western counties is expected to increase > 70 percent by the year 2030. This presentation will describe how Plum Creek reacts to some of that growth and associated demand for rural recreational properties. Topics of discussion will include existing land use practices that consider fish and wildlife habitats, proactive planning strategies, conservation strategies, and land sales. In 2007 Plum Creek sold ~ 30,000 ac of land in Montana. Conservation sales accounted for most of those sales, including lands associated with the Swan Valley and Blackfoot River watershed. Forest land management practices incorporate the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standards and voluntary federal agreements such as the Native Fish Habitat Conservation Plan and the Swan Valley Grizzly Bear Conservation Agreement. By design, some conservation measures of these agreements and other land use restrictions are passed to subsequent landowners. Plum Creek's

involvement in regional planning efforts near Seeley Lake and the Thompson Chain of Lakes address issues of wildlife sustainability. New subdivisions by Plum Creek address practices to minimize impacts to wildlife resources at both the broad and site-specific scale.