

Greater Sandpoint Greenprint: Questions and Answers

What is a Greenprint?

A Greenprint is a set of tools, including maps and a report, that identify the most effective places to protect important resources like water, working lands, and recreation opportunities.

What does the Greater Sandpoint Greenprint say?

Based on a public survey and other outreach efforts, the Greenprint identifies four goals our community believes are important for protecting the character of the Greater Sandpoint area:

1. Maintain water quality
2. Provide recreation
3. Protect wildlife habitat
4. Preserve working lands

The Greenprint includes maps developed with local experts that use public input and the best available data to highlight the most effective places to accomplish these goals.

The Greenprint is not a regulatory document. It does not change zoning or other ordinances. Above all, it values private property rights and makes recommendations that can be implemented only through voluntary landowner agreements.

Why is a Greenprint important?

Greenprints are important because they can help local groups identify places that would most effectively protect resources important to a community. As the beauty and natural amenities of Bonner County attract more and more people here, a Greenprint can help balance thoughtful development with maintaining and protecting the resources that make this place special.

How was this Greenprint created?

The Greenprint is the result of combining local community input and local expertise with the best available data and state-of-the-art mapping and modeling. Despite a large public survey (over 560 participants) and tabling at local events, there was a worry that rural residents were underrepresented in outreach results. In response, the survey was weighted so that protecting working lands, an important concern of rural residents, was identified as a core value of this community. A local steering committee with 46 participants helped guide the Greenprint process. Partners in the Greenprint included the Cities of Sandpoint and Ponderay, Kaniksu Land Trust, Idaho Conservation League, and The Trust for Public Land.

Why should the City of Sandpoint support the Greenprint with a resolution?

A city's "stamp of approval" makes it easier to win funding for projects that would protect the resources most important to our community. In other words, if a city, county, or another local group would like to prevent stream bank erosion or expand a popular trail, they are far more likely to win grant money for key projects if a city supports a document, like the Greenprint, that identifies the most effective places to do this work.

The Greenprint does not give Sandpoint any authority to effect land use decisions outside of the city boundaries.

How will the Greenprint be used?

The Greenprint is simply a tool to help identify the most effective places to protect important resources. The Greenprint does not obligate or require any particular action.