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

IDAHO FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION



Director Elections, Dues Renewals, & More

Some of this information may seem repetitive to long-time IFOA members, but every year IFOA gains new members who may not be familiar with our annual cycle. Every year, all Active category IFOA members have the opportunity to declare your intent to help IFOA continue to accomplish relevant work on behalf of family forestry - perhaps by declaring to run for an IFOA Director position, but always by voting for your choice of candidates running.

The *Campaign Statements* of the candidates for the 2027-2029 term positions are included in this IFOA Newsletter and are posted on IFOA's website:

www.idahoforestowners.org

By November 15 each year, all Active category IFOA members are mailed a ballot to vote for your choices among the listed candidates. *The mail-in polls close on November 30*, so please use the self-addressed return envelope enclosed with your ballot to cast your important vote and mail it *to arrive no later than* November 30, 2026!

It's also time to examine membership dues renewal!

The dues notice envelope you receive indicates the year through which your dues are paid. For members whose payment term has ended, the dues notice will indicate that it's *now* time to renew your membership!

Membership payments are *due by January 1* each year, and the membership roster is purged of non-payers, so please be prompt if it is time for you to renew. IFOA does not wish for you to miss out on timely information via your membership advantages such as *Northwest Woodlands* magazine, National Woodlands magazine, *IFOA Newsletter*, or *Constant Contact* email messages.

If you are interested in serving on the IFOA Board as a Director or Alternate Director (serve as proxy for absent Director), please contact our Exec. VP at: evpifoa@gmail.com

YOUR IFOA THANKS YOU!

A convenient way to renew your membership and insure you don't miss out on important news or announcements is to return (*by November 30th!*) your dues payment in the self-addressed envelope provided - along with your IFOA election ballot!!!

You may *donate* extra contributions to either IFOA *or* the IFOA-Education Foundation [501(c)3]. If donating to the Foundation, please write a *separate* check to "IFOA-EF" to secure your charitable donation tax deduction.

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2026 IFOA OFFICERS

- President – Nancy G. Clampet, Post Falls
- Vice Pres. – Sandra F. Schlepp, Cataldo
- Secretary – Cynthia R. Mead, Post Falls
- Treasurer – Madeline David, Athol
- Executive VP – Marrion N. Banks Athol

Meet-A-Member
Scott Rider, Post Falls

Scott Rider has been an IFOA member since 2024 and has attended several of the annual Family Forest Landowners & Managers Conferences. He has worked in forest management since graduating with a degree in Forest Technology in 1975. After short stints with a logging company and the Bureau of Land Management, Scott spent about nine years with the U.S. Forest Service. In 1985, he joined the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) as an assistant fire warden in the Saint Maries area. His entire career has focused on forest and fire management, with his last 12 years at IDL spent as an Endowment Forester.

In 1979, Scott purchased twenty acres about a mile east of Emida, south of Saint Maries. The previous owner was a logger who used the property as a tree farm. In 1980, Scott began building a two-story log home using only trees harvested from his own property.



Over the years, Scott kept busy with salvage logging and commercial thinning to prevent overcrowding and remove defective trees. As he worked, he also burned hand-piled slash when conditions were safe. The last harvest took place in 2002, and in 2003, he sold ten acres along with the house.

Scott's remaining ten acres are a mixed-conifer timber stand containing Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, grand fir, ponderosa pine, western larch, western white pine, and western hemlock. The property is classified as Western Hemlock/CLUN habitat, with loam soil and an estimated stand age of 80 years. Scott practices even-aged timber management.

The property has an intermittent Class II stream, and Scott enjoys sitting nearby on a warm day to eat his sack lunch. Most of the surrounding properties are fairly open, so he believes wildlife uses his timber stand for cover and bedding areas.

Pest and weed issues have been relatively minor. Scott has dealt with occasional Scolytus beetle attacks and has hawkweed on the property. Since hawkweed was first discovered in Benewah County, very little spraying has been needed on Scott's property. The tree canopy limits sunlight beneath the timber, while thick grass in open areas helps outcompete weeds. There is almost no knapweed on the property, and it has not spread. Scott has also noticed some Indian paint fungus.

As a retired forester, Scott enjoys having his own forest to manage. After years of handling salvage work and thinning himself, he has watched the timber grow well, and it is now ready for another harvest. He is currently preparing for a seed-tree cut that will be conducted by a logging company. After the harvest, Scott plans to underplant most of the property with a mix of 50% western larch, 25% Douglas-fir, and 25% western white pine. Whether he does the planting himself or hires a commercial service will depend on the cost.

When he is not working in the woods, Scott enjoys camping and fishing in the mountains of Idaho and Montana. More recently, he has helped with construction and renovation projects at his church as well as volunteering with a northern Idaho group that travels throughout Idaho and Montana to work on Bible camps and rural churches.

by Cindy Mead, IFOA Secretary

Knowledge Is Power: Pass It On

I'm Bob Reggear, and I co-own, with my brother Mike, acreage in Clearwater County. Our farm has been an Idaho Outstanding Tree Farm of the Year, and I am a past Director on the Board of IFOA.

We each have a generation of knowledge that is stored in our heads. When we are gone, so is that knowledge. What do we do?

It has been a concern of mine that when I need a map or information about my property, I must go to an agency or timber company to build maps or catalog my information. So about nine months ago I was expressing my concerns to my son and grandson. My grandson Griffen calmly said, "Grandpa, I'll make you a program. What do you want?"

Over the past months Griffen, with input from my son and myself, has created a program, called "Land Steward," which will allow you to build maps, insert pictures, and scan documents. The important thing about this program is that you can share it with all your family members no matter where they are located, and they are able to add their own information and pictures.

Land Steward runs in a web browser on a computer, tablet, or phone, with nothing to install. I outlined our property and drew in our stands, roads, and fence lines, and it figured the acreage and road lengths for me. When I find a washed-out culvert, I drop a pin on the map and attach a photo. It reminds me when a road needs grading or a field needs spraying, and it keeps track of what I have done and what it cost.

With one click, it prints a report on everything: the map, the work done on each timber stand and road, the notes I have added, and what it cost. I can hand it to my forester or the NRCS, and I keep a copy with our important papers. That printed report is how I plan to pass on what I know, even to family members who never log in.

Your information remains private. Each landowner has their own login and sees only their property. Your connection is encrypted and we do not sell or share your information with anyone. Any documents or photos you add are stored privately, only you can access them.

It is up to us all to share our passion and knowledge of the land with our descendants, so the legacy does not die with us. Knowledge is power; pass it on.

Land Steward free to start. If you have any questions, feel free to email landsteward@gmail.com or visit landsteward.io.

by Bob Reggear, IFOA member

Idaho Capitol Christmas Tree Swapped Due To Disease

The Capitol Christmas Tree, scheduled to be harvested from Idaho this year, has been swapped out because it came down with needlecast disease. A 76-foot tall Engelmann spruce replaced the 80-foot grand fir originally chosen as the "People's Tree." Zachary Peterson, a staff officer for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, says the yellow needles at the base of the grand fir caused them to pivot to the alternate conifer. "We plan to go with our backup tree, which is an Engelmann spruce, 76-feet tall, very similar in size, pretty similar in shape, on the Lochsa-Powell Ranger District," Peterson said.

The spruce was harvested in late October and packaged up for a whistle-stop tour throughout Idaho before its journey to the East Coast. "We're the third Idaho forest-provided tree, and this will be the third Engelmann spruce that's come from Idaho," Peterson said. The U.S. Forest Service announced they met their goal to get 10,000 handmade ornaments for decoration to accompany the tree to Washington D.C. "A huge thanks to all the communities that came out en masse to provide ornaments. It's been so fun looking through and seeing all the ornaments made from all corners of the state," said Peterson, adding that staff are packaging up the handmade decorations to accompany the tree delivery.

A contest was held to find an Idaho fourth grader to help light the Capitol Christmas Tree at our nation's Capitol. Young students entered to win by writing an essay that answers the prompt, "Why are healthy forests and clean water in Idaho important?" The winning essay writer is awarded flights, hotel accommodations and a meal stipend for up to three family members for travel to Washington D.C. where they will help light the Capitol Christmas Tree and read their essay to a live audience.

by Lauren Paterson, Boise State Public Radio News

Coming Events

NOVEMBER 2026

IFOA Board Meeting
Coeur d'Alene, Tues., 11/10/2026
evpifoa@gmail.com

Turning Idaho Trees into Wreaths
Orofino, Saturday, 11/21/2026
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

DECEMBER 2026

Turning Idaho Trees into Wreaths
Plummer, Wednesday, 12/2/2026
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

IFOA Board Meeting
Coeur d'Alene, Tues., 12/8/2026
evpifoa@gmail.com

Current Topics in Forest Health
Coeur d'Alene, Friday, 12/18/2026
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

JANUARY 2027

IFOA Board Meeting
Coeur d'Alene, Tues., 1/12/2027
evpifoa@gmail.com

FEBRUARY 2027

IFOA Board Meeting
Coeur d'Alene, Tues., 2/9/2027
evpifoa@gmail.com

DON'T FORGET TO CONSIDER A *TAX DEDUCTIBLE* CHARITABLE DONATION TO:
IFOA-EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Check written to: IDAHO FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION-*EF*
Sent to: P.O. Box 1257, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816-1257

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.	800-476-8733	argow@nwoa.net	www.woodlandowners.net

IFOA WELCOMES THESE NEW MEMBERS:

Nathan & Stephenie Gross, Husum, WA
Jack Kleinhoff, Baker City, OR
Mike & Denise Kluzik Troy
Dan &Vicki Peterson, Rathdrum
Todd & Kimberly Schelin, Sagle

Advocacy and Access: Championing America's Family Forests

Private forests play so many roles in our everyday lives that it can be difficult to quantify their value. Though it might be a struggle to assign a definitive value to private forests, we know that we cannot afford to lose them. Valuing forests and the benefits they provide requires us to understand the needs and challenges of those who own and steward them. Across the US, private forest landowners face a myriad of challenges that make it increasingly difficult to actively manage and retain their forests. *Landowners are the frontline of the defense of protecting our forests. They care and are doing the hard work, but they need more support. They truly value their land, making them important assets and partners,* said Nicole Goodman, director of marketing and communications at the American Forest Foundation (AFF). For many landowners seeking to actively manage their forests, the process can be overwhelming and even discouraging. Access and support are important, but intentional engagement is critical. Landowners need access to financial resources, technical expertise, and assistance from advocates who will meet them where they are and walk alongside them on their management journey.

***It is not just the responsibility of one organization to help landowners; we all must care,* said Beth Riley, AFF senior director of public finance and philanthropy. AFF, a recipient of Forest Landowner Support (FLS) funding, is on a mission to support forest landowners, rural communities, and economies across the US. They work with partners across the eastern and southern US to provide efficient delivery of support to landowners and their forests. As traditional markets like pulp and paper decline, landowners and their communities feel the direct impact. The decline of these markets is often followed by the closure of mills and other facilities that employ between hundreds and thousands of people. Between 2023 and 2024, there were over 50 mill closures across the US (American Loggers Council). Over 10,000 jobs have been lost because of the closures. If landowners do not have mills to take their wood to market, they cannot make a profit. If they cannot make a profit, they cannot afford the costs of controlling invasives, wildfire mitigation, and other costs associated with forest ownership (i.e. property taxes). In essence, without market access, our nation's forests will continue to dwindle.**

Forest Landowner Support (FLS) funding enables foresters to work with more partners, provide access to more landowners, and increase active management by reaching landowners who have not traditionally been engaged in forest management. *80% of the landowners enrolled in FLS programs did not even have a Forest Management Plan; they are new to active management,* says Riley. Forestry is a long-term investment that presents landowners with another challenge: succession and estate planning. For many landowners, this comes with complex and overwhelming decisions. *Landowners are trying to decide if they should clearcut their forests and put in solar panels, or should they take out their forests and plant row crops or should they clearcut and put up a condo community, says Riley. With FLS funding, we have enrolled 89,000 acres so far (9/26), which represents approximately 650 landowners and 1.7 million tons of carbon removed from the atmosphere*, says Goodman.

Landowners worry about what their forests will look like when they are no longer here. Having access to programs like the FLS Programs eases landowners' concerns and provides them with the means to establish succession and estate plans that ensure that today's forest management investments will pay off in the future. When landowners have the means and guidance to manage and plan, there is a greater chance of land retention. Greater land retention means that more forests stay forests. *The increased support we can provide landowners comes with a lot of downstream implications; it impacts the local mill, the local communities that depend on the jobs from the local mill, and to consulting foresters. Private forest landowners are the heartbeat of America. They keep rural communities vital; they provide us with clean air, clean water, and goods we use every day*, says Riley. We all have a role to play in keeping our forests as forests, because when we do, we benefit today, tomorrow, and every day.

by Morgan E. Alexander-Mims, Society of American Foresters

Why National Forests Allow Logging And Grazing

Picture your favorite national forest: quiet trails, big trees, maybe a lake. Now picture a logging truck rumbling out of it stacked with fresh-cut timber, or a herd of cattle chewing through a meadow. For a lot of people, that second image feels like a scandal, some kind of loophole or corporate giveaway happening on protected land. It is not. Logging and grazing on national forests are not a betrayal of the idea. They are the idea. Understanding why comes down to one thing almost nobody realizes about these places, and it starts with a government department you would never expect.

First, Forget Everything You Know About National Parks

The confusion is completely understandable, because national parks and national forests look like cousins. They are not. A national park exists to preserve a place, to keep it as close to untouched as possible so future generations can gawk at it. A national forest exists to be used. Its founding idea was never "lock this away and admire it." It was "here is a vast, valuable resource, so let us manage it wisely and put it to work for the country." Same trees, same mountains, opposite mission. Once you swap the museum mindset for a working-lands mindset, the logging trucks and the cattle suddenly make total sense.

Follow the Bureaucracy (Seriously)

Here is the giveaway, and it is genuinely the fastest way to understand the whole thing. National parks are run by the National Park Service, which sits inside the Department of the Interior, the agency in charge of protecting the country's natural treasures. National forests are run by the U.S. Forest Service, which sits inside the Department of Agriculture, the exact same department that oversees farming, ranching, and your groceries. Read that again. Your national forest is managed by the farm department. That is not an accident or a quirk of filing. It is a flashing neon sign that the government treats a forest the way it treats a wheat field or a cattle ranch: as a renewable resource meant to be harvested, carefully and forever.

It Is Written Into the Founding Law

This is not modern spin, either. Most national forests were created under the Organic Administration Act of 1897, and that law spells out their purpose in black and white: to improve and protect the forest, to secure favorable conditions of water flows, and to "furnish a continuous supply of timber" for the country. Logging is right there in the mission statement, listed as a founding reason these forests exist at all. The system grew fast from there. President Benjamin Harrison started carving out forest reserves in 1891, control passed to the new Forest Service in 1905, and the reserves were officially renamed national forests in 1907. Cutting timber from them was the plan from the very first day, not a betrayal of it. The biggest of them all, the Tongass in Alaska, is a temperate rainforest larger than West Virginia, and it became the poster child for the timber fights that followed.

Meet the Man Behind It All

Every big idea needs a stubborn person behind it, and here it was Gifford Pinchot, the first chief of the Forest Service and the reason there is a national forest in Washington State with his name on it. Pinchot championed a philosophy he called "wise use," summed up in his famous line about managing the land for "the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run." He clashed hard with the preservationist John Muir, who wanted wild places left strictly alone. Muir won the argument for the national parks. Pinchot won it for the national forests. That single philosophical fork in the road, use it wisely versus leave it be, is why a hiking trail and a timber sale can exist on the very same mountain.

The Magic Words: "Multiple Use"

If you visit a national forest, you will often see a sign reading "Land of Many Uses." That is not a slogan somebody made up for a brochure. It is federal law. The Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 formally ordered the Forest Service to manage its land for five things at once, on equal footing: outdoor recreation, timber, grazing (they call it "range"), watershed protection, and wildlife and fish. "Sustained yield" is the other half of the deal, and it is the crucial one. It means the forest can only be harvested at a pace that lets it regrow forever, like taking the interest without ever spending the principal. Log it, graze it, hike it, drink from its streams, but never use it up.

So, About Those Cows

Grazing follows the exact same logic, plus a big helping of history. When these Western forests were estab-

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Why Natl. For.? (cont.)

(Continued from page 6)

lished, ranchers were already running cattle and sheep across that land, and they had been for decades. Rather than kick everyone off, the Forest Service folded grazing into the plan as one of the official "many uses." Today it runs on a permit system: a rancher holds a permit for a specific allotment, with rules about how many animals and for how long, so the range does not get chewed down to dirt. It is a far cry from the chaotic free-for-all of the 1800s, when overgrazing genuinely wrecked huge stretches of the West. Those low, sometimes controversial grazing fees are the modern, regulated descendant of a very old handshake.

It Is Not a Free-For-All

None of this means anything goes. After the post-war housing boom triggered decades of aggressive clear-cutting, public backlash produced a wave of guardrails, most importantly the National Forest Management Act of 1976, which forces every forest to follow a detailed, public, science-based plan and reins in the worst logging practices. On top of that, large chunks of many national forests are designated wilderness, where logging, roads, and vehicles are banned outright. And the balance keeps shifting: recreation is now the fastest-growing use of the forests and pumps far more money into the economy than timber does. The mandate is still "multiple use," but the mix on the ground looks very different than it did in 1960.

A Forest With a Job

So the next time you spot a logging truck or a herd of cattle on national forest land and feel that flicker of outrage, remember what you are actually looking at. It is not a protected wilderness being violated. It is a working forest doing precisely the job it was created to do more than a century ago, under a law that treats trees and grass as crops to be harvested wisely and forever. National parks are the country's museums. National forests are its farms, its lumberyards, its pastures, and its playgrounds, all at once. That is not a contradiction. It is the entire point, and once you see it, you will never look at those green signs the same way again. ***by World Atlas***

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

IFOA Director Election Biographies & Campaign Statements

ROBBIE D. EASLEY, Moscow

Current profession or job: Private Forestry Specialist, Idaho Department of Lands, Deary, ID

Previous work or volunteer experience: Private Forestry Specialist, Idaho Department of Lands, Deary, ID 2024-present; Lands Resource Specialist, Idaho Department of Lands, Deary, ID 2016-2024; Private Forestry Technician, Idaho Department of Lands, Deary, ID, 2014-2016

Education: B.S. Forest Resources, Minor Forest Operations, University of Idaho 2014

Military service *(if applicable)*: N/A

Describe your involvement with your family forest or other forest land: I grew up on my family forest property outside Priest River, ID. It has been in the family since 1974. Helping my parents began my interest in forest management, and is what interested me in pursuing my degree in forest management. In my current role with the Idaho Department of lands I assist Idaho landowners in forest management. I have realized the same problems that occurred on my family forest are similar problems other landowners have.

IFOA membership and activities:

Year joined IFOA: 2025

IFOA offices or positions (committees, etc.): IFOA appointed Director 2025-2026

Membership and affiliation in other professional or volunteer associations and organizations: Idaho Tree Farm Inspector, 2025-present; District 2 Chair for Idaho Tree Farm Program 2019-present

Other Community or personal activities, including hobbies, if you wish: I have been a wildland firefighter for almost 20 years. I currently work on one of theNorthern Rockies Management Teams as a Division Supervisor. When not working on fires or the woods, I have a 5 year old daughter and a wife of 8 years that keep me busy.

Robbie D. Easley's Campaign Statement

If elected I would like to continue to help with the IFOA Field Day and Family Forest Landowners & Managers Conference.. I feel strongly about proper forest management and educating new and current landowners in how to manage healthy forests and fire protection.

PAUL R. TURCOTT, Bartlesville, OK

Current profession or job: Director of Investments, Oppenheimer & Co., Scottsdale, AZ 85254. Certified Financial Planner.

Previous work or volunteer experience: Tri County Technical Center Endowment Board of Directors (Current), Bartlesville Library Trust Authority Board (2015-2018), Volunteer Security Person for Children's Musical Theatre of Bartlesville (every summer performance), Ford Motor Company (4 years), Phillips Petroleum Company, Manager of international business development (23 years).

Education: 2013-Present IFOA Programs and U. of Idaho Extension; Ties to the Land Workshop; 2006 Certified Financial Planner; 1976 MBA Logistics, University of Tennessee; 1975 BS Business/Logistics, University of Tennessee

Military service: *(if applicable)* None.

Describe your involvement with your family forest or other forest land: We purchased approximately 16 acres of mixed conifer forest land and a small cabin on the Moyie River in 2012. I joined IFOA in 2014 as I knew virtually nothing about forestry but wanted to be a responsible steward of our property particularly with regard to forest management and wildlife habitat improvement. I hope our property will become a legacy family treasure, and that my children and their friends can enjoy the rejuvenation I feel walking through the forest.

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IFOA Director Elections
Biographies & Campaign Statements (cont.)

(Continued from page 8)

IFOA membership and activities:
Year joined IFOA: 2014. I attend the FFL&MC and the FOFD each year.
IFOA offices or positions (committees, etc.): Alternate Board Member 2019; Board Member 2019-present; Chair of ad hoc Technical/Website Committee; Chair of IFOA Membership Committee.
Membership and affiliation in other professional or volunteer associations and organizations: Member, 9B Trails; Member NWOA; Member National Wildlife Federation; Member Idaho Tree Farm Program.
Other Community or personal activities, including hobbies, if you wish: Everything grandkids – there are five from 7 to 15. Operate two HIPCAMP sites on our property to expose campers from US and Canada to the beauty of far northern Idaho and provide some basic education about family forest ownership/stewardship; Year-round visits to work in our family forest.

Paul R. Turcott's Campaign Statement

If relected, I'd like to continue contributing to the Board initiative expanding membership and forest owner awareness of our organization. Continue improving the usefulness of IFOA website: develop a sponsorship model beneficial to members and sponsors and add online IFOA merchandise sales to the website. I also believe it is vital that IFOA continue to be the proactive voice of our membership monitoring and publicly commenting on government rules, regulations, and red-tape in a time of rapidly expanding government oversight and overreach. Finally, and most importantly, reaching and educating the next generation of family forest landowners through IFOA-EF.

SANDRA F. SCHLEPP, Rose Lake

Current profession or job: Currently a partner with my husband, Paul (Paul & Sandy Schlepp Partnership). We do forest farming, including multiple hands-on activities from economical, ethical, and aesthetic logging for timber, soil, water, and wildlife health. Other work included thinning, pruning, fuel reduction, stream restoration, road construction, and tree planting.
Previous work or volunteer experience: 2016-2013 Stimson Lumber, Plummer, ID.; 2011-2013, Checkerboard Ranch, MT
Education: NIC, Kootenai High School
Military service: ***(if applicable)*** None
Describe your involvement with your family forest or other forest land: Being a farmer of timber crops and livestock, the land is part of life. The lifestyle is one you can't replace. There are not enough dollars to make you rich with cash (unless you sell your land), but the lifestyle is more than cash can buy. I've learned along the years the land is never always yours, but what you have with ownership is the right to manage that little piece of earth while you're here in the manner you and your soul thinks best.
IFOA membership and activities:
Year joined IFOA: 2014
IFOA offices or positions (committees, etc.): current IFOA Vice President; past IFOA Secretary.
Membership and affiliation in other professional or volunteer associations and organizations:
Other Community or personal activities, including hobbies, if you wish: None.

Sandra F. Schlepp's Campaign Statement

I've enjoyed the experience I've had being on the IFOA Board. I've learned lots of political decisions are made for landowners. IFOA is an opportunity to voice opinions and learn what's coming ahead. The more forest workers and timberland owners that participate, the better. Private ownership rights, family heritage, and trying to keep forests a viable lifestyle are important issues for me. IFOA can help us all maintain these goals.

What Forests Teach Us About Time

One of the unexpected things I've learned from managing a small woodland is that trees have completely changed the way I think about time.

Humans tend to measure life in short increments. We worry about next week's meeting, this month's bills, or this year's goals. Even our longest plans usually stretch only a few years into the future.

Trees are operating on an entirely different schedule.

A Douglas-fir seedling may spend its first decade looking almost insignificant. Fifty years later it has become a respectable tree. At one hundred years it is mature. At three hundred years it is just beginning to acquire the massive limbs, thick bark, and quiet presence that make old-growth forests so breathtaking.

To a tree, my entire lifetime is little more than a season.

That realization has been strangely comforting.

When I first began caring for our woodland, my lifetime, a human lifetime, was my frame of reference. I didn't understand that a 60-year-old fir was just getting started. 60 years seemed like such a long time in the context of a human lifetime. Plans for trees to provide shade or maybe a privacy screen of sorts require great patience. In reality, I won't enjoy the shade from trees I'm planting this year.

The forest politely ignores my human timetable, and reminds me that healthy things often grow slowly.

Year after year our PNW conifers quietly add another ring. So slowly that I often don't see the difference from one season to the next. Yet twenty years later the transformation is undeniable.

The same is true of people.

Strong marriages are not built in a weekend, a month, or even a year. Children don't become confident adults because of one great conversation. Communities aren't strengthened by a single volunteer day. Trust, wisdom, and character all grow much like forests - almost imperceptibly at first, then remarkably over decades.

Living among trees has also taught me that not everything worth doing will benefit me personally.

Every time I plant a Douglas-fir, I know I will never see it at its full potential. Someone else will stand beneath its shade. Someone else may admire its height or mill its lumber generations from now.

Oddly, that doesn't make the work less meaningful. It makes it more meaningful.

Perhaps we never really own a forest. We simply enter its story for a few decades. Our task is to honor those who shaped it before us and leave something worthy for those who will one day walk beneath these same trees.

Perhaps that's one of the greatest gifts forests offer us: They invite us to slow down.

They remind us that a meaningful life isn't measured only by what we accomplish this month or this year. Some of the most important work we ever do - raising children, caring for forests, building friendships, strengthening communities - is measured in decades.

The mountain communities understand this better than most. The forests surrounding us have stood through floods, fires, harsh winters, and generations of people who have come and gone. They have witnessed more history than any of us ever will.

Maybe that's why time seems to move a little differently here.

The trees quietly remind us that while our days are short, our influence doesn't have to be. Like the forests themselves, the things we nurture with patience today may become the legacy someone else enjoys tomorrow.

by Dr. David Wenzel, jn Mountain Times

Dave Wenzel has lived in the Mt. Hood community for more than 30 years, where he and his wife, Hollis, care for a 20-acre woodland they affectionately call the "20 Acre Wood." His days are spent managing the forest, planting trees (including as many redwoods as he can before he dies), welcoming guests to their Treehouse, and appreciating the lessons that nature has to teach about life, community, and meaning.

The Collector, by Jack Nisbet

Another McKetta Forestry Book Review

The subtitle *"David Douglas and the Natural History of the Northwest"* tells us up front that this is a biography of a forestry deity. It is a short one at that - in pages (255 pp.) and life span (1799-1834). What it does not reveal is that this book is an adventure thriller.

Douglas's young life of biological fascination up to age 25 is a mere one-chapter prelude. The important start is that during the raw age of sail, a Scottish whelp dared to climb aboard Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) ship *William & Mary,* with piddling endowment, to spend 8 months around the cape to the mouth of the Columbia River. His was a mission of incorrigible taxonomy.

We get a glimpse of his frenetic *modus operandi* collecting, cataloging, and preserving odd biologicals in his months afloat that underscores all subsequent forays. Nisbet uses surviving journals to add detail to all his contributions trip after trip from his base at the just established Fort Vancouver starting in 1825. His collections were immense. The journeys themselves are the stuff of heroic pulp fiction - except they were real.

So only 22 years after Lewis and Clark, HBC was establishing a network of company forts and posts throughout western North America. Not just up through Fort George in Canada, they stretched from northern California, into Utah and back through Idaho. They set up British settlements (mostly populated by Scots) that eventually grew into our own large regional capitals (at Spokane in1810 and Boise in1834). I do not know how we ever managed to claim lands up to the 49th parallel for ourselves with a straight face.

Douglas thought nothing of just hopping into a voyageur canoe or walking to all these places, sometimes making multiple trips to catch seasonal changes. His routes were inhabited, and native tribes fed and guided him. It must have been in that golden era before whites fatally made them angry.

He spent months on expeditions so long that I would not even drive them (In my defense, gas is now $5/gallon). His journals mention that some longer treks to Fort Colville measured in weeks upstream and in days downstream. Swamping in rapids seemed to be a repetitive theme. After a couple of years of this, he hiked in permanent snow over Jasper's Athabasca Pass to connect to an HBC boat headed home from Montreal. Hey, that is clear on the other side of Canada!

But it was not long before he sailed back to the Northwest again - this time retrained as a surveyor. His new mission included surveys of Spain's California ports, and regular voyageur trails, and the heights of everything around. It makes me wonder if he wasn't a spy - MI-6 in moccasins. Taking ship outbound over the deadly Columbia bar again, he stops to collect and survey in the Sandwich Islands. This included climbing up and peering into the mouths of Hawaii's bubbling volcanoes. They awed him. "The strongest man is unstrung; the most courageous heart is daunted in approaching this place. How insignificant are the works of man." His philosophical epiphany was short-lived. He died soon after - falling into a hunter's pit trap that housed a wild bull which had its own concept of collecting and dissecting interesting specimens.

Douglas collected much and communicated once-alien ecosystems back to European science. Many species are named after him, but I would argue that he literally discovered very little. Most species were well known (with different labels of course) by frontiersmen and the indigenous populations. Even his elusive sugar pine had been sweetening and adding nuts to the Umpqua People's diets for millennia. One species he really screwed up. His "yew pine" is neither of those, nor a fir, nor a hemlock. Ironic that we should call it "Douglas-fir" in his memory.

Nisbet's painfully researched and well-written book is not some boring plant taxonomy text. It re-lives the astounding and almost unbelievable experiences of a compulsive young explorer who accomplished so much in so little time.

by Charley McKetta, IFOA member

Perceptions From The Scale Stick

The Scribner log scaling rule is the legal method for determining the volume of a log in Idaho, as mentioned in the previous Newsletter. This choice was not necessarily because it is the "best" method, but because it is very consistent among log scalers. If each scaler follows the same rules for measuring log size and estimating log defect, the scaled log volumes will be comparable.

So, how do we determine if a particular scaler is correctly measuring the volume of a particular log or logs? Idaho State requires what is termed a "check scale." As the logs arrive at the mill from the forest, a licensed log scaler working directly for the sawmill measures the logs and estimates their volumes using the Scribner scaling rule. Then, a check scaler employed by the State of Idaho and hired by the Idaho Board of Scaling Practices (IBSP) measures some of the same logs (preferably three loads). The results of the mill scaler and the State check scaler must be within a certain percentage of each other for the estimated volume to be acceptable. At the conclusion of the check scale, a copy of each check scale is sent to the logging contractor. The landowners may also receive a copy if they are doing their own logging or if they make a specific request.

The variance allowed depends on the difficulty of the scaling process. A valid check scale requires checking three loads of logs with a volume of at least 10,000 board feet. The mill scaler and the check scaler must be within the allowable limits of variation in four topics: (1) gross scale, (2) net scale, (3) species identification, and (4) product classification (pulpwood and cedar products).

The following table lists the allowable limits of variation.

Categories	Allowable Variation	
Sawlog Gross Volume	Round sawlogs	+/- 2.0 percent
Sawlog Net Volume	Check scale pct of defect	+/- 2.0 percent
Sawlog Net Volume	Up to 10 percent defect	+/- 2.0 percent
Sawlog Net Volume	10.1 to 15 percent defect	+/- 3.0 percent
Sawlog Net Volume	15.1 to 20 percent defect	+/- 0.2 percent for each percent of defect
Sawlog Net Volume	Over 20 percent defect	+/- 5.0 percent
Pulp Logs		+/- 5.0 percent
Cedar Product Logs		+/- 8.0 percent
Species Identification Errors	3.0 percent	
Product Classification Errors	3.0 percent	

The mill scaler and the IBSP check scaler are both licensed by the State of Idaho. To be licensed, each scaler must pay a registration fee, and pass both a written and practical test, which involves scaling two hundred logs. The scaling license must be renewed every two years. The renewal license fee is paid by the scaler. Each scaler must also have been subject to a valid check scale within the previous two years. All scaling records including the check scaling are meticulously recorded and saved for later reference.

This explanation may help you appreciate the complexities of setting up and administering something that seems straightforward but is not as simple as it first appears. In a future article, I will explain more about record keeping and how the scaling law is administered and enforced. Also, how the landowner or log seller may request a check scale for their own logs.

by Dennis R. Parent, IBSP Representative for IFOA

Got a question? Send me an email. *drparent74@gmail.com*

9 Types of Wood You Shouldn't Burn

Whether exchanging tales around the fire pit or getting cozy indoors on a winter night, wood-burning fires are the ultimate ambiance setter. But using the wrong wood will choke up the scene quickly, and perhaps cause long-term damage to your home, health, and nature. Consider hardwood vs. softwood, seasoning time and potential toxins. Not to worry. We are not talking about splitting the atom here. Just avoid these kinds of firewood, and you will be the combustion superstar of chilly evenings.

Driftwood

Ocean driftwood has a high salt content, and chlorine is a chemical compound of salt. So, when you burn driftwood, it releases high doses of dioxins. "If you're breathing it in, it's carcinogenic, and that's not a good thing," says naturalist and TV survivalist instructor Roger Hammer. "It is also not a good a thing to use under your steak. All wood has some dioxins, but driftwood is particularly high."

Green Wood

Like a greenhorn, green wood is fresh on the scene. It has just been cut, and it is full of moisture. That makes it embarrassingly difficult to light. And if you are lucky enough to get it lit, it will smoke like crazy. Besides being annoying, that smoke will add creosote to your chimney, which can build up and cause a fire. The solution? Always use wood that has been properly seasoned or kiln dried.

Pine Wood

Pine, a softwood, is resinous. That means when burned, it emits a lot of soot that adds dangerous creosote to your chimney walls. It also burns more quickly than hardwood, so it is less efficient, though it can be used as kindling. If you have a leftover pine Christmas tree, it is best not to burn the wood in your fireplace. Find out if wood-burning fireplaces are illegal in your country. Also, ensure to never burn this list of things in your fireplace. "I wouldn't cook meat over it because it's really sappy," says Hammer.
Australian pine is the exception because it has far less resin. According to Hammer, it is considered one of the best firewood in the world.

Construction and Furniture Wood

A bonfire with leftover construction materials and broken chairs might sound like heaven, but it will be a toxic party. Most construction wood is treated with chemicals to prevent decay. And up until the early 2000s, a lot of pressure-treated wood contained arsenic. Furniture is often made from plywood or chipboard and strong adhesives. Painted wood is not good as firewood. Many wood pallets are also treated with chemicals and should not be burned in recreational fires.

Non-Local Wood

Firewood from afar is a major transmitter of invasive insects and diseases. Just one log can jeopardize a forest or a species, like what has happened with the emerald ash borer, gold-spotted oak borer, gypsy moth, and sudden oak death. Solution: Buy wood cut close to your home.

Poisonous Wood

Burning poison oak, poison ivy, poison sumac, Brazilian peppertree, and poisonwood create smoke with irritant oils that can cause severe breathing problems and eye irritation. "If it's got the word poison in it, I wouldn't be burning it, or eating it or anything else," says Hammer. "Oleander is another bad one, that can hospitalize you if you breathe it or use it for hot dog sticks."

Endangered Wood

Use a U.S. Department of Agriculture chart to make sure the firewood you are buying or harvesting is not an endangered or threatened species.

Habitat Wood

When collecting wood outdoors, check if animals are using it. Birds and other animals may be nesting in dead trees and downed logs. "You know there's an environmental ethic, and some of that wood is useful for critters to live in," says Hammer. "Sometimes dead trees attract more wildlife than living trees."

Rotten and Moldy Wood

Rotten wood is less dense and will not produce as much heat as dried wood. Moldy wood can create toxic fumes when burned. Both tend to have higher water content, so they produce a lot of smoke. Solution: Leave it for the bugs and fungi.

Products Containing Wood Pulp

Burning newspaper, cardboard, wrapping paper, and magazines can float long-lasting embers into the air and even up the chimney, where they can set creosote and the roof ablaze. One exception: You can use a small bit of tightly twisted newspaper to start a fire.

Not Wood

Styrofoam, plastic, empty food containers and boxes, cigarette butts and all that other trash contain toxins. Many of those poisons are harmful to breathe and can travel far in the wind. Solution: Do not burn them. ***by Karuna Eberl***

Idaho's Remote Forests Burn Across Vast, Hard-To-Reach Terrain

Idaho's defining wildfire problem is access. Much of the state's burnable timber sits inside roadless backcountry with no way to drive an engine to a fire line. Ignitions in the central mountains can grow for days before crews reach them on the ground.

The Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness covers roughly 2.3 million acres of canyon and timber, and it is the largest contiguous federally designated wilderness in the lower 48 states. With the adjoining Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, it forms a block of country where suppression depends on smokejumpers, helicopter crews and aerial retardant instead of engines and dozers. Fires there are often managed rather than attacked outright, with crews holding the edges near structures and trailheads while the interior burns.

Lightning starts a large share of those backcountry fires. Summer thunderstorms cross the Salmon River and Clearwater drainages and deliver strikes with little rain behind them. A fire can sit at a few acres in heavy timber for weeks, then make a long run once the wind shifts or the fuels dry out.

Southern Idaho carries the opposite landscape and a separate hazard. Across the Snake River Plain and the Owyhee country, cheatgrass has displaced native sagebrush understory over huge stretches of rangeland. The invasive annual cures by early summer and knits patchy desert into continuous fuel, letting fire move over open ground at speed. Each burn clears more sagebrush and favors more cheatgrass, which shortens the interval between fires and erodes habitat that greater sage grouse and pronghorn depend on.

Development concentrates the human exposure. The Boise foothills and the Wood River Valley near Ketchum have added homes along the seam between subdivision and brush-covered slope - terrain that funnels fire uphill toward whatever sits above it.

Smoke is the state's most widely felt export in an active season. Valley inversions trap haze over Boise, McCall and the Clearwater basin for days at a time, and plumes off the central mountains degrade air quality across the Northern Rockies and out onto the plains.

Excerpt from ***Colleen Cabili, Quartz***



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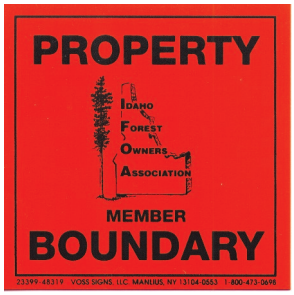

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Autumn 2026