



**2016 NORTH AMERICAN POLICY STATEMENT:
FOREST VEGETATION AND ROUTE MANAGEMENT**

Purpose: The intent of policy statements are to provide a formal mechanism for Backcountry Hunters & Anglers to engage in specific conservation issues while establishing clear policy direction that not only defines the parameters of our position statements but the relevance to our mission. As declarations of policy, statements do not direct specific actions, establish policy priorities or allocate BHA resources.

Sponsored by: Originally proposed by the Idaho, Montana, Nevada, and Oregon Chapters of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers.

North American Board Action: Adopted on March 31, 2016

North American Policy Statement:

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers encourages the following policy recommendations for forest vegetation and route management:

- *Well-designed vegetation management projects that restore ecosystem health, and maintain or enhance the quality and quantity of wildlife and fisheries habitats.*
- *The best available forestry, wildlife and fisheries science must be used in all proposals for vegetative management on public lands, replicating or restoring natural ecological processes as possible.*
- *All existing roadless lands only receive management activities that maintain, restore or enhance the intact and unroaded character of those lands.*
- *Road systems be balanced in extent and intensity to restore wildlife habitat while maintaining reasonable, equitable and well-enforced access for the public, management and commercial uses.*
- *Any routes or skid trails created for management activities be fully removed and the effected landscape be restored upon completion of the project.*
- *Fisheries and habitat restoration, such as culvert removal and existing route removal be a consideration of said projects.*
- *Open, transparent, and collaborative processes that includes sportsmen and women, as well as the guidance of professional forest and wildlife and fisheries managers, as the preferred alternative for the design and implementation of vegetative management projects.*
- *Management agency budgets should support active management programs that implement noxious weed monitoring and control methods to reduce and manage the spread of noxious weeds on our public lands that result from vegetation management projects.*
- *Adequate resources should be provided to address the need for sound management and monitoring of existing and future road systems and well-planned timber harvests.*