Sustainable Forestry Practices for Landowners in Idaho

Produced by the Idaho SFI Implementation Committee

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE IDAHO
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This guide is provided by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee of Idaho

The Idaho Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Implementation Committee is a coalition of SFI certified organizations, along with representatives of conservation organizations, family forest landowners, loggers, independent forest products businesses, consulting foresters and members of the academic community.

The goal of the committee is to ensure that the forestland in Idaho is available to meet the needs of future generations through sustainable forest management and help small forest landowners increase the marketability of their timber.

www.idahosfi.org

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Sustainable Forestry - meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by practicing a land stewardship ethic that integrates reforestation and the managing, growing, nurturing, and harvesting of trees for useful products and ecosystem services such as the conservation of soil, air, and water quality, carbon, biological diversity, wildlife and aquatic habitat, recreation, and aesthetics.

Doing What's Right

There are over fifty-three million acres of land in Idaho. Of that, about twenty-one million acres are forested. The number of forested acres has remained fairly constant over the centuries, though there has been about an 8 percent decrease caused by human development. About 79 percent of the forestland is owned by the federal government and 6 percent by the Idaho Department of Lands. The remaining 15 percent is owned by tribal and private landowners including Corporations, and Family Forest owners. If you are part of this last group, the following information is written specifically for you.

Your forestland provides you with many benefits. It may supply income for your family today or for your retirement tomorrow. Well-managed forest provide wildlife habitat, clean air and water, aesthetic benefits, and recreation. Your forestland also helps provide your community and our nation with the forest products needed for a growing economy. Together, these points capture the essence of sustainable forest management – managing and conserving our forest resources to meet the needs of society today without compromising the needs of tomorrow.

As one of ten million family forest landowners in the United States, who own about 50 percent of the nation's timberland, your management decisions have an important impact on the forests of tomorrow. Putting sustainable forestry into practice on your land will help protect your investment while conserving its valuable resources.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative

The **SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE (SFI)** program guides the forest management of most industrial forest landowners in the United States. A major goal of SFI certified companies is to ensure that future generations enjoy the same opportunities provided by the abundant forests that we enjoy today.

These companies demonstrate their SFI commitment by improving forestry practices on industrial forestland and by promoting sustainable forestry practices with private forest landowners, foresters, and loggers.

Sustainable forestry is the practice of land stewardship that integrates reforestation, growing, nurturing, and harvesting of trees while protecting soil, water quality and quantity, wildlife, and plant habitat as well as aesthetics for today and the future.

The SFI program was developed in 1994 to safeguard our forests through land stewardship by meeting the current needs of our society and assuring the same natural resources will be available to future generations.

Today, the SFI program is one of the world's most rigorous and widely applied standards of sustainable forestry.

SFI participants must subscribe to and report annually on their performance regarding the following twenty-one objectives:

- Forest Management Planning
- Forest Health and Productivity
- Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources
- Conservation of Biological Diversity including Forest of Exceptional Conservation Value
- Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits
- Protection of Special Sites
- Efficient Use of Forest Resources
- Recognize and Respect Indigenous People's Rights
- Climate Smart Forestry
- Fire Resilience and Awareness
- Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach
- Use of Qualified Resource and Qualified Logging Professionals and Certified Logging Companies
- Adherence to Best Management Practices
- Avoid Controversial Sources
- Legal and Regulatory Compliance
- Forestry Research, Science and Technology
- Training and Education
- Community Involvement in the Practice of Sustainable Forestry
- Public Land Management Responsibilities
- Communications and Public Reporting
- Management Review and Continual Improvement

Giving you the support you need.

State forestry and wildlife agencies, programs like the American Tree Farm System® and Forestry and Natural Resources Extension, and private forestry consultants will assist you in getting professional assistance for developing an effective forest management plan. To realize your land stewardship goals, your plan should be based on sustainable forestry principles.

Some of the basic features of your plan:

- *Identify your specific goals and objectives.* Do you want to manage your forestland primarily for timber? Wildlife? Recreation? There are many more possibilities. Once you decide what is most important to you, it is then possible to develop a plan targeting your personal goals for your land.
- *Take an inventory of your forest resources and property.* Determine exactly what needs managing by identifying your land's features: trees, wildlife habitat, streams, and special sites.
- *Evaluate your objectives and decide on alternatives.* Begin by listing your objectives along with their benefits, the cost to implement them and how they will affect future decisions. This is an important step in preparing your final forest management plan.
- *Make your plan.* Put it in writing: what your goals are for the land, the timetable to meet those goals, and a list of forest management activities and their itemized expenses. Input and advice from a professional forester at this stage in the development of your plan will help assure that your goals are successfully achieved.
- *Implement your plan.* Now is when you put theory into action. Most plans will need some modification when implemented. Using a forestry professional or state forestry representative to assist you with implementation may be beneficial in helping you meet your objectives effectively and efficiently.

Let the Pros do it

Professional foresters and logging contractors can manage a complex and wide range of situations safely, economically, and conscientiously. When it comes time to harvest, using the services of professional foresters and qualified logging professionals will go a long way to successfully applying the principles of sustainable forest management to your lands.

Some of the expertise you should expect in a qualified or certified logging professional:

- Knowledge and compliance with federal, state, and local laws regarding timber harvesting, environmental protection, safety, transportation, and business.
- Knowledge and experience in meeting the legal requirements of the Idaho Forest Practices Act (FPA) including forest fire prevention.

In addition, loggers must be current on technology, understand and implement the variety of regulations designed to protect natural resources and be able to manage people effectively. In short, a professional logger needs to be a good businessperson and a good steward of the land.

The Idaho Pro-Logger Program (IPL) is administered by the Associated Logging Contractors, Inc. The IPL program is a voluntary standard that accredits logging contractors for their continuing education in sustainable forestry, forest regulations, safety, and business. This program meets the SFI standard requirements in Idaho. To initially obtain IPL accreditation, a company or individual must accumulate thirty-two continuing education credit hours. Completion of the Basic Forest Practices Workshop is required as part of the initial 32 hours. Once accredited, a minimum of twelve continuing credit hours per year is required to maintain IPL status. Four of these hours must be the Logger First Aid & Safety Training (also required by OSHA and the State of Idaho Logging Safety Regulations). A directory of IPL accredited logging companies and individuals in Idaho, as well as additional information about the IPL is available online at [www.idahologgers.com.](http://www.idahologgers.com)

Planning for the Future

Reforestation and afforestation

In planning for the future, you should consider both reforestation and afforestation as ways to enhance the productivity of your land. Reforestation is the restocking of a forest after removal of trees through harvesting, wildfire, or other means by planting or natural regeneration. Afforestation is the establishment of a forest or stand in an area where the preceding vegetation or land use was not forest (e.g., pasture, crop land, etc.). Over the years, if your objectives for your land change from agriculture or other activities, planting trees may improve your future income, decrease the potential for erosion and improve wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

Planning your reforestation method is best done before you harvest. Reforesting promptly is key to providing a sustainable supply of forest products, maximizing future income from the land, and guaranteeing beautiful forests for all the generations who come after us.

Before a harvest begins landowners should make a plan with their professional forester or logger that addresses harvesting techniques and expected products. This will ensure that the appropriate forest harvesting technique and other best practices are used to minimize waste and prepare the site for efficient reforestation.

State and federal cost-share programs can help off-set the costs associated with site preparation and replanting. Check with your professional forester, the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) or Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to learn what cost-share incentives may be available. The IDL also explains financial incentives for private forestland owners at www.idl.idaho.gov/about-forestry/assistance-for-forest-landowners/.

Reforestation costs (site preparation, seedling costs, planting costs, etc.) up to $10,000 per year may be deducted from income in the year incurred for federal tax purposes.

Additionally, reforestation costs in excess of the $10,000 may be deducted from annual income over an 84-month period. Special rules may apply to lands held in trusts and estates. Check with your forestry professional or tax advisor to learn more about this and other tax incentives for growing timber.

Methods to consider for your reforestation goals

The landowner is responsible for successful reforestation after harvesting. Idaho's Forest Practices Act requires strict tree size class and stocking per acre requirements within five growing seasons after logging completion.

- Tree planting: planting of tree seedlings ensures sufficient tree establishment as required by Idaho law. Planting gives you more control of forest composition and stocking.
- Advanced natural regeneration: in some areas, harvesting practices may retain enough tree stocking that planting is not necessary. Planning for the protection of existing trees and seedlings in the forest understory during and after the harvest is critical when using this method.
- Natural regeneration methods can be used; however, successful natural reforestation requires careful, site-specific pre-harvest planning and post-harvest monitoring.

If you want to pass on your land to the next generation with a healthy growing forest, while meeting any financial goals you may have, implementing a reforestation plan is necessary.

Idaho Forest Practices Act and Best Management Practices

The Clean Water Act, originally enacted in 1972 and amended in 1977 and 1987, requires forestry operations to be conducted in a manner that does not impact water quality. Following all requirements in the Idaho Forest Practices Act (FPA) assures compliance with the Clean Water Act, as well as other Best Management Practices (BMPs) for forestry. The Forest Practices Act Rules can

be found on the Idaho Department of Lands website at www.idl.idaho.gov/about-forestry/forest-practices-act/. A wealth of other information and assistance can also be found there. Other sources of information include:

- The professional forester who assisted you with your management plan and/or is buying your timber
- The logging professional who will be harvesting your timber
- The Idaho Forest Products Commission at www.idahoforests.org/
- The person or organization which gave you this brochure

Forestry BMPs in Idaho cover a range of forest management activities including planning, roads, protection of water quality and quantity, harvesting, reforestation, pesticide use, and other silvicultural management activities. The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) monitors implementation of the Best Management Practices required by the Forest Practices Act and has compiled compliance data on this over time. SFI member companies have verifiable BMP monitoring systems using IDL and other sources of information to measure the effectiveness of BMP implementation and to identify steps to take for improvement. IDL Private Forestry Specialists (PFS) regularly perform Forest Practices Inspections and summarize their findings annually in a year-end report which can be found at www.idl.idaho.gov/about-forestry/forest-practices-act/. Key areas for potential BMP implementation improvement have been identified in these programs to include the following:

- Identification and protection of riparian management areas along streams
- Removal and stabilization of stream crossings following use
- Limiting harvest and hauling activities during extreme weather events
- Restoring natural drainage patterns after harvest

As a landowner, you should carefully monitor the activities of any contractor performing forestry activities on your property, as well as your own activities, to stay within compliance of the Forest Practices Act.

Invasive Exotic Plants and Animals

Invasive exotic plants and animals are those that are found outside their native range; they can potentially have negative ecological, financial, and social impacts. Invasive species pose a threat to the survival and reproduction of native species and can decrease forest productivity, complicate forest management, and degrade biodiversity, wildlife habitat and the visual value of your forest.

Invasive species are typically able to thrive due to geographic and climatic conditions being like those of their native range and to the lack of natural predators and diseases. Effective control can only be accomplished when you know what species to be on the lookout for, how to identify those species and understand their impacts. There are numerous invasive species in Idaho – plants, animals, insects, and diseases. Examples of some of the more common ones found in Idaho are knapweed, thistle, tansy ragwort and hound's tongue.

Control measures

An integrated pest management program is the best approach for control, and may involve the following:

- Prevent introduction
- Early detection and rapid response
- Surveillance, control, and management
- For plants – rehabilitation and restoration
- Maintain forest health and vigor
- Using resource professionals

Preventing the introduction of non-native species is by far the most effective and economical control measure, therefore you should have an effective, ongoing surveillance program in place. If an invasive species should get established, the second most important control measure is a rapid response to prevent its spread and eradicate the unwelcome competitor. Depending on the invasive species and particular circumstances, control measures can involve one or a combination of methods – mechanical (e.g., hand-picking, traps, tillage), biological (e.g., promoting beneficial predators), chemical (e.g., pesticides). Following this, it may be beneficial to establish and/or release fast-growing native plants that can out-compete any surviving invasive plants while preventing soil erosion. Maintaining a healthy forest through sound forest management practices will increase your forest's ability to combat invasive species.

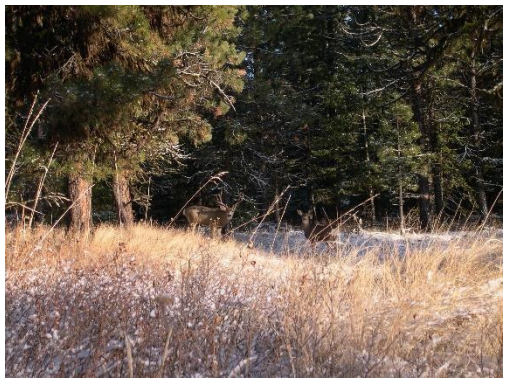
Contact a resource professional to assist you in learning more about invasive species, their identification and control. Listed below are some resources:

- County Weed Control Offices
- The Idaho Department of Lands at www.idl.idaho.gov/
- Your local office of the Cooperative Extension Service
- Your local office of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Publication – Idaho Noxious Weeds – Invasive Species of Idaho www.invasespecies.idaho.gov/plants

Enhancing Wildlife Habitats

Many landowners are committed to growing forests to ensure that future generations of Americans may experience the same abundant forests and wildlife we enjoy today.

Because forestry practices can be tailored to improve a wide variety of wildlife habitats while providing a continuous source of revenue, including timber production, many forest owners have successfully integrated mutually beneficial timber and wildlife habitat management on their lands.



Maintaining biological diversity

Among other benefits, maintaining biological diversity is another means of enhancing wildlife habitats on your land. The SFI standard defines biodiversity as: "The variety and abundance of life forms, processes, functions, and structures of plants, animals, and other living organisms, including the relative complexity of species, communities, gene pools and ecosystems at spatial scales that range from local to regional to global."

While many believe that biodiversity is most effectively addressed at the watershed or larger level, there are opportunities to manage and contribute to biodiversity at all levels – stand, forest, watershed, landscape, and global. Landowners can influence compositional and structural diversity at the stand and forest levels through management choices. Techniques landowners can use to ensure biodiversity involve maintaining:

- A mix of habitat and cover types – both terrestrial and aquatic
- A mix of species – both flora and fauna
- A distribution of age classes within and between stands
- Protecting Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value (FECV)
- Preserving unique stand features such as snags, mast trees, etc.

Keys to making this happen:

- Understanding the habitat(s) needed by the species you are interested in attracting to, or protecting on, your land
- Providing these habitats through forest management practices

Who is there to help you? With careful planning and the assistance of natural resource professionals, management practices can be implemented to meet production, biodiversity, and wildlife enhancement objectives.

Assistance you may expect from natural resource professionals:

- Help determine, refine, or modify your forest management plan to include objectives for wildlife and timber
- Supply you with technical guidance to provide or protect habitat for the wildlife you are interested in attracting to your land
- Tailor forest management activities to meet your wildlife habitat goals
- Provide access to cost-sharing programs that enhance wildlife

Where can you go to find assistance from a natural resource professional?

- Idaho Department of Fish and Game at www.idfg.idaho.gov
- Idaho Department of Lands at www.idl.idaho.gov
- Your local office of the Cooperative Extension Service
- Private natural resource consultants

Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value

What are Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value (FECV)?

Certain places in the twenty-one million acres of Idaho forestland are valuable for reasons other than their potential to give us paper, packaging, lumber, and other wood products. These forests might be home to a globally rare plant, animal, or community. If a plant, animal, or community is found to be very rare in the world and especially vulnerable to extinction, then it may be classified as imperiled or critically imperiled. These designations are like the threatened and endangered designations afforded to species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It is not unusual for imperiled or critically imperiled species and communities with no protection under the ESA to be rarer than some of the species that are protected under the ESA. For example, the wayside aster is listed as a federally threatened species protected under the ESA but is not classified as globally imperiled or critically imperiled. On the other hand, the Pacific walker mussel is globally critically imperiled, but is not protected under the ESA.

How do you know if you have rare species inhabiting your land?

There are currently nineteen plants and animals that are federally listed as threatened or endangered in Idaho. Threatened and endangered species can thrive in managed forests. In fact, active management is necessary for the survival of some species. It is up to landowners to take the steps necessary to identify and conserve the habitat that these species need.

Being able to recognize habitat characteristics can be as important as or even more important than being able to identify the threatened or endangered plant or animal. Online resources to help you find out which rare, threatened, endangered or imperiled species may be found on your land are listed below:

- Office of Species Conservation at www.species.idaho.gov/listed-species-in-Idaho
- NatureServe at www.natureserve.org
- Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office at www.fws.gov/office/idaho-fish-and- wildlife/species
- Idaho FECV Fact Sheets- 10 Ecoregions https://idahosfi.org/

EXAMPLE: Idaho FECV Fact Sheet pg 1 of 2 - 1 of 10 Ecoregions

IDAHO NORTHERN ROCKIES ECOREGION

G1 and G2 Species Habitat Management Guidelines

INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Forestry Initiate (SFI) 2022 Standards include requirements that promote and conserve Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value (FECV). This fact sheet summarizes the analysis of FECV habitat within this ecoregion and provides habitat management recommendations that would benefit species potentially found here.

HABITAT TYPES

- Forest Edge
- Mixed Conifer Forest
- Riparian or Stream
- Special Sites (Cliff, Grassland)

FOREST EDGE MANAGEMENT

- Protect known locations
- Buffer special sites

MIXED CONIFER FOREST MANAGEMENT

- Protect known locations
- Retain legacy trees, stumps, and logs
- Retain large diameter trees with cavities or broken tops
- Leave skips and gaps with dense shrub component
- Retain large slash into piles

RIPARIAN OR STREAM MANAGEMENT

- Protect known locations
- Maintain well vegetated riparian buffers
- Plant a diversity of both hardwood and conifer trees in the riparian zone
- Retain large diameter trees near streams and rivers
- Buffer wetlands, springs, and headwater areas

SPECIAL SITES (CLIFF, GRASSLAND) MANAGEMENT

- Protect known locations
- Buffer special sites

Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel

Spalding's Catchfly

Robust Starwort

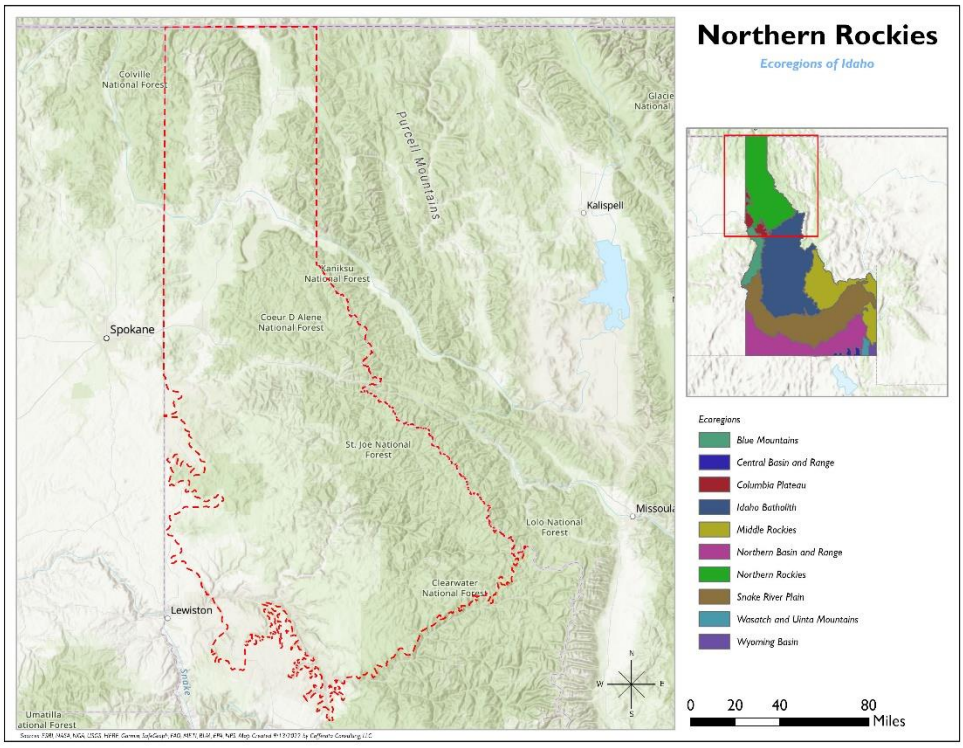
All management recommendations assume that operators and land managers are following all applicable BMPs, laws, and regulations.

IDAHO NORTHERN ROCKIES ECOREGION

G1 and G2 Species Habitat Management Guidelines

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	HABITAT	STATUS
Anguispira nimapuna	Nimapuna Disc	Cliff	G1
Melanoplus baldi	A Spur-throat Grasshopper	Forest Edge	G1G2
Melanoplus lolo	A Spur-throat Grasshopper	Forest Edge	G1G2
Symphyotrichum jessicae	Jessica's Aster	Forest Edge	G2
Urocitellus brunneus	Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel	Forest Edge	G2
Silene spaldingii	Spalding's Catchfly	Grassland	G2
Phlox idahonis	Clearwater Phlox	Mixed Conifer Forest	G1
Cryptomastix magnidentata	Mission Creek Oregonian	Mixed Conifer Forest	G1
Grimmia brittoniae	Britton's Dry Rock Moss	Mixed Conifer Forest	G2
Sphaerocarpos hians	A Liverwort	Riparian or Streams	G1
Cladonia andereggii	A Lichen	Riparian or Streams	G1
Cryptomastix sanburni	Kingston Oregonian	Riparian or Streams	G1
Ameletus tolae	A Mayfly	Riparian or Streams	G1G2
Paraleptophlebia falcula	A Mayfly	Riparian or Streams	G1G2
Pseudostellaria oxyphylla	Robust Starwort	Riparian or Streams	G1G2
Trifolium douglasii	Douglas' Clover	Riparian or Streams	G2
Schistidium cinclidodonteum	Schistidium Moss	Riparian or Streams	G2G3

**species links provided when available*



All management recommendations assume that operators and land managers are following all applicable BMPs, laws, and regulations.

What do you have to do if you have rare species inhabiting your land?

You are not required by law to do anything for imperiled or critically imperiled species and communities unless that species is listed under the Endangered Species Act, and/or listed under applicable state laws requiring protection. Many of these rare species and communities can thrive in managed forests with no special considerations. Others, however, may require specific management actions. At a minimum, when planning a harvest or other forest management activity where imperiled or critically imperiled species and communities occur, you should communicate the location and protection measures associated with these sites to your logger or contractor.

To learn more about threatened/endangered species and what you may be required to do, and imperiled/critically imperiled species and communities that may occur on your land, contact the Idaho Department of Lands, the Idaho's Governor's Office of Species Conservation, the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office, or NatureServe.

Definitions

Conservation - 1. Protection of plant and animal habitat; 2. The management of a renewable natural resource with the objective of sustaining its long-term productivity in perpetuity while providing for human use compatible with sustainability of the resource.

Critically Imperiled - A plant or animal or community, often referred to as G1, that is globally extremely rare or, because of some factor(s), especially vulnerable to extinction. Typically, five or fewer occurrences or populations remain, or very few individuals (<1,000), acres (<2,000 acres or 809 hectares), or linear miles (<10 miles or 16 kilometers) exist.

Imperiled - A plant or animal or community, often referred to as G2, that is globally rare or, because of some factor(s), is very vulnerable to extinction or elimination. Typically, six to 20 occurrences, or few remaining individuals (1,000 to 3,000), or acres (2,000 to 10,000 acres or 809 to 4047 hectares), or linear miles (10 to 50 miles or 16 to 80.5 kilometers) exist.

Threatened and Endangered - Listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act

and/or listed under applicable state laws requiring protection.

Characteristics of special sites

Your land may hold sites that have ecological, geological, cultural, or historical significance and which should be protected for future generations. Such sites may include cemeteries, waterfalls, Indian mounds, and unusual plant communities or habitats. By preserving these special sites, you can enhance the biodiversity of your property for all who enjoy it, including humans, plants, and animals, while ensuring these sites will not disappear from the landscape. Your resource professionals can assist you in identifying and protecting these special sites.

Some examples of non-forested sites that you may want to consider protecting as special sites are caves, seepage slopes, rock outcrops, riparian areas, water bodies (creeks, rivers, pools, and ponds), and natural openings in the forest such as prairies, glades, and dry sandhills. These sensitive sites harbor many of the critically imperiled and imperiled aquatic and terrestrial species. Temporary pools that fill up with water in the spring are especially important features that may contain rare, threatened, and endangered species. All these areas are important and are often very easy to work around.

Appearance is Important

The aesthetic appeal of your management activities can make an impact on the perception of forest management in your community and across the state.

Managing aesthetically can also be integrated with your plans for wildlife habitat, threatened and endangered species, biological diversity, FECV, and special sites.

Considerations in visual quality management

Forestry operations are highly visible and subject to the perceptions and opinions of an environmentally aware public. Careful planning is recommended as a proactive approach to improving forest aesthetics. Conducting forestry operations of all types in an aesthetically acceptable manner is important to the future of forestry. Though it is impossible to list everything a landowner might do to manage the visual quality of management activities, here are some of the more significant potential actions for consideration:

- Do not allow trash to accumulate around the site
- During a harvest, use all fiber designated for removal that is economically and operationally feasible
- Do not allow excessive amounts of mud on public paved roads
- Keep logging slash away from lakes, recreational waterways, and public roads, in accordance with the Idaho Forest Practices Act
- In aesthetically sensitive locations, minimize rutting or churning of the soil even if there are no water quality concerns
- A modified harvest plan may be required in sensitive high-visibility areas such as along designated scenic highways
- Locate loading decks out of public view
- Configure harvests with irregular shapes to break up the impact and match existing terrain
- Consider alternative harvesting systems and vegetative screens in highly sensitive areas

Reducing Wildfire Risk

Reducing wildfire risk for your forestland is important. The Idaho Department of Lands is the agency primarily responsible for the detection, suppression, and prevention of wildfires on private and state-owned lands. Landowners have important ways they can protect their forestland:

- Develop and implement a forest management plan to maintain healthy forest conditions.
- Reducing hazardous fuels through prescribed burning and mechanical removal can reduce wildfire risk to your forestland.
- Installing firebreaks can slow or stop the spread of wildfires on your property. Firebreaks can also provide access for firefighting equipment.
- Landowners can reduce hazardous fuels along roadways and property entrances.
- Control access by installing gates and other barriers to limit trespassers and unwanted visitors on your property.
- Managing timber stands to reduce dead and dying material through thinning.
- If you do not live near your forestland or do not visit it often, you should consider getting another set of eyes, such as an adjacent landowner, to alert you to wildfire or other potential problems they may see on your land.

American Tree Farm System

An organization that can aid you in succeeding as a responsible landowner is the American Tree Farm System (ATFS). ATFS was created to promote the growing of renewable forest resources on private lands, while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of the benefits of productive forestry.

The American Tree Farm System has over 95,000 family forest owners totaling more than twenty-five million acres of non-industrial private forestland certified in the program in forty-six states. There are approximately 250 Certified Tree Farms in Idaho. Since 1941, the ATFS has recognized landowners for their commitment to sustainable forest management.

One of the program's main features is providing information, education, and assistance to family forest landowners regarding forest management practices that will sustain or enhance forest productivity, wildlife habitat, water quality, and outdoor recreation.

Participating landowners, foresters and government representatives can help you find the assistance you need to accomplish your land management goals, develop, and implement a land management plan and certify your land as a Tree Farm.

When becoming a member of the ATFS, you must show that you follow Best Management Practices (BMPs) required by the Forest Practices Act when performing forest management activities and take measures to provide wildlife habitat and protect biodiversity whenever possible. You reap not only the rewards of good management, but also the benefits of belonging to a strong and knowledgeable group that is committed to protecting the environment. Another consideration is a growing preference among forest product customers for certified wood.

In August 2008, the ATFS gained the endorsement of the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). PEFC is an international organization that evaluates and recognizes national forest certification systems. The SFI program has also been endorsed by PEFC.

As part of the PEFC endorsement, the ATFS has a mutual recognition agreement with the SFI program, which will promote and expand the practice of sustainable

forest management on small and large ownerships. Under this agreement, as an ATFS member, you will have the potential for greater access to certified wood markets both in the United States and abroad.

For more information on the American Tree Farm System, call (202) 765-3660 or log on to www.treefarmsystem.org.

Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous Peoples are inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures and ways of relating people and the environment. They have retained social, cultural, economic, and political characteristics that are distinct from those of dominant societies in which they live. Indigenous Peoples have sought recognition of their identities, way of life and their right to traditional lands, territories, and natural resources.

SFI certified companies recognize and respect these rights and are committed to gaining a better understanding of their needs and concerns through training opportunities, consultation and effective communication.

There are five federally recognized Tribes in Idaho. Following are links to the Tribes information on location, history, cultural and traditional uses.

Nez Perce: https://nezperce.org

Coeur d' Alene: https://www.cdatribe-nsn.gov

Kootenai: https://ucut.org/members-tribes/kootenai-tribe-idaho/

Shoshone-Bannock http://www.sbtribes.com/

Shoshone-Paiute https://shopaitribes.org/spt/

Climate Smart Forestry

Atmospheric carbon influences the effects of climate change on forest ecosystems and global climate cycles. Carbon sequestered and released from forests has been identified as having significant effect on atmospheric carbon levels. Understanding carbon dynamics in forests is an important element of sustainable forest management. Awareness of the effect of forest management activities on carbon dynamics as they relate to climate change is important. Climate change is a uniquely challenging phenomenon, and continual analysis is needed to identify, address, and mitigate the risks climate change has on forests.

Understanding the overall impact of forest operations on forest carbon balance can encompass an analysis of carbon pools and fluxes, as well as an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions from forest operations. Greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide (CO_2), are thought to be a contributor to climate change.

Your carbon footprint, put simply, is the amount of CO_2 your activities generate. To reduce your carbon footprint, you reduce direct and indirect emissions, and when possible promote storage and sequestration.

Forests play a role in sequestering carbon

Forests and forest products store carbon. Trees absorb CO_2 through photosynthesis as they grow. Since the amount of carbon in the world is a constant, when there is more carbon sequestered in long-term sinks such as trees and forest products, there is less carbon going into the atmosphere.

When wood is burned for energy, or when trees die and decay, or when wood products reach the end of their useful life and are disposed of, stored carbon is recycled to the environment. Since these products are not adding new carbon to the atmosphere, they are considered carbon-neutral compared to burning fossil fuel which adds new carbon to the atmosphere.

Landowners are encouraged to check with the University of Idaho Extension (https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry/topic/ecology) to learn more about the developing carbon trading markets that support sustainable forest management and recognize the role forests can play in mitigating climate change. Additional information can be found at: https://www.forestcarbondataviz.org/ .

Fire Resilience and Awareness

Wildfire produces many undesirable impacts that threaten public safety, human health, property, carbon emissions, water quality and quantity, air quality, and species habitat. Wildfire also has the capacity to destroy forests on a scale that significantly impacts the inherent values of our forests. Sustainable forest management can reduce the risk of these undesirable impacts of wildfire. Appropriate forest management increases forest resiliency regarding wildfire, including the reduction of fuel loads and limiting negative impacts to water and soils.

It is important to raise public awareness on the use of forest management to minimizing wildfire risks, as well as point out the role sustainable forest management plays in the long list of benefits to our environment. Forest management techniques

may include prescribed burning and commercial and noncommercial thinning treatments to reduce levels of hazardous fuels. Additional information can be found at: https://www.idl.idaho.gov/fire-management/

Why Sustainable Forestry?

You can have a positive impact on the forests of the future. There are many threats to the health and viability of our nation's forests. Implementing sustainable forest management practices on your land is a potential solution to combating these threats. Sustainable forest management can also protect and enhance the water quality and quantity, aesthetics, special sites, and wildlife habitat on your land. Reforestation, one of the main objectives of sustainable forest management, ensures that your investment in forestland will create a valuable return in the future for you, your children, and generations to come. Following laws, regulations, and your state's BMPs for forestry is a critical component of implementing sustainable forestry practices. Using professional foresters, trained professional loggers, or becoming a Certified Tree Farmer can help you implement BMPs and reach your management objectives.

Sustainable forest management ensures forests for the future. It also helps to protect our forests, and in turn, our livelihood, wildlife, water quality and quantity, along with recreation. Managing your land for timber production and sustainable forestry go hand in hand. It is a business practice that is at the absolute core of managing forests for today and the future. Sustainable forestry management is the foundation and road map for our future forests.

Leading by example

Perhaps most importantly, your dedication to sustainable forest management on your land promotes responsible forestry to others. With the world population expected to approach ten billion by 2050, sustainable forestry is not just an ideal. It is a business, social, and global obligation.

Notes

Notes

This guide is provided by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Idaho State Implementation Committee. For more information visit www.idahosfi.org

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