IFOA Newsletter
G. Kirk David, Editor
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Idaho Forest Owners Association

IDAHO FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

NAVIGATING A CHANGING WORLD: WHAT ARE THE TRADE-OFFS?

First, what are the changes? Are there any tradeoffs? Are there new or time-proven opportunities? What are some worthy activities to engage in?

These are all topics that will be explored and discussed at the 2026 Family Forest Landowners & Managers Conference in Moscow on March 29th to 31st.

Whether you are coming to the Conference or not, yet you are trying to figure out how to keep your family forestland as forest *and* successfully keep it *in* your family, sign up to attend the "Ties to the Land" workshop on Sunday. You'll be very glad you did!

There is also a tour of the UI Arboretum on Sunday and a Get Acquainted Social on Sunday eve.

On Monday morning the Inland Empire Society of American Foresters will have a pre-conference Meet & Greet.

Monday and Tuesday listen to and ask questions of practitioners from the likes of the National Woodland Owners Association, the Idaho Department of Lands, University of Idaho, Idaho Prescribed Fire Council, local Fire Districts, Idaho Department of Insurance, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Washington State University, Idaho Department of Fish & Game, Northwest Management, Inc., and scores of other family forest owners just like you!

Monday - after the conference presentations - the informal "Spit & Whittle" gathering of forest owners, IDL service foresters, NRCS, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and forestry consultants will take suggestions, answer questions, and make connections.

Next up is the Idaho Tree Farm Program Social and ever-popular annual awards presentation.

Tuesday morning is the brief but informative IFOA business meeting.

All day Monday and Tuesday offers door prizes, the Silent Auction (bring an item!) and the amazing Raffle prizes.

ALC Pro Logger and SAF CE credits are available.

But most of all, great information, fun, and excitement are not to be missed!

Use the Registration brochure inserted in this newsletter or go to www.idahoforestowners.org to sign up NOW.

SEE PAGE 6 for a very worthwhile opportunity to add FREE donations (NO COST TO YOU) to IFOA's Education Foundation as a result of your own normal online shopping activity!

IN THIS ISSUE — page:

2026 IFOA DIRECTORS

Nancy G. Clampet
Madeline David
Robert Easley
Marianna J. Groth
Gary R. Hess
Cynthia R. Mead
Sandra F. Schlepp
Paul R. Turcott

In Memoriam: Janet Funk

Recently, IFOA lost a very dear longtime member and friend. After a long battle with cancer, on January 10, 2026, Janet Funk passed away peacefully at home with her husband Steve at her side. Janet was born in Twin Falls, ID. After graduating from Twin Falls High School in 1961, she moved to Chicago, IL to earn her Registered Nursing degree from Cook County School of Nursing. Janet met Stephen Funk while in Chicago. They married in 1965. Together they traveled around the country and the world while Steve was in the US Air Force, and they raised four children. The Funk family settled at Wolf Lodge Creek in 1972. They lived on a large parcel of timberland, their beloved Edgecreek Tree Farm, and were involved in many local forestry activities. The family farm was ultimately recognized by the American Tree Farm System as the Idaho Outstanding Tree Farm of the Year in 2010 and the National Outstanding Tree Farm of the Year in 2011.

Janet was actively involved as a 4-H leader, a coordinator for the student exchange program, Youth for Understanding, and served as a church youth group leader for seventeen years. Janet was also an avid master quilter. She was a member of Idaho Forest Owners Association and the American Tree Farm System and served on several committees for local agencies working to preserve water quality in the area. While hosting educational field days, teacher tours, and opinion leader tours, Janet taught attendees about forest health and its direct relationship to water quality and talked about the aspects and challenges of being a small, private forest landowner. She firmly believed there was a benevolent spirit of wisdom and peace to be found in the woods, and devoted much of her life to preserving and nurturing this spirit and sharing her knowledge with many people.

Janet lived a long, very full life and accomplished many noteworthy goals. She had great compassion for others, never stopped learning and always looked for the positive wherever she went. Janet will be greatly missed.

A celebration of Janet's life will be held at Edgecreek Tree Farm this coming summer. The family asks to please consider donations to: Idaho Forest Owners Association-Educational Foundation (ifoaef.org); Anchor House-Idaho Youth Ranch (1609 N. Government Way Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814); St. Jude's Hospital (501 St. Jude's Place Memphis, TN 38105); or your favorite charity.

May Janet's spirit rest in well-deserved peace.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store.

Membership Benefit Increased!

From Forestry Suppliers, Inc. in Jackson, MS:

"Regarding the promo code discount that the ID Forest Owners Association currently enjoys at Forestry Suppliers, Inc.: We truly appreciate the business you and your members have done with us. Thanks to your partnership, your customers placed 36 orders with us last year, and to show our appreciation, *we've increased the discount even more*. We hope this will help drive additional orders in the future. We value our relationship and are excited about what we can accomplish together in the year ahead."

So, to take advantage of this IFOA discount offer, go to *idahoforestowners.org* and click on *Members Only* page. Enter the Members Only password you have been given many times via quarterly emails from IFOA. At the Forestry Suppliers checkout page, use the *promo code* indicated on the IFOA Members Only page and enjoy shopping for your desired products at a great discount!

New Path to the Logging & Forestry Workforce

Maria Kinne's favorite logging apparel is her high-visibility sweatshirt. It is less bulky than the polyester vest with its many pockets, grommets and reflective strips that glow during daylight hours, and it is less restrictive when she is bucking and limbing logs with her chainsaw, operating a cutting-edge log processor or preparing to fell a tree.

"The sweatshirt is a lot more comfortable, so it's a good day when I don't have to wear the vest," said Kinne, who graduates in May with an associate's degree in forest operations and technology. She was among the first students to enroll in University of Idaho's (UI) two-year program, which covers logging equipment operation, timber sale planning, logging safety, and business skills. Kinne has a temporary job lined up with the state of Idaho after graduation but is also getting offers from logging companies.

"It's a seasonal job with the Department of Lands, and after that I will likely apply for another state position, or with a forest management company," said the 22-year-old who grew up working with her [IFOA member] dad, the owner of Odenwald Forestry, near Sandpoint.

Throughout high school, Kinne worked to save money for college. During the week she worked as a receptionist, and, on the weekends, was in the woods operating chainsaws and a mini backhoe to remove and pile forest slash. After graduating high school in 2021, Kinne considered attending a college, but was not sure what to study. After a couple of years in the workforce, her father told her about UI's new program.

"He learned about it at a logging conference," she said. The idea of a hands-on forestry course appealed to her.

"I knew I didn't want to go to school for another four years, and since this associate's degree could be completed in two years, I could continue to do what I loved - being in the woods and working in the timber industry," she said. "I decided to go for it."

Maria Kinne of Sandpoint graduated in spring 2025 with an associate's degree in forest operations and technology. She worked for her dad's forest management company - called Odenwald Forestry - in Sandpoint/Kootenai and decided she enjoyed woods work enough to make it a career. She recently graduated from the University of Idaho's two-year forest operations and technology associate's program and accepted a job with the Idaho Department of Lands in Orofino.

While she had already acquired some of the know-how of the forest resource profession, Kinne bolstered her skill set through the UI program, gaining her a broader range of opportunities with different equipment. Taking advantage of the 10,000-acre UI Experimental Forest as an outdoor classroom, she learned to operate equipment, including a log processor, grapple skidder and feller-buncher. She hand-felled trees with a chainsaw and learned how to cruise timber, or measure trees in a stand to determine the quantity and quality of timber available for harvest.

"We were taught about forest operations on a large scale and how to operate a forest products business," she said. One of her most rewarding classes was a mapping and surveying course where students designed a timber sale using GIS coordinates.

"We learned to lay out a unit within land boundaries, which is something you must know if you work in forestry or logging," she said. She and a team of 2- and 4-year forestry students, alongside Associate Professor Rob Keefe, started harvesting a unit in September 2024 and finishing it in January 2025. Spending hours of the school day in the seat of a machine in the forest was among her best memories of the program.

(Continued on page 5)

Coming Events

FEBRUARY 2026

IFOA Board Meeting
Coeur d'Alene, Tues., 2/10/2026
evpifoa@gmail.com

Cabin Fever Series
Orofino, Tuesday, 2/17/2026
& Wed., 2/25/2026
www.uidaho.edu/extension/natural resources

MARCH 2026

LEAP Update
Orofino, Tuesday, 3/3/2026
www.uidaho.edu/extension/natural resources

LEAP Update
CdA-Post Falls, Wed., 3/4/2026
www.uidaho.edu/extension/natural resources

LEAP Update
Bonners Ferry, Thurs., 3/5/2026
www.uidaho.edu/extension/natural resources

IFOA Board Meeting
Coeur d'Alene, Tues., 3/10/2026
evpifoa@gmail.com

Chainsaw Basics
Boise, Thursday, 3/12/2026
www.uidaho.edu/extension/natural resources

"Ties to the Land"
Moscow, Sunday, 3/29/2026
connectifoa@gmail.com

Family Forest Landowners & Managers Conference
Moscow, Sun.-Tues., 3/29-31, 2026
evpifoa@gmail.com

APRIL 2026

Forestry Career Fair
Grangeville, Monday, 4/13/2026
www.uidaho.edu/extension/natural resources

IFOA Board Meeting
Coeur d'Alene, Tues., 4/14/2026
evpifoa@gmail.com

Logger Education to Advance Professionalism (LEAP)
Moscow, T-W-Th., 4/14-16, 2026
www.uidaho.edu/extension/natural resources

Logger Education to Advance Professionalism (LEAP)
Coeur d'Alene, T-W-Th., 4/21-23, 2026
www.uidaho.edu/extension/natural resources

MAY 2026

Landscaping For Fire Prevention
Driggs, Saturday, 5/2/2026
www.uidaho.edu/extension/natural resources

Backyard Forests
Driggs, Saturday, 5/2/2026
www.uidaho.edu/extension/natural resources

Identifying Idaho's Trees
Moscow, Thursday, 5/7/2026
www.uidaho.edu/extension/natural resources

Women in the Woods (Field Day)
Sandpoint, Friday, 5/8/2026
www.uidaho.edu/extension/natural resources

Chainsaw Basics
Moscow, Friday, 5/8/2026
www.uidaho.edu/extension/natural resources

IFOA Board Meeting
Coeur d'Alene, Tues., 5/12/2026
evpifoa@gmail.com

IFOA ADVERTISING RATES

Size	IFOA Member	IFOA Member 4 Issue Discounted	Non-member	Non-member 4 Issue Discounted
Business Card	$8.75	$31.50	$12.50	$45.00
1/4 page	17.50	63.00	25.00	90.00
1/3 page	23.00	82.80	33.00	120.00
1/2 page	35.00	126.00	50.00	180.00
Full page	70.00	252.00	100.00	360.00

Contact information for family forest owner interests:

Organization	Telephone	E-mail	Website
Idaho Forest Owners Association	755-8168	evpifoa@gmail.com	www.idahoforestowners.org
Idaho Forest Stewardship Program	666-8632	jrclark@idl.idaho.gov	www.idl.idaho.gov
Idaho Tree Farm Program	437-4820	admin@idahotreefarm.org	www.idahotreefarm.org
National Woodland Owners Assoc.	703-255-2700	argow@nwoa.net	www.woodlandowners.net

IFOA WELCOMES THESE NEW MEMBERS:

E. Anna Taylorkinney, Priest River

New Path (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

"There were days when it was just me processing (logs) on the landing," Kinne said. "I was operating a processor in a forest while the sun was just rising over the mountains, and I felt like I had arrived in life." Keefe, who is the director of the Experimental Forest and oversees student logging operations, worked side by side with Kinne and the other students.

"As a second-generation logger from Idaho, Maria represents everything we're looking for in the future logging workforce," he said. "She is one of the hardest working people who has ever worked for me on the Experimental Forest and she will be a leader in our industry in the future. It's been a real privilege to work with her for the last two years." Keefe and other staff mentored Kinne in the field as she operated equipment and processed logs.

"She has over 1,000 hours of paid work outside of the classroom logging on the Experimental Forest and processed over 100 loads of logs for us," he said. "She also attended Idaho Logging Safety and Logger Education to Advance Professionalism (LEAP) while in the program. These are required for all loggers, so she is ready to go right into the workforce."

When the program was adopted by UI two years ago, it was highly endorsed by former Idaho Senator Shawn Keough, the former Idaho legislator and executive director of Associated Logging Contractors. "Learning to operate logging equipment that can cost half a million dollars requires a lot of skill," Keough said. "If students can acquire those skills on the UI Experimental Forest, they will have a knowledge base that can put them ahead of other applicants."

Kinne said the program put her on the fast track to be hired as an employee in the forest industry. "I would recommend this associate program for people who are hands-on learners and are hardworking and love being outside," she said. "The program is a great option for those who want a college degree in a practical field but don't want to be in school for four years."

The next piece of apparel she plans to buy is a pair of all-season caulk boots - the kind with nails in the soles to keep from slipping on logs and bark. "There's a place in Spokane that makes some really good ones," she said.

by Ralph Bartholtd, University of Idaho

Insects & Disease, Alias Bugs & Crud

Hannah Hollowell, IDL Forest Health Program Manager, Entomologist:

Hannah joined IDL in April 2025 as the Forest Health Program Manager following the retirement of Tom Eckberg. She previously worked for USFS Forest Health Protection office in Coeur d'Alene assisting with field work and aerial detection surveys, and worked as the Forest Health Program Coordinator for the Tennessee Division of Forestry prior to that. She received her undergraduate degree in Forestry and Masters in Entomology from the University of Kentucky, researching southern pine beetle management and non-target effects of treatments. In her free time she enjoys hiking, backpacking, climbing, and painting, and loves spending time out in Idaho's forests looking for bugs. You can contact Hannah via email at: hhollowell@idl.idaho.gov.

Noah Lindeman, IDL Forest Health Specialist, Pathologist:

Noah joined IDL as a Forest Health Specialist in November 2025. He is a recent grad from Colorado State University with a M.S. in plant pathology. His thesis was on developing detection techniques for Tomentosus root rot, a disease of conifers. While at graduate school, he had the opportunity to work in the forests of Colorado, New Mexico, Montana, and Idaho. Prior to his graduate degree, he worked in Southern Oregon on Sudden Oak Death. His first forestry job was in Northern California doing stand surveys and marking timber. He has a bachelor's degree in Botany from Humboldt State University (now Cal Poly Humboldt). He is excited to be back in the PNW and is looking forward to learning from everyone about what impacts the health of Idaho's forests and sharing his knowledge of forest pathogens. Noah is the crud guy at IDL, so if you find some cruddy trees in the woods send a photo his way. You can contact Noah via email at: noah.lindeman@idl.idaho.gov.

You can also reach any of the IDL forest health team by calling 208-769-1525.

News From Your IFOA –Education Foundation

The Education Foundation (EF) is the IRS 501(c3) affiliate of IFOA. We appreciate members that have made donations to EF in 2025!!! Your support makes possible EF's community wide outreach and support for forestry education programs. Our focus is especially on youth programs and we are looking for opportunities to support evolving career tech programs in Idaho; it's vital to the future of our forest economy and family forest owners. Student exposure to forestry technology and practices will provide the workforce of tomorrow for all forest landowners. Your EF board is pleased to announce Jared Hughes has joined the board. Jared is currently the forestry and natural resources instructor at Priest River High School with solid experience in forestry education. He is on the forefront of transitioning the PRHS program to include a career-tech focus and is involved at the state level in designing and implementing the future of secondary level forestry education in Idaho. His front-line knowledge of forestry education and insight will be invaluable to the EF board in fulfilling its mission.

NEW FOR 2026, all taxpayers - even those who don't itemize (i.e., take the standard deduction) - can benefit from cash donations to nonprofits like IFOA-EF. This is an "above the line" deduction up to $1,000 ($2,000 married filing jointly). If you itemize, it's more complicated, by IRS limits and floors, so check with your tax professional to optimize this new tax benefit and plan to make any size donation to EF in 2026!

Finally, EF is continuing its Raise Right Fundraising Program in 2026. If gift cards are not a regular purchase for you, please consider the new ONLINE SHOPPING PLATFORM available through Raise Right. It costs you nothing and can earn a 1%-2% donation from participating brands directly to EF. Cabelas, LL Bean, Kohl's, Pet Smart, Chewy and many more brands participate. It's simple, 1) Go to Raise Right, *www.raiseright.com*, enroll using the EF code: *3BC3PAUTVUUS*. 2) Click the Online Shopping Tab, click the participating brand logo and you'll be transferred directly to the brand's website. That's it, no cost, no gimmicks. Shop just like you would if you directly accessed the brand website. Use your debit card, cash-back credit card, gift cards, etc. The resulting donation from the brand will be made directly to IFOA-EF for its forestry education support like the Idaho State (Youth) Forestry Contest. Please take a minute this week to join our Raise Right program and benefit EF.

-by Paul Turcott, IFOA-EF President

JD FOREST MANAGEMENT

Douglas-fir
Ponderosa Pine
White Pine
Western Larch
Cedar

GOT SEEDLINGS?

Lock in your seedling order today, pickup in CDA or Priest River.
Order online: www.jdforest.com

Logging plans? Make a reforestation plan BEFORE logging starts. Give us a call at 208-817-9786 for complete management of your harvest and reforestation project.

Email: info@jdforest.com
Order Forms: www.idahoforestowners.org/seedling-program

JDFM is partnering with IFOA to provide quality seedlings with advanced genetics to Idaho landowners using IFOA seed.

Idaho Forest Owners Association

***14+ feet tall** in 4 years!*
Same tree plus a year of growth
Planted in April 2021
Photo September 2024

Idaho To 'Double' Logging Efforts Under New USFS Wildfire Agreement

The United States Forest Service announced a new wildfire risk reduction agreement with Idaho officials that will, in part, double the state's current timber production.

The USFS and Idaho committed to increasing an annual sustainable timber sale volume of up to 100 million board feet within five years, which would be double the state's current output, according to the Service. Officials said the agreement supports the current administration's Expansion of Timber Production Executive Order to increase timber harvests on national forests by 25% by 2028.

"For too long, federal red tape and hands-off policies left our forests overgrown and our communities at risk," U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins said. "By doubling timber production through Good Neighbor Authority and speeding up active management, we're protecting Idaho families, supporting rural jobs, and making our forests stronger for generations to come."

Idaho Governor Brad Little previously signed his own "Make Forests Healthy Again Act" executive order last April to increase collaboration between the state and federal government for the purpose of wildfire reduction and general forest management.

The governor called the agreement essential to meeting the "forest health crisis" on federally owned land.

"Years of inadequate management have led to millions of acres of Forest Service lands becoming high-risk for insects, disease, and wildfires," Little said. "Idahoans are tired of megafires, endless smoke, and soaring suppression costs. We have a rare opportunity to shift the trajectory."

The increased logging may face legal hurdles. Multiple conservation groups in nearby Montana recently sued the USFS over a logging road project on their state's border with Idaho. *by Hunter Bassler, Wildfire Today*

Family Leadership Guides Silver Valley Sawmill

For nearly a century, Whiteman Lumber Company in Cataldo has stood as a cornerstone of Idaho's timber industry. Founded in 1928 by Harry Whiteman to supply timbers to local mines, the company has weathered economic shifts and reinvented itself to remain the state's oldest continuously operating sawmill.

Nathan Corkill at Whiteman Lumber

Today, under the leadership of Nathan Corkill, Whiteman Lumber specializes in producing detailed, custom timber packages for timber frame homes, event centers, and commercial buildings. The mill also serves mines across the United States and Canada.

"The mine business sustained operations until the 1990s when economic and environmental issues forced the curtailment of most mining," Corkill said. "Since then, we have re-invented ourselves many times and ultimately found steady business in the timber frame market."

Corkill's connection to the mill runs deep. His parents purchased the business from the Whiteman family in 1988, and he grew up working there. After serving 16 years in the United States Marine Corps and four years in the Colorado Air National Guard, Corkill and his wife, Jennifer, returned to Idaho in 2023. They officially purchased the mill in January 2024.

"It's equal parts both," Corkill said when asked if running the mill was a dream come true or something he fell into. "I grew up working around the mill and always enjoyed the atmosphere and lifestyle. Our decision to come back to the sawmill has been positively reinforced every day."

Whiteman Lumber's longevity is rooted in its people. The sawyer has been with the company for 52 years, the foreman for 36, the millwright for 37, and the office manager for 34. Corkill calls them family.

"We survive on quality and everyone here strives for it," he said. "I'm humbled daily by the effort, knowledge, and dedication of our employees."

Looking ahead, Corkill hopes to maintain the company's strong position in the timber frame market while exploring new opportunities. With Whiteman Lumber approaching its 100th anniversary in 2028, Corkill is eager to celebrate that milestone.

For more information, visit www.whitemanlumber.com, email nathancorkill@whitemanlumber.com, or call (208) 682-4602. The mill operates Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. *by Josh McDonald, Shoshone News-Press*

Idaho's Swift Action After the Rock Fire Shows How Forest Recovery Can Work

Decisions made in the days and weeks following a wildfire can shape forests and communities for decades. Idaho's response to the Rock Fire shows how acting quickly after a fire can deliver lasting benefits for forests, workers, and public schools.

After the Rock Fire ignited on August 12, 2025 and burned nearly 2,800 acres across federal and state trust lands, the Idaho Department of Lands moved with uncommon speed to recover dead and dying timber before it lost value or became a long-term hazard. This salvage effort represented one of the fastest turnarounds the agency's foresters have seen.

Within days of ignition, IDL staff were already planning salvage operations while the fire response was still underway. Working out of the Rock Fire Incident Command Post, foresters prepared timber recovery plans, conducted fieldwork, and coordinated closely with partners on the Boise and Payette National Forests through the Good Neighbor Authority.

Coordination continued even before the fire was fully contained. As suppression efforts wrapped up, IDL and federal foresters were already preparing complementary recovery efforts across ownership boundaries.

In one case, a Good Neighbor Authority salvage sale on the Payette National Forest sold just days before containment. Additional sales followed within weeks, ensuring that burned timber was recovered while it still held value and before it could add to future fuel hazards.

Urgency matters. Burned timber deteriorates rapidly, reducing its usefulness for wood products and increasing hazardous fuel loads on the landscape. When dead trees are left standing or fall over time, they can contribute to more intense and dangerous fires in the future. Idaho's swift response reduced these risks while ensuring that usable wood supported local jobs and generated revenue for public schools and other beneficiaries.

On federal lands, this kind of rapid post-fire action is the exception rather than the rule. Salvage after wildfire is relatively rare and often slow, with many burned areas never seeing recovery efforts begin before the wood loses value. Lengthy planning processes and procedural delays mean fire-killed trees frequently decay, fall, or become heavy fuels long before they can be used, eliminating economic opportunity and increasing future wildfire risk.

Scientific research helps explain why timing is so critical after any large-scale tree mortality event. A 2025 peer-reviewed study examining forests in California following severe drought and insect-related tree death found that removing dead trees reduced surface fuels, lowered modeled fire severity in future decades, and improved regeneration of fire-adapted tree species.

While the study focused on non-fire mortality, it addressed the same challenge managers face after wildfires when large numbers of dead trees remain on the landscape. The researchers also concluded that although carbon stored on site was lower in the short term, reducing the likelihood of severe future wildfire could protect far more carbon over time by avoiding catastrophic losses.

The study underscored the importance of acting quickly. Delays allow dead trees to fall and accumulate as heavy fuels, increasing the potential for extreme fire behavior years or even decades later. Early action limits that buildup and creates better conditions for forests to recover in a more resilient and fire-adapted state.

The Rock Fire salvage effort delivered real results. Crews recovered hundreds of thousands of board feet of timber, put people to work in the woods and at local mills, and generated revenue for Idaho's public school endowments. Rather than becoming a long-term hazard, these burned forests continued to provide value to local communities while reducing future wildfire risk.

by Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities

Rep. Fulcher Proposes Exploration Transferring Idaho Federal Land to State and Local Control

Critics of transfer say state would likely sell off the land, eliminating public access

Idaho U.S. Rep. Russ Fulcher said he is convening meetings statewide to explore transferring management and ownership of the Gem State's vast federal public lands to state and local governments.

The Republican congressman on Monday sent a letter to Idaho statewide elected officials, legislators, and county commissioners, calling the eventual shift to local control of the land "imminent."

"If this issue is left unaddressed, we will have a real problem on our hands that will likely put unsustainable pressure on local property taxes," Fulcher wrote.

Two-thirds of Idaho's landmass is federally owned and managed. Fulcher wrote that the "extensive federal government footprint in our state poses significant challenges to our autonomy in issuing leases for timber, grazing, and mining." He also pointed to a lack of support from non-Western states for congressional funding of programs for local governments to offset the lost property tax revenue of federal lands, such as Payments in Lieu of Taxes, PILT, or Secure Rural Schools, SRS.

Fulcher said he recognized the value of lands being publicly accessible but said the federal government had not been properly managing them. A Conservation Voters of Idaho poll conducted in July found 96% of Idaho registered voters believe public lands should remain in public hands.

Concerns that transfer of Idaho public lands would take them out of the public's hands

Those who oppose the transfer of ownership of federal lands question if access would remain open to the public.

"Over the history of the state of Idaho, about a third of Idaho's state endowment lands have been sold off," said John Robison, Idaho Conservation League public lands and wildlife director.

Robison underscored the recent sale of state lands near the Teton mountains in eastern Idaho, which had been leased for grazing by a local rancher through 2032, the Idaho Capital Sun previously reported.

State endowment land is typically publicly accessible but is required to be used to generate the most revenue possible for its beneficiaries, which include public schools.

Fellow Idaho Republican Congressman Mike Simpson told the Idaho Press that a past analysis on the cost for the state to manage all of its federal lands found it wasn't very feasible. "The Legislature looked at that at that time and said, 'Wow, we can't afford that,'" Simpson said. "It would come at a huge cost to the state of Idaho."

Simpson co-sponsored bipartisan legislation that would prohibit large parcels of federal land from sales or transfers, with some narrow exemptions. Simpson's bill was introduced amid a proposal led by U.S. Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, to sell thousands of acres of public federal lands. Fulcher voted in favor of the amendment to approve the sale.

Conservationists, Fulcher agree federal land management needs improvement

Robison agreed with Fulcher's assertion that federal land managers have not done enough to reduce wildfire risk. "Last year, federal land mismanagement was a major factor in nearly one million acres of our beautiful Idaho going up in flames, a level of devastation that puts significant financial strain on our local economies," Fulcher wrote.

Idaho recently signed a new agreement with the U.S. Forest Service to partner with the federal agency to ramp up management and targeted logging activity in Idaho national forests.

Robison agreed there was more to be done to mitigate wildfire risk in Idaho's forests. "It is true that agencies that manage American public lands on our behalf are on a starvation diet," Robison said. "They are underfunded, they are understaffed, and our public lands are suffering as a result. Notably, it is Congress that holds the power of the purse to properly fund these agencies."

Gov. Brad Little has in the past bemoaned federal management of public lands, but said recently he is more satisfied with what's being done under the current presidential administration.

Laura Guido, Idaho Capital Sun

Forest Management for Small Forest Landowners: A Contrarian Review

I saw Bryon Loucks' family forest how-to guide reviewed twice. First, there was a positive quip in the National Woodland Owners Association's newsletter. The second (Northwest Woodlands magazine) had exhaustive chapter summaries and enthusiastic praise. Highlighted as a primer for family forests in the Douglas-fir region, I thought "Hey I grow DF, I gotta have this." I excitedly rushed a bound copy from Amazon ($25) instead of the Washington Farm Forestry Association's free download.

Close reading leads me to this mixed review. Loucks definitely knows what he's writing about. He spent decades in westside industrial forestry, and his 210-acre family forest was Washington's 2011 top Tree Farm. If I was writing a guidebook for others of our ilk, I would have a logical outline similar to his. And though my contents would differ, I would hope that my text was as well-written.

Loucks starts with a platitude to divergent family forest objectives, but they quickly drown in implied down-scaled industrial purpose and practices. This is coupled with West Coastal examples which don't exactly fit typical IFOA members' specific needs. Timber management ranks 10th in the last UI family forest survey results, and Douglas-fir is just one of the complex mix of species we deal with.

My take is not totally negative. Elements of his well-ordered chapters could be adapted to our mixed-purpose forests. My first epiphany was in tree growth. As a long-time forester I had presumed that the subject was a given. But I learned much about growth cycles and causes of tree damage. Soils coverage was elemental but sprinkled with new insights on site index and compaction. And very useful indeed is how to access NRCS web soil surveys.

Lots of practices are discussed in the book's 290 pages. They range from chapter 4's site prep to chapter 12's harvesting. His examples don't help us much. Optimal spacing in coastal DF is about 4 times tighter than mine. And three chapters on intensive management of Douglas-fir, alder, and western redcedar are wistful dreams. My alder is non-commercial brush, and who among us has enough WRC to intensively manage?

Is there useful stuff? Yes, it is embedded throughout. Got to admit, his deceptively simple land exam instruction did tighten up my own wander-about-and-arms-length-thumb technique. And I finally learned how to calibrate my herbicide sprayer!

What's glaringly missing? Many IFOA members are focused on aesthetics of our healthy sustainable forest environment. We share the ethics of a utopian novel I read (*Islandia*), in which forest beauty is considered an intergenerational gift. We need silviculture that protects our mixed forests from our bugs, rots, and fires. It differs significantly from industrial-style plantations.

Our forest wildlife considerations are more about suitable habitats than just damage caused by a few species. And that sentiment is from someone dedicated to the extinction of all porcupines. Besides, I want to enable elk migrations (preserve corridors), revitalize grouse populations (plant feeding cover), protect my pileated woodpeckers (harvest limits and girdled nesting sites). Plus, I would rave endlessly on our successful steelhead habitat restoration if our Newsletter editor would allow me just a dozen more pages. Get the gist? Our forest objectives are broader than Loucks' and for most we'll have to look elsewhere for guidance.

My final concern: one of the reviews called this an investment guide to farm forestry. That, it definitely is not. Although costs are considered and log sales discussed, there is none of a forest economist's focus on forest land valuation, financial optimization, or strategic planning. There is nothing about all the significant tax advantages of forest ownership - nary a mention of potential cross deductibility of forest expenses to ordinary wages. Oh well, I hope you found that covered in other references. I thought it was a glaring oversight here.

To sum up, this reference is too narrowly focused on a single region and purpose to be an "Eastsider's" primary source of wisdom. That said, it is well worth a read for: (1) well organized topics that we should be considering, (2) imbedded applicable nuggets, and (3) a renewed sense of envy for their lush coastal opportunities.

by Charley McKetta, IFOA member

Paper Ads Greener Than Digital? New Research Says Yes.

Paper Advertising's Unexpected Environmental Edge: Research Challenges Digital Norms

In a surprising turn, recent studies suggest that paper-based advertising may hold a more sustainable footprint than its digital counterpart. This revelation challenges the widely held assumption that 'going paperless' automatically equates to environmental responsibility. New data indicates that the full lifecycle impact of digital advertising – encompassing data centers, device manufacturing, and network infrastructure – generates a significantly larger carbon footprint than traditional print methods.

The findings, originating from research conducted by the Öko-Institut in Germany and corroborated by analyses from *The Telegraph*, *Emerce*, and *RetailTrends*, highlight the often-overlooked environmental costs associated with the digital world. While paper production undeniably carries its own environmental burdens, advancements in sustainable forestry practices and paper recycling are mitigating these impacts.

The Hidden Costs of Digital Advertising

The environmental impact of digital advertising isn't immediately apparent. It's easy to assume that an email or online banner ad has a negligible effect, but the reality is far more complex. Consider the energy consumption of massive data centers required to store and deliver online content. These facilities, often powered by fossil fuels, contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions.

Furthermore, the manufacturing of the devices we use to access digital advertising – smartphones, laptops, tablets – requires the extraction of rare earth minerals and involves energy-intensive production processes. The relatively short lifespan of these devices, coupled with the growing problem of electronic waste, exacerbates the environmental burden.

Paper's Path to Sustainability

Conversely, the paper industry has made substantial strides in sustainability. Responsible forestry management ensures that trees are replanted, maintaining forest ecosystems and biodiversity. Modern paper mills utilize renewable energy sources and implement closed-loop water systems to minimize their environmental impact. Crucially, paper is a highly recyclable material, with established infrastructure for collection and reprocessing.

The Öko-Institut's research specifically examined the carbon footprint of various advertising channels, factoring in everything from raw material extraction to end-of-life disposal. Their findings consistently showed that paper-based advertising, particularly when utilizing recycled paper and responsible forestry practices, generated fewer greenhouse gas emissions than comparable digital campaigns. *The Telegraph* provides a detailed overview of these findings.

But does this mean we should abandon digital advertising altogether? Not necessarily. The key lies in optimizing digital campaigns for efficiency and utilizing renewable energy sources to power data centers.

What role do you think consumer behavior plays in the environmental impact of advertising? And how can businesses balance the need for effective marketing with a commitment to sustainability?

Further research from *Emerce* and KVGO reinforces the notion that a holistic assessment of environmental impact is crucial.

The debate extends beyond carbon emissions. The production of electronic devices relies on conflict minerals, raising ethical concerns about labor practices and environmental degradation in mining regions. *RetailTrends* highlights the growing consumer demand for transparency and sustainable practices in all aspects of the supply chain.

This research prompts a critical reevaluation of our assumptions about environmental sustainability in the advertising industry. It's a reminder that seemingly 'green' choices can have hidden consequences, and that a truly sustainable approach requires a comprehensive lifecycle assessment.

by Sophia Patel, archyworldys.com

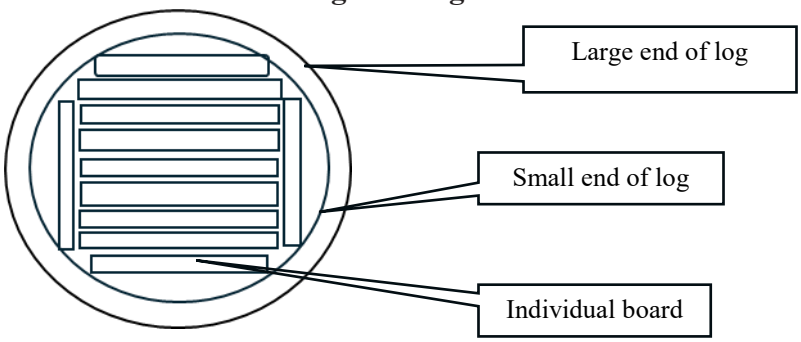
Perceptions From The Scale Stick

As the IFOA representative to the Idaho Board of Scaling Practices (IBSP), one of my responsibilities is to explain the process of log scaling. This should help you better understand the subject of log scaling and its peculiarities.

So, what is "log scaling"? Log scaling is nothing more than an organized method of determining how much lumber is contained in a log. Lumber is measured in "board feet". A board foot is defined as a piece of wood 12 inches wide, 12 inches long, and one inch thick (or an equivalent dimension equaling 144 cubic inches). That does not sound too complicated except that a board foot is rectangular, but a log is round. We all know that there are few logs that are perfectly round or straight. Rotten or crooked parts of the log must be considered as they have no value for lumber. These are some of the variables that a log scaler must consider.

How did the practice of log scaling first start? In 1846, a minister named J.M. Scribner became interested in log volume estimation because he felt that log sellers and buyers needed a uniform system of measurement where both sides could agree. In his "spare" time, he developed an estimating method that used one-inch-thick pieces of lumber hand-drawn inside circles of different sizes, the circle representing the small end diameter of a log. Below is a sketch of one of his diagrams. Evidently, Mr. Scribner was a trustworthy individual because people accepted his log estimation method as practical, consistent, and repeatable. This process became known as the "Scribner" log rule. It continues to be one of the most widely used log scale rules in the western U.S.

Sketch of Scribner's Diagram Log Rule



The Scribner log rule has gone through some changes over the years. The first change in the early 1900s rounded the number of board feet to the nearest 10 feet and dropped the zero. For example, 104 board feet would be rounded to 100 or 10; 106 board feet would be rounded to 110 or 11. Thus, the Scribner scale rule was renamed the Scribner Decimal C. The final modification was the development of the Coconino scaling stick which used dimensions on the scale stock marked on the half inch to assist with measurements. Just as with all estimation procedures, the Scribner rule is not perfect as no estimate is perfect. But it is consistent and repeatable. Two people using the same procedure will get comparable results.

In about 1969, the Scribner Decimal C log scale became the legal measurement for all timber sold in the State of Idaho. The Scribner Decimal C scale became the legal basis for estimating the board foot contents of logs bought and sold. In a future newsletter, I will explain more about scaling a log. If you are like me, you will find that it is more complicated than it appears.

by Dennis R. Parent, IFOA Representative for the IBSP

ATTENTION IFOA MEMBERS:
In addition to the two 2026-2028 Board Director positions currently voted for election, there are three more vacant Director positions open on the IFOA Board.
If you are an Active category (forest landowning) member available for *appointment* as Director or Alternate Director by the IFOA Board (or know someone who is!),
***please contact our Executive Vice President at* evpifoa@gmail.com**

Quarterly Log Market Report

Species	October 2025	January 2026
Douglas-fir/western larch	$400 - $525/MBF	$420- $525/MBF
Grand fir/western hemlock	$345 - $500	$360 - $500
Lodgepole pine	$350 - $490	$385 - $490
Ponderosa pine	$300 - $390	$300 - $390
Western white pine	$360 - $475	$360 - $475
Western redcedar	$1,150 - $1,500	$1,150 - $1,500
Cedar poles	*$2,200*	*$2,200*
Pulp	$20 - $45+/ton	$20 - $40/ton
Tonwood	$40/ton +/-	$40/ton +/-

Please note that these figures represent prices paid by competitive domestic facilities in the Inland Northwest, based on average-sized logs and standard log lengths - typically 16'6" and 33'. MBF stands for Thousand Board Feet. Be aware that higher prices may reflect rates only in select locations within the Inland Northwest. Additionally, pole values can vary significantly depending on length. Market information is current as of January 30, 2026.

As shown in the table above, log market activity has remained relatively stable in recent months with some slight increases in January. Mill inventories have fluctuated but weather continues to be an issue for consistent winter harvest conditions. Little change in overall market conditions is expected in the coming months. ***by Garrett Kleiner, ACF***

This information is provided by Inland Forest Management, Inc., a forestry consulting company.
For additional information, they can be contacted at 208-263-9420, IFM@fwforestry.com or www.inlandforest.com.

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The Board Walk: Nov, Dec, Jan

November 11, 2025

The board discussed Kennon McClintock's desire to retire from the FPAC as the nonindustrial landowner. While Kennon has agreed to serve an additional two-year term (expires 12/27), he would be willing to leave the FPAC sooner if the board finds a replacement. The EVP was tasked with contacting two potential candidates to determine their interest.

Treasurer Madeline David led a discussion of the 2026 IFOA general budget, which identified potential expense reductions and areas where revenue must increase. Cost-saving suggestions included offering members the option to receive newsletters and mailings electronically or by U.S. mail and reducing website update expenses.

The 2026 Family Forest Landowners and Managers Conference program was reviewed. Director David has begun sponsor outreach, and co-chair Kirk David plans to travel to Moscow to finalize catering and facilities arrangements with the University Inn Best Western Plus.

The Board discussed strategies to improve FOFD participation following the 2025 cancellation. A member survey indicated low attendance was primarily due to inconvenient timing and a remote location. September was identified as a preferable alternative to June, provided it does not conflict with the Idaho Tree Farm Program's Outstanding Tree Farm of the Year event.

Merchandise purchases have been made to replenish the green flannel shirt stock and to add a new item - Buck knives engraved with IFOA's name - to the merchandise inventory.

The Board discussed two potential Bylaw amendments for consideration in 2026: eliminating or clarifying the use of write-in candidates on Director election ballots, and allowing the Board to appoint directors when vacancies exist due to insufficient election candidates.

The 2026 membership renewal mailing has been completed.

Director McKetta reported on the Mass Timber Consortium, and the Board asked Director McKetta to contact consortium organizers to explore potential roles for IFOA.

December 9, 2025

The 2026 IFOA Board of Directors officers were elected: Nancy Clampet as President, Sandra Schlepp as Vice President, Cindy Mead as Secretary, and Madeline David as Treasurer.

The Board decided to hold future winter meetings in Coeur d'Alene rather than traveling to Sagle, as most board members come from further south.

The 2026 Family Forest Landowners & Managers Conference program is nearly finalized, with most speakers confirmed.

The Board approved a motion to contact Representatives Fulcher and Simpson to support the Sawmill bill, which would provide loan guarantees to establish or expand sawmill capacity.

Harry Craviotto's report on the Committee for Forestland Taxation Methodology meeting was presented, noting that the group rejected a proposal to eliminate the bare land & yield option, but to retain the current use classifications. However, the Idaho Tax Commission stated they are putting forth a request to the Legislature remove the BL&Y option.

January 13, 2026

The 2026 Family Forest Landowners & Managers Conference planning is on track with all speakers confirmed and venue arrangements in progress.

The Board is operating with a budget deficit and will need to focus on increasing membership and fundraising efforts.

The board approved $350 in travel expense reimbursement for Director Schlepp for her attendance at Forestry Day at the Legislature.

The Board is currently down three directors from the required 11 and needs to actively recruit new members.

The board voted to support the Boundary Connections 3 Forest Legacy Project application.

by IFOA Secretary Cindy Mead

Attention, DIY Members

Recently, an IFOA member asked if we could feature a spot in our quarterly Newsletter for members to offer extra or no-longer-needed forest/home owner equipment/tools/etc. for sale or exchange. A short description of the item(s) and a phone number to call is all that will be needed. This sounds like a good opportunity to conserve expenses or share items perhaps needed only when one-off or when "project completed".

So, look for this reserved space in the Newsletter, and in the meantime, put together your own list and send it (with phone #) to evpifoa@gmail.com. We'll put it in this spot and spread the word!

IFOA Quality LogoWear

...IFOA COFFEE MUG… ◄◄ HANDY! perfect before heading for the woods!
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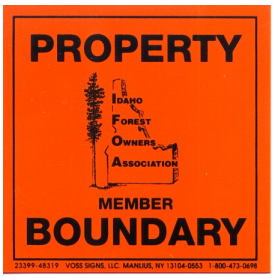
...IFOA DENIM SHIRT… ◄◄ VERY COMFORTABLE! perfect for working in the woods!
...IFOA T-SHIRT… ◄◄ SHORT SLEEVED, GREEN perfect for any occasion!
...IFOA SUSPENDERS… ◄◄ THE BEST!!! perfect for comfort anytime!
green w/white letters, heavy-duty construction, button-on style, adjustable to fit your length
...IFOA FLANNEL SHIRT… ◄◄ DARK GREEN HEATHER perfect for lookin' *good*!
...IFOA FLEECE VEST… ◄◄ WEAR IT LAYERED IN OR OUT perfectly soft and warm!

BEAUTIFUL! ►►**...IFOA MEMBERSHIP SIGN…**►►►
18" x 24" white with green graphics & black lettering
1/8" thick plastic, 6 pre-drilled mounting holes
space for family name
proudly display this "*must have*" item!



HIGH VISIBILITY!...3.75" x 3.75"
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bright orange with black lettering & logo
.024 gauge plastic

IFOA embroidered "Ball cap" HATS			**number**		**x $22.00 ea. =**	
IFOA SUSPENDERS-*button on*:		**54"**	**number**		**x $15.00 ea. =**	
IFOA TEE-SHIRTS forest green w/multi-color printed logo	**circle your sizes:**	**S, M, L, XL, 2XL**	**number**		**x $15.00 ea. =**	
IFOA HOODY SWEATSHIRTS circle sizes: Forest green w/multi-color printed logo		**M, L**	**number**		**x $45.00 ea. =**	
IFOA DENIM SHIRTS w/multi-color embroidered logo	**circle your sizes:**	**S, M, L, XL, 2XL**	**number**		**x $38.00 ea. =**	
IFOA FLANNEL SHIRT Dark green heather w/multi-color embroidered logo	**circle your sizes:**	**M, L, XL, 2XL**	**number**		**x $26.00 ea. =**	
IFOA FLEECE VEST Black w/multi-color embroidered logo	**circle your sizes:**	**L, XL**	**number**		**x $30.00 ea. =**	
IFOA MEMBER SIGNS			**number**		**x $13.00 ea. =**	
IFOA COFFEE MUGS ceramic white w/green logo			**number**		**x $3.00 ea. =**	
IFOA MEMBER PROPERTY BOUNDARY TAGS blaze orange w/black print		**4/Pack**	**number**		**x $2.00 ea. =**	
		25/Pack	**number**		**x $8.00 ea. =**	
		50/Pack	**number**		**x $16.00 ea. =**	
		100/Pack	**number**		**x $31.00 ea. =**	

All prices include Idaho Sales/Use tax **for Postal shipping fee, add $8.00/order = $8.00**

Winter 2026 **TOTAL $ =**

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YES, I would like to become an *Active* Member of the Idaho Forest Owners Association.

☐ **I own _____ acres of forest land in _____ County, Idaho.**
(If multi-county ownerships, please list all)

☐ **I do not own forest land in Idaho, but would like to become a *Participating* Member in the Association.**

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Annual dues are $45 for an individual, family, partnership, or corporation; $123 three years; $205 five years. Please make checks payable to the IDAHO FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Winter 2026