



IDAHO FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION



INVITING EVERYONE TO IFOA'S 2022 FOREST OWNERS FIELD DAY

IFOA's annual Forest Owners Field Day (FOFD) will be held in Sandpoint on Saturday, June 18th. The Kaniksu Land Trust, host for this year's FOFD, manages Pine Street Woods at 11915 W. Pine St.

The FOFD will open at 8:00AM for registration, coffee, and cookies. Presentations times are 9:00AM, 10:00AM, 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 2:30PM and 3:30PM. Lunch and announcements will run between 12:00PM and 1:30PM.

Among the many presentations are sessions on "Noxious Weeds", "Conservation Easements", "Pruning", or "Forest Mushrooms", just to name a few. Presenters from Idaho Department of Lands, Washington Department of Natural Resources, University of Idaho Extension, Pine Street Woods and many others will be on hand.

A catered lunch is available if ordered with early registration by June 10th. Lunch is \$12 and is a choice of Turkey or Pastrami sandwiches freshly made at Miller's Country Store in Sandpoint. As always, you may bring your own picnic lunch to enjoy.

Dress for the weather and wear sturdy footwear. This is an outdoors event. There is moderate

walking involved to move from station to station. For individuals with disability requiring special accommodations, please call IFOA by June 10th at 208-755-8168. There will be some seating at each presentation spot but if you have a camp stool, please bring it. The sessions are 50 minutes long, with 10 minutes between each to reach your next fountain of information.

Pine Street Woods may be accessed from US Highway 2 just west of Dover or off of US Highway 95 at Sandpoint. For full instructions see the IFOA website. Early registration can be mailed or accessed online at www.idahoforestowners.org/event-registration. Early registration is \$20/person or \$30/nuclear family and ends on June 10th. After June 10th and onsite, registration is \$30/person and \$40/family.

Register early, this year's event looks to be one of the best! Come and enjoy the beauty of Pine Street Woods with friends, both new and old. This is Idaho Forest Owners Association's 40th year of service to forest owners in the state of Idaho. Please come and help us celebrate. Be careful, you'll probably enjoy yourself and learn a little something while doing it! **SEE YOU THERE!**

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MEET-A-MEMBER?

Hello fellow IFOA members - my name is Jill Buckland and I am the new contributing writer for the 'Meet-a-Member' profile. My husband Paul and I are landowners who live on ten acres south of Coeur d Alene in the Cougar Gulch area. We are both IFOA members and all-around fans of the forest.

When I was asked to volunteer my time to write for this newsletter I was thrilled because I enjoy writing, meeting new people, and learning about forest stewardship. I am happy to contribute but I want to be sure that I'm bringing you an informative and hopefully entertaining feature.

In the spirit of creating something you are excited to read, I would love to hear feedback on what interests you most as readers.

- ◆ Who would you like to see featured in an upcoming profile?
- ◆ What questions would you ask fellow landowners about their land?
- ◆ Has a member shared a story with you that you think we'd all enjoy or perhaps learn from?

Any thoughts, feedback, or ideas you want to share are appreciated. I am eager to meet more members, to hear the stories we all enjoy, and share them with all of you.

Please email me at: idchxfarmer@yahoo.com (yes, we have chickens).

by Jill Buckland, IFOA Member



SACKETT V. EPA

On April 15, 2022 the Idaho Forest Owners Association (IFOA) joined the National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO), the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA), the Forest Landowners Association (FLA), the Forest Resources Association (FRA) and at least 19 other forestry organizations across the nation as amici curiae (friends of the court) in a 43 page brief to the Supreme Court of the United States case 21-454, Michael Sackett; Chantell Sackett, Petitioners v. United States Environmental Protection Agency; Michael S. Regan, Administrator, Respondents - On Writ of Certiorari (to be made certain) to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (aka Sackett v. EPA).

As you may recall from several years ago, Idaho residents M. & C. Sackett were cited by the EPA, denying construction of the Sackett's home on their property in Bonner County, threatening them with massive fines and denying them any appeal of the matter. But the responding court case (brought all the way to a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court) said the Sacketts indeed did have a right of appeal.

After several ensuing cases on "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) brought before the Supreme Court, we come to this, yet another case that concerns EPA's overreach of authority in interpreting jurisdiction regarding "navigable waters" under the 1972 Clean Water Act and others.

As an IFOA member, unless you have "opted out" of our Constant Contact emails, you will receive a notice with a link to the amicus brief. It is a long document, but full of history on the subject that concerns every landowner, whether forest, field, farm or city.

IFOA membership has many and varied benefits, but IFOA feels this action is a very important example of how your support as a concerned member has helped all of us - using our proper rights and freedoms as well as our attention to stewardship - to pursue our forest management goals for this valuable renewable resource that provides so many public benefits.

PRIVATE FORESTS DO THE PUBLIC GOOD!

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BRACE FOR BEETLES!

Droughts such as we experienced in 2021 can kill trees outright but, more commonly, droughts stress trees, making them more vulnerable to insects and diseases that take advantage of that stress and kill trees in the process. This is especially true in stands that are overstocked to begin with, a phenomenon all too common with forests here in the intermountain west.

Bark beetles are very capable organisms for taking advantage of moisture-stressed trees. UI Extension Forestry has been getting calls from people seeing patches of browning trees in their forests. If trees turn from green to totally brown within six months, it is likely bark beetles. Root diseases generally kill trees more slowly - with crowns fading from a dark green to yellow and becoming sparser as the fungus overwhelms the roots.

Recent bark beetle activity has been exacerbated by last winter's storms that downed many green trees. Some bark beetle species can use downed trees as a springboard to build up their populations and attack more trees. The moisture in the fall of 2021 may have slowed the growth of these insect populations - how much depends on the moisture over the winter and spring of 2022 and the general bark beetle population buildup on a given site. Many different bark beetle species could be at work in these browning trees:

- Western pine beetles (*Dendroctonus brevicomis*) attack larger ponderosa pine. The insect is identified by its large loopy, maze-like gallery pattern from tunneling in the tree's phloem (between the bark and the wood). Another signal of western pine beetles are bright orange trunks, created by woodpeckers flaking off the outer bark to get at maturing western pine beetles that are chewing their way through the bark to exit the tree.
- Pine engraver beetles (*Ips pini*) are distinguished by a "Y" or "H" shaped main gallery in the phloem. They focus on sapling to pole sized ponderosa and lodgepole pines or tops of larger pines. In late spring, *Ips* beetles will attack pines that have fallen in the winter, breed, and then emerge later in the summer to attack standing green pines. They can produce up to three generations annually in Idaho.
- Douglas-fir beetles (*Dendroctonus pseudotsugae*) are bark beetles that feed on large diameter Douglas-fir. In spring, Douglas-fir beetles attack and breed in trees that fell in the previous winter. A year later in the following spring and summer, they emerge from the fallen trees to attack standing green trees. Attacked trees do not usually fade until one year later. If you have winter-fallen Douglas-fir that are larger than 12 inches in diameter, with red-orange boring dust in bark crevices, and upon cutting away the bark find larval galleries, they have been attacked and should be harvested, burned, or debarked.
- Fir engraver beetles (*Scolytus ventralis*) primarily attack grand fir. Fir engraver beetles sometimes breed in windthrown and tops of grand fir (over 4 inches in diameter), then emerge to attack new trees from June to September, mostly during droughts. Not every attack of standing trees is lethal - some simply kill patches of tissue or kill tops. The beetles are active during drought or in response to anything that stresses grand fir.

The most visible patches of dead trees in northern Idaho family forests are killed by western pine beetle, but pine engraver has also been active in pines this past fall, as are Douglas-fir beetles whose populations have grown owing to last winter's storms.

All of these bark beetles are native insects - a natural part of Idaho forests, always present at endemic levels in most forests. The strategy to prevent tree mortality from bark beetles is to manage forests to reduce the number of trees competing for the same moisture (thinning). Favoring species that are the most suitable for the site is important. On drier sites, that often means favoring ponderosa pine - even if you had pine killed by bark beetles. Ponderosa pine is the most drought tolerant species available on most of the sites it grows on - other species will have more problems.

If you have beetle-killed trees and want to capture the value of the wood, get them to a mill as soon as possible. Pines killed by bark beetles lose substantial value quickly due to a fungus called "blue stain" brought in by bark beetles. Blue stain does not affect the structural integrity of the wood, but it reduces

(Continued on page 6)

COMING EVENTS

MAY 2022

Idaho State Forestry Contest
Farragut S.P., Thurs., 5/12/2022
www.idl.idaho.gov/forestry

Ten Acres & A Dream
Saint Maries, Sat., 5/14/2022
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

Identifying Idaho's Trees
Boise, Tuesday, 5/17/2022
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

Landscaping for Fire Prevention
Boise, Wednesday, 5/18/2022
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

Forestry 101 for Southern Idaho
Boise, Wednesday, 5/18/2022
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

IMFS Spring Gathering
Sandpoint, Friday, 5/20/2022
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

Landscaping for Fire Prevention
Blanchard, Saturday, 5/21/2022
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

Thinning and Pruning Field Day
Moscow, Thursday, 5/26/2022
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

JUNE 2022

Forestry 101 for Southern Idaho
McCall, Wednesday, 6/8/2022
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

Bark Beetle & Root Disease Field Day
Coeur d'Alene, Friday, 6/10/2022
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

Forest & Range Owners Field Day
Chewelah, WA, Sat., 6/11/2022
<https://forestry.wsu.edu/classes-and-events/>

IFOA Board Meeting
Kingston, Tuesday, 6/14/2022
evpifoa@gmail.com

Forestry Shortcourse
Sandpoint, Wednesdays,
6/15, 22, 29 +/2022
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

IFOA 2022
FOREST OWNERS FIELD DAY
Pine Street Woods, Sandpoint
Saturday, June 18th, 2022
www.idahoforestowners.org

Thinning and Pruning Field Day
Blanchard, Saturday, 6/18/2022
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

Landscaping for Fire Prevention
Eastern Idaho, Wed., 6/24/2022
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

Forestry 101 for Southern Idaho
Eastern Idaho, Wed., 6/24/2022
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

Forest Insect & Disease Field Day
North Central Idaho, 6/?/2022
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

JULY 2022

Forestry Shortcourse (cont.)
Sandpoint, Wednesdays,
7/6, 13, 20/2022
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

IFOA Board Meeting
Moscow, Tuesday, 7/12/2022
evpifoa@gmail.com

Assisted Migration Field Day
Priest River/Spirit Lake, Fri., 7/15/2022
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

AUGUST 2022
Forest Insect & Disease Field Day
Saint Maries, Friday, 8/5/2022
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

IFOA Board Meeting
Sandpoint, Tuesday, 8/9/2022
evpifoa@gmail.com

IFOA WELCOMES THESE NEW MEMBERS:

Lawrence Blackledge, Dallas, TX ♦ Brian Deatley, Lewiston

Frances Henriksen, Hayden ♦ Sylvia & Tammi Hickman-Rosenthal, Coeur d'Alene

Denise & Robert Johnston, Coeur d'Alene ♦ Frank & Kate Latta, Worley

Philip J. Nuxoll, Lewiston ♦ Heidi VanderWilde, Spokane, WA

Russell Vaughan, Careywood

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BEETLES (CONT.)

the price mills pay for those logs. The reduction is large enough that it may not be worth taking the stained logs to a mill. When removing trees that have been killed by western pine beetles within the last 6 months, shave off the outer bark to check under the bark for grubs and remove or burn the bark if infested. Unlike other bark beetle species, just removing the bark from the wood does not kill western pine beetles.

Bark beetle-killed Douglas-fir is not affected by blue stain, but the outer wood of the log (sapwood) can be degraded by fungi if you wait too long. To prevent decay from pouch fungus, salvage beetle-killed trees in less than two years. Remove trees killed by Douglas-fir beetle before May of the following year to prevent beetles from those trees emerging and killing additional trees.

If a tree has been completely brown for over 12 months, the beetles that killed it have already left the tree. To set up a salvage sale, seek assistance from a professional forester, especially if you are deciding on trees which may or may not be near death. If someone claiming to be a logger or forester knocks on your door and seems to imply every tree with some brown needles will die shortly, ask for credentials and check with a reputable forester to assess the actual threat before cutting trees.

For assistance, consulting foresters offer timber inventory, timber sale administration, and many other services for a fee. As your representative, the consultant's success depends on keeping you satisfied by getting top prices for your logs while meeting your land management goals. See <https://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/CIS/CIS1226.pdf>.

If you would like to learn more about bark beetles, root diseases, or other insects and diseases that can kill trees, there are a variety of field days coming up in 2022. To learn more about bark beetles, root diseases, or other insects and diseases that can kill trees, download: www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry/programs.

excerpt from Chris Schnepf, UI Extension Forestry

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JUMPING SLUGS: THE TINY, SLIMY ACROBATS OF NORTHWEST FORESTS

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST IS HOME TO A GROUP OF RARE SPECIES YOU'VE PROBABLY NEVER HEARD OF

Unless you're a malacologist, as mollusk experts are called, you're unlikely to have seen or even heard of this half-inch-long creature: the Burrington jumping slug.

Most slugs are known for slowly and slimily sliding along the ground, but at least a half-dozen species in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho are called jumping slugs for their habit of writhing and flopping like a fish out of water. Biologists believe it's a defense mechanism. The slugs don't get big air, but they might fall off a branch or leaf they're on and break free of their own slime trail to throw a hungry predator off the scent.

"Yes, they jump," said biologist Michael Lucid of Selkirk Wildlife Science in Sandpoint. "But they don't jump as you might imagine." "Yeahhhhh," retired biologist Bill Leonard of Olympia, WA said hesitantly. "More like somersaulting or something than jumping." "It's kind of that corkscrew, tight coiling and uncoiling that causes them to lunge or tumble," Leonard said.

Jumping slugs are sometimes called semi-slugs: they're halfway between snails and slugs, carrying a sort of half-shell around inside a hump on their backs. Slugs are snails whose ancestors dispensed with all or most of their shells at some point in their evolution.

There are at least six species of jumping slugs in the Pacific Northwest. "These are integral residents of our Northwest forests," Leonard said. "They don't occur anywhere else in the world."

The Burrington jumping slug might never be a Northwest icon like salmon or orcas, but Canadian biologist Kristiina Ovaska says if you get up close enough, it has a certain charisma. It has a multicolored hump like a bedazzled little backpack. Its eyes are on the end of cute little eye stalks.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service found that the jumping slug was in trouble in much of its range. When their habitat is cleared, the slugs can't glide or jump away fast enough to find a suitably wet and shady place to live. "Burrington Jumping slug will continue to decline in levels of resiliency, redundancy, and representation within 20 to 50 years," the agency concluded. Still, the agency said the species had "moderate" resilience and did not warrant new measures to protect its habitat.

The few people who study these overlooked animals think they deserve more respect, especially given all the work they do for us. "Decomposition is not as sexy as pollination," Lucid said. "But it's a super essential ecosystem service nevertheless. Imagine a world without decomposers. Imagine the leaf litter that would build up on the forest floor, and all of the fuel that would fuel these fires that are already getting bad. So the species group is really important to humans."

Nearly 20 years ago, the U.S. Forest Service said the Burrington jumping slug depends on old-growth forests. Lucid says it can thrive in younger forests too, as long as loggers leave microhabitats with shade and woody debris the slugs can stay cool under - and as long as our changing climate doesn't dry out the wet places the slug calls home.

Extinction and our unraveling climate are ongoing tragedies, yet there's also comedy about jumping slugs. While some experts say jumping slugs don't really jump, Tim Pearce, the mollusk curator at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Museum of Natural History, says they can jump higher than the Empire State Building. That's because the Empire State Building can't jump. "I once told my friend I was going to the Olympics to see the jumping slugs," Pearce said. "And she said, 'I didn't even know that was an Olympic event!'"

Lucid and his wife named a species of jumping slug they discovered in 2018 after their young daughter, Skade. They'd named her for the Norse goddess of winter, mountains, skiing, and bowhunting. Skade's jumping-slug, their research found, lives in the coldest nooks and crannies of Idaho's Coeur d'Alene Mountains. "These are species that need it cold, they need it wet, and anybody who lived through last summer in the Northwest knows that that is changing," Lucid said. He wants to make sure jumping slugs are still around when his kids are grown up.

excerpts from John Ryan, KUOW Radio



USFS OFFERS AMBITIOUS PLAN FOR CONFRONTING WILDFIRE CRISIS - CAN IT SUCCEED?

Although the story may have been overshadowed by news of the surge of the omicron variant of Covid-19 and Russia's positioning of an army just across the border with Ukraine, the US Forest Service, along with its parent agency, the Department of Agriculture, announced in January a bold plan for "Confronting the Wildfire Crisis" in the US. Subtitle: "A Strategy for Protecting Communities and Improving Resilience in America's Forests."

In a press release announcing the strategy, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Forest Service Chief Randy Moore said that nearly \$3 billion would be available via the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 "to reduce hazardous fuels and restore America's forests and grasslands" and to make "investments in fire-adapted communities and post fire reforestation" over the next 10 years.

The \$3 billion in funding, they said, "Will be used to *begin* implementing this critical work." Emphasis added.

Although numerous news reports stated that \$50 billion had been committed to carrying out the strategy, that figure is an estimate of the anticipated costs over 10 years: \$20 billion for additional fuels and forest health treatments on Forest Service lands and \$30 billion for the work on non-Forest Service lands, according to a Forest Service spokesperson. In other words, additional funding is by no means guaranteed: Congress will need to allocate funding beyond the \$3 billion authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Now, \$3 billion may sound like a lot of money, but consider that the Forest Service alone spent an average of nearly \$2 billion per year on fire suppression from 2016 to 2020. Total federal fire suppression expenditures during the five-year period averaged \$2.35 billion per year, according to the National Inter-agency Fire Center.

The press release offers an ambitious agenda:

The Forest Service will work with other federal agencies, including the Department of the Interior, and with Tribes, states, local communities, private landowners, and other partners to focus fuels and forest health treatments more strategically and at the scale of the problem, based on the best available science.

The strategy highlights new research on what Forest Service scientists identified as high risk "firesheds" - large, forested landscapes with a high likelihood that an ignition could expose homes, communities, infrastructure and natural resources to wildfire. Firesheds, typically about 250,000 acres in size, are mapped to match the scale of community exposure to wildfire.

The Forest Service will use this risk-based information to engage with partners and create shared priorities for landscape scale work, to equitably and meaningfully change the trajectory of risk for people, communities and natural resources, including areas important for water, carbon and wildlife.

The groundwork in this new strategy will begin in areas identified as being at the highest risk, based on community exposure. Additional high risk areas for water and other values are being identified. Some of the highest risk areas based on community exposure include the Pacific Northwest, the Sierra Nevada Range in California, the front range in Colorado, and the Southwest.

The strategy calls for the Forest Service to treat up to an additional 20 million acres on national forests and grasslands and support treatment of up to an additional 30 million acres of other federal, state, Tribal, private and family lands. Fuels and forest health treatments, including the use of prescribed fire and thinning to reduce hazardous fuels, will be complemented by investments in fire-adapted communities and work to address post-fire risks, recovery and reforestation.

Focusing on the firesheds where wildfires pose the greatest risk to people, property, and resources is a smart strategy and will make sense to the general public. This clarity will be especially important when anti-forest-management groups raise objections and lawsuits, some of which will likely claim that fuels and forest health treatments are massive industrial logging projects in disguise. Other groups have

(Continued on page 9)

USFS FIRE PLAN (CONT)

(Continued from page 8)

voiced support.

“With the release of its new wildfire strategy, the US Forest Service is beginning to scale up efforts to address the growing wildfire threat across 50 million acres of the highest at-risk western landscapes,” said Cecilia Clavet, a senior policy adviser with The Nature Conservancy, in a press release. “As each wildfire season is likely to be worse than the last, we need more investment in forests and rangelands. Additional funding will increase the resilience of these lands to catastrophic wildfires, reduce risk to communities, and ensure people are empowered and prepared to live safely with fire.”

Notice the “beginning to scale up efforts.” If the plan’s goals are to have a chance of success, the agency needs at least \$3 billion per year over 10 years to adequately treat just the Forest Service lands - \$30 billion - let alone state, private, and tribal lands, as well as other federal lands, such as the vast area managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Even if additional funding is forthcoming, will the Forest Service be able to beef up its staff to handle all the environmental planning for treating up to an additional 20 million acres on national forests and grasslands? And to support treatment of up to an additional 30 million acres of other federal, state, tribal, private, and family lands? And managing the contracts and contractors needed to perform the work?

Will it be able to find enough contractors? And buyers for the logs and fuels to be removed?

“Hiring and Retention in the US Forest Service Is a Growing Issue” was the title of a May 20, 2021, Wildfire Today article, in which editor Bill Gabbert focused primarily on a shortage of firefighting personnel. Overall, the agency has nearly 30,000 employees, down from about 35,000 in the 1990s. With the dramatic increase in fire suppression, the agency has added firefighting staff, but the number of non-fire employees has declined. The agency has 38 percent fewer non-fire employees today than it did 20 years ago, explained Chief Moore in September 2021 testimony before Congress. The plan is unlikely to succeed without many more non-fire boots on the ground and on regional, forest, and district planning staffs.

Aside from questions about funding, staffing, and contracting, the Forest Service’s strategy for confronting the wildfire crisis is a sound one. It addresses some of the key issues raised in Michael T. Rains’ call to action to address wildfire as a “national emergency” and my “Responding to an Age of Megafires” editorial, both in the October 2021 edition of NRM Today.

The wildfire crisis has been brewing for many years. In a speech nearly two decades ago, Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth said, “The underlying issue is that so many of our fire-dependent ecosystems have become overgrown and unhealthy. In my view, the answer is to restore ecosystems before the big fires break out. Where fire-dependent forests are overgrown, we’ve got to do some thinning, then get fire back into the ecosystem when it’s safe.”

Delay, especially through a lack of funding from Congress, will only intensify the crisis.

by Steve Wilent, Editor of NRM Today, a monthly digital newsletter for North American natural resources professionals who manage fish, forests, range, water, wildlife, and other resources, as well as for the people who depend on or enjoy these resources.



An overcrowded stand burned by the 2021 Caldor Fire near South Lake Tahoe, CA. Photo: Cecilio Ricardo/US Forest Service

This area thinned fared well during the fire. Photos: Cecilio Ricardo/US Forest Service

WHAT DOES A "RESILIENT" FOREST LOOK LIKE?

A LOT FEWER TREES THAN WE'RE USED TO, ACCORDING TO A UC DAVIS STUDY OF FREQUENT-FIRE FORESTS

More than a century ago, Sierra Nevada forests faced almost no competition from neighboring trees for resources. Tree densities of the late 1800s would astonish most Californians today. Because of fire suppression, trees in current forests live alongside six to seven times as many trees as their ancestors did - competing for less water amid drier and hotter conditions. The study, published in the journal *Forest Ecology and Management*, suggests that low-density stands that largely eliminate tree competition are key to creating forests resilient to the multiple stressors of severe wildfire, drought, bark beetles and climate change. This approach would be a significant departure from current management strategies, which use competition among trees to direct forest development.

DEFINING 'RESILIENCE'

But first, the study asks: Just what does "resilience" even mean? Increasingly appearing in management plans, the term has been vague and difficult to quantify. The study authors developed this working definition: "Resilience is a measure of the forest's adaptability to a range of stresses and reflects the functional integrity of the ecosystem." They also found that a common forestry tool - the Stand Density Index, or SDI - is effective for assessing a forest's resilience. "Resilient forests respond to a range of stressors, not just one," said lead author Malcolm North, affiliate professor of forest ecology with the UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences and a research ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station. "'Resistance' is about surviving a particular stress, like fire - but there's a lot more going on in these forests, particularly with the strain of climate change."

COMPETITIVE NATURE

For fire-adapted forests in the Sierra, managing for resilience requires drastically reducing densities - as much as 80% of trees, in some cases. "Treatments for restoring resilience in today's forests need to be much more intensive than the current focus on fuels reduction," said UC Berkeley co-author Scott Stephens. The study compared large-scale historical and contemporary datasets and forest conditions in the southern and central Sierra Nevada, from Sequoia National Forest to the Stanislaus National Forest. Between 1911 and 2011, tree densities increased six- to seven-fold while average tree size was reduced by half. A century ago, both stand densities and competition were low. More than three-quarters of forest stands had low or no competition to slow a tree's growth and reduce its vigor. In contrast, nearly all - 82%-95% - of modern frequent-fire forests are considered in "full competition." Forests with very low tree densities can be more resilient to compounded threats of fire, drought and other stressors while maintaining healthy water quality, wildlife habitat and other natural benefits. Forests burned by high-severity fires or killed by drought lose such ecosystem services.

WAKE-UP CALL

The 2012-2016 drought, in which nearly 150 million trees died from drought-induced bark beetle infestations, serves as a wake-up call to the forestry community that different approaches are required to help forests confront multiple threats, not only severe wildfires. A shift away from managing for competitive forests and toward eliminating competition could allow the few to thrive and be more resilient. "People have grown accustomed to the high-density forest we live in," North said. "Most people would be surprised to see what these forests once looked like when frequent surface fires kept them at very low densities. But taking out smaller trees and leaving trees able to get through fire and drought leaves a pretty impressive forest. It does mean creating very open conditions with little inter-tree competition. There's a lot of historical data that supports this."

"We think resilient forests can be created, but it requires drastically reducing tree density until there's little to no competition," said another UC Berkeley co-author, Brandon Collins. "Doing this will allow these forests to adapt to future climate." *by Kat Kerlin, University of California - Davis*

Nearly all - 82%-95% - of modern frequent-fire forests are considered in "full competition." "Most people would be surprised to see what these forests once looked like when frequent surface fires kept them at very low densities. Trees in current forests live alongside six to seven times as many trees as their ancestors did."



Presettlement Forest

Today's Forest

RETAINING WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS HELPS KEEP COMMUNITIES SAFE

Idaho's wildland firefighters are a step closer to receiving competitive compensation on par with their federal peers and other western states.

Idaho's Department of Lands (IDL) has become a defacto training ground for wildland firefighters and faces extreme challenges recruiting and retaining qualified personnel. The agency's wildland firefighters engage in highly dangerous work for low pay protecting 6.2 million acres of private, state and federal land. Most are hired as temporary, seasonal employees and do not receive benefits.

After just two seasons 40% of IDL wildland firefighters do not return to work for the agency. This high turnover rate, given training requirements, is costly. Those seeking careers in fire often use IDL to obtain certifications and experience, then go on to obtain permanent or higher paying jobs elsewhere.

Surrounding states and the federal government offer higher wages and benefits, including firefighter hazard differential pay equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of hourly rates while engaged in dangerous fire suppression activities.

If there is a wildfire on private land protected by IDL, federal firefighters work shoulder to shoulder with IDL firefighters. The state is required to pay hazard pay to the federal firefighter but is not allowed to pay it to its own. When IDL firefighters are dispatched to states that do provide hazard pay, they cannot receive this additional compensation due to Idaho's laws.

HB588, a bill sponsored by Rep. Sage Dixon, will help level the playing field, allowing Idaho wildland firefighters to receive the same hazard pay benefit of those they work next to on a wildfire. In a recent survey 60% of IDL's wildland firefighters who indicated they would not return to work for the agency in the next season reported that if hazard pay was provided, they would stay on with IDL.

Given the extreme challenges state agencies face when recruiting and retaining employees in all types of work fields, Representative Dixon recognizes the importance of hiring and keeping trained wildland firefighters and is sponsoring the bill.

"Having enough experienced wildland firefighters in place and at the ready is vital to protecting our communities," said Representative Dixon. "It also protects the \$2.4 billion dollar forest products industry that is important to our local and state economies."

Industry is supportive of the legislation.

"We want to thank Representative Dixon for his leadership and for carrying this bill," Associated Logging Contractors Executive Director Shawn Keough said. "If IDL can't recruit and keep wildland firefighters, wildfires can threaten communities, shut down access to our forests and shuts down our forest operations which also negatively impacts our communities when we can't do our jobs and employees can't support their families.

The bill recently cleared the House Commerce and Human Resources committee unanimously with a coveted do-pass recommendation. If the legislation becomes law, Idaho wildland firefighters will receive hazard pay when they are working on an uncontrolled fire or at an active fire helibase.

UPDATE: Passed by both House and Senate and signed into law by Governor Little on 3/24/2022.

by Scott Phillips, sphillips@idl.idaho.gov

Contact information for family forest owner interests:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Website</u>
Idaho Forest Owners Association	755-8168	evpifoa@gmail.com	www.idahoforestowners.org
Idaho Forest Stewardship Program	666-8632	amorrow@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

IMPROVE TAX TREATMENT BY MANAGING TIMBERLAND AS A BUSINESS

For most Non-Industrial Private Forest (i.e., family forest) landowners, the most favorable treatment for timberland in the US Tax Code belongs to a category identified as “timber trade or business.” When timberland owners actively participate in the management of their timberland, all the expenses of managing a forest are deductible against any source of income and all tax credits offset taxes owed on any source of income. If timberland owners do not significantly participate in the management of their land, the expense deductions and tax credits can only be applied to income received from timber activities.

To qualify for this favorable tax status, timberland owners must meet material participation standards. *One* of the following requirements must be met. (For the purpose of qualification, a married couple is considered a single individual.)

- Participation in the activity exceeded 500 hours during the tax year.
- Personal participation in the activity substantially constituted all material participation during the tax year.
- Participation in the activity exceeded 100 hours during the tax year, and no other individual participated more.
- Aggregate participation in all of the “significant participation activities,” including actual timber management, exceeded 500 hours during the tax year. A significant participation activity is one in which participation exceeded 100 hours during the tax year.
- Material participation has occurred in the activity for any 5 of the preceding 10 tax years.
- Based on facts and circumstances, participation in the activity was on a regular, continuous, and substantial basis for at least 100 hours during the tax year; no other individual participated more; and a paid manager is not employed.

If a timberland owner meets one of these standards, the next issue to explore is whether the tax savings will be high enough to offset the amount of time and money it takes to set up the record keeping system that managing land as a business entails. The following items are necessary in order to establish timberland as a business. When many of these items already exist, the transition will be easier and more cost effective.

- A forest management plan that outlines an intention to manage the timberland for production.
- The fair market value (FMV) of all the assets of the timber business: land, timber, equipment (tractors, trucks, logging equipment), and depreciable real estate improvements (bridges, fences, culverts, etc.). Each asset class must be valued individually. By separating out the FMV of each asset class, you can then account for all additions and subtractions from the value of the asset, including land purchases or sales, timber sales, and depreciation on equipment and property improvements.
- The cost basis of each asset class, which is generally different than the FMV. For purchased land, the purchase price plus the costs associated with acquisition (timber cruise, land survey, legal assistance, title insurance, etc.) is used. For inherited land, use the evaluation from the federal or state estate tax form. If this is not available, the value on the date of the deceased’s death is used. If the timberland was gifted, the cost basis is the same as the giver’s.
- Record of operating expenses (consulting forester fees, hired labor, travel expenses related to property management and income potential, silvicultural activities, tools of short life, and fees for educational workshops and tours).
- Record of reforestation expenses.

To do additional research on whether this type of management decision is right for your circumstance, the National Timber Tax Website provides a wealth of up-to-date information. Another good way to understand all the information needed to qualify for additional tax benefits that come with actively managing timberland as a business is to study IRS Form T, which provides a comprehensive schedule for recording forest activities.

Every timberland owner is unique and may therefore have a unique ownership structure, as well as distinctive goals, costs, qualifications, etc. As always, a conversation with an attorney or tax advisor is also recommended.

QUARTERLY LOG MARKET REPORT

<u>Species</u>	<u>April 25, 2022</u>	<u>January 2022</u>
<i>Douglas-fir/western larch</i>	\$415 - \$540/MBF	\$430- \$525/MBF
<i>Grand fir/western hemlock</i>	\$420 - \$500	\$440 - \$490
<i>Lodgepole pine</i>	\$420 - \$500	\$420 - \$500
<i>Ponderosa pine</i>	\$275 (6-7") - \$475 (8"+)	\$350 (6-7") - \$475 (8"+)
<i>Western white pine</i>	\$350 - \$425	\$390 - \$475
<i>Western redcedar</i>	\$1,100 - \$1,700	\$1,100 - \$1,700
<i>Cedar poles</i>	*\$2,200*	*\$2,200*
<i>Pulp</i>	\$20 - \$25+/ton	\$20-32/ton
<i>Tonwood</i>	\$50/ton +/-	\$50/ton +/-

*Note that these figures represent prices paid by competitive domestic facilities in the Inland Northwest, and are based on average sized logs and standard log lengths - usually 16'6" and 33'. MBF = Thousand Board Feet. Please note that the higher prices may reflect prices only paid in select locations within the Inland Northwest. *Pole value varies widely depending upon length. Market information as of April 20, 2022*

As evidenced from the above prices, the log market has trended slightly higher over the last few months. One new wrinkle is that some markets have expressed a difference in pricing between Douglas-fir and western larch, with Douglas-fir commanding the higher price. Within the same time frame lumber prices have continued their wild ride, jumping over \$1,100/Mbf, then dropping below \$900 and now moving upward. Log buyers are generally optimistic regarding a solid market this year, with the likelihood that prices will trend slightly higher.

by Mike Wolcott, ACF, Certified Forester

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@inlandforest.com, or www.inlandforest.com.

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THE BOARD WALK: FEB, MAR & APR

FEB 8, 2022

- The proposed 2022 slate of IFOA officers was approved and the 2022 Executive Vice President was selected. EVP Newsam Banks presented a proposed 2022 Operations Plan and a proposed 2022 Budget. Both were accepted for review.
- The Chair of the Technology Committee reported that by February 1st the ability to register to attend the FFL&M Conference was up and running. Online registration for the 2022 Forest Owners Field Day will go live on April 15th.
- The BOD voted to join other Forestry Associations in support of the “Returning Worker Exception Act” (H.R. 3897). This Act will provide critical H2-B visa cap relief for seasonal businesses that include employers of H-2B workers. Currently the U.S. has a tree planting backlog of three to five years. The USFS alone has a backlog of five million acres due to recent wildfires and hurricanes. Each year H-2B workers plant 85% of the trees on 2.5 million acres in the U.S. and if the cap on H-2B visas is not increased it will not be possible to meet the tree planting demands on private and public lands in a timely manner.
- The EPA has proposed changes to language included in their “Revised Definition of Waters of the United States”. This would result in a return to the old rules which IFOA and other forestry organizations fought to revise in the past. In an effort to continue to stand up for the right and ability of forest owners to

practice forestry the BOD voted to send a letter to the EPA, joining the National Alliance of Forest Owners in protest of these proposed changes.

MAR 8, 2022

- The majority of 157 FFL&M Conference pre-registrations have been received through the IFOA website. Chair Morado reported receiving some negative comments about the price of virtual conference attendance, which is the same as the price for in-person attendance. EVP Newsam Banks noted that there are substantial added costs incurred for making the Conference available for virtual viewing. An all-inclusive volunteer task list was presented and Conference tasks were discussed and assigned.
- Vice President Easley has been contacted by Robert Keefe about the creation of an Advisory Board for the University of Idaho Experimental Forest. Mr. Keefe would like to include one person from IFOA on this Advisory Board. Possible candidates for this position were discussed.
- IFOA Forest Seedling Program Chair Schlepp and FSP Assistant K. David attended the 2-day annual Inland Empire Tree Improvement Cooperative meeting. Assistant David reported that IFOA has shares in IETIC’s ponderosa pine, western white pine, Douglas-fir, and western larch seed orchards and in two breeding groups that focus on Douglas-fir and low-elevation larch. IFOA is

also a member of the future western redcedar plantation that it is being developed.

APR 12, 2022

- FFL&M Conference Chair Morado reported that he has received many positive comments about the Conference held March 27th-29th in Moscow. This was the first in-person Conference since 2019. There were 217 participants, including speakers and virtual attendees.
- Planning for the 2022 Forest Owners Field Day, which will be held on June 18th in the Pine Street Woods on the west side of Sandpoint, is well underway. Chair Easley reported that at this time there are twelve confirmed speakers, with a possibility of two additional speakers. Director Turcott suggested also celebrating IFOA’s 40th Anniversary at this event.
- Member K. David reported that the National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) will be filing an amicus brief in the “Sackett v. EPA” case and is seeking financial contributions to help cover the cost of this action. This case originated in northern Idaho and involves landowners who were told by DEQ that because of a water feature on their land they could not build their home on that land, that they would be fined, and that they had no opportunity to appeal DEQ’s decision. A BOD motion to respond to NAFO’s request with a contribution and signing onto the court brief (among 25 other forestry associations nationwide) was approved.

by Marianna J. Groth, IFOA Secretary

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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)

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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

Spring 2022