



## IDAHO FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION



### FAMILY FOREST LANDOWNERS & MANAGERS CONFERENCE GOES "ONLINE" FOR 2021

Grab your calendars and save March 29-30, 2021 for the 32nd Family Forest Landowners & Managers Conference, to be held "virtually" this year via online "Zoom". This is the "must attend" event of the year for information, education, updates, and discussion of critical topics. Though we will all miss in-person networking with fellow family forest owners, forest managers and consultants, the program is outstanding.

Full two day conference registration is only \$20 per person! One day conference registration, either Monday or Tuesday, is \$10 per person.

A copy of the conference registration brochure is inserted in this Newsletter. The brochure and the Constant Contact message will direct you to either online or traditional mail in registration. Watch your email inbox for information.

If you are an Idaho Forest Steward, you will receive a copy of the brochure from Idaho Department of Lands which includes a coupon for a substantial discount on the registration fee. Watch your postal mailbox for this offer.

The theme of this year's conference is **"The Roaring '20s": A CALL TO ACTION: MANAGING IDAHO'S FORESTS IN THE NEW DECADE"**. Monday's sessions will focus on Big Picture Action, Local Level Action, and Your Forest As A Business. Tuesday will answer the questions "And Out in Our Woods?" and "What About Wildlife?".

The conference will include everyone's favorite IFOA Raffle and Silent Auction - also held virtually.

Participation details soon.

Get ready to join the fun!

"Meet" you in March on Zoom!



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#### 2021 IFOA OFFICERS

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## **MEET-A-MEMBER: MONIQUE M. & SPENCER HUTCHINGS, COCOLALLA**

Monique and Spencer spent most of their lives in central California near Fresno. However, in 2012, they finally gave up on the State for a variety of reasons, political and otherwise, and moved to Idaho. They found 58 acres with a house near the north shore of Cocolalla Lake, about 8 miles southwest of Sandpoint, and have a wonderful woodland to manage and recreate on.

This couple met when Monique's roommate had her boyfriend come over for a barbeque. He brought along a buddy named Spencer and that triggered a magic moment for the two. It was love at first sight and they have been together for 26 years now. They have a daughter and grandson, also now living in the Sandpoint area.

Spencer was involved with car racing and competitive shooting in California. Monique picked up on these activities and was especially keen on shooting handguns and rimfire rifles in competition. She must be pretty good at it because she placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Women's at the Steel Challenge World Championships after competing all over the US and Europe. This interest in shooting led them to start their own gun shop in Fresno which they brought with them to Idaho and opened in Sagle in 2017 as Sheepdog Supplies. This is a retail business that specializes in selling guns and ammunition and provides training to folks wanting to learn about shooting and the safe handling of firearms. Both of the Hutchings are still involved with competitive shooting.



Monique & Spencer Hutchings & family  
enjoy their forest.

Monique was born into a lumber family. Her folks owned a wholesale and retail lumber business in California. However, she said she really didn't get into understanding and appreciating the forest until they had their own Idaho timberland. On their new property, which they call the Westmond Ranch, they've both become very involved in learning about their woodland. With the help of a consultant they put together a management plan to improve the health and vigor of their trees. Some dead and diseased trees were removed by a contractor and they have done a lot of forest improvements on their own. Spencer and Monique spend a lot of time out in their forest, either assessing it or foraging in it.

Spencer was brought up on a cattle ranch in central California. After leaving the ranch, he became involved with computers and networking and ended up working for Kaiser Hospital with those skills. That all ended when he and Monique started the gun business and moved to Idaho.

The Hutchings joined IFOA in 2015 when they heard positive things about the organization from their forestry consultant. Monique wanted to learn all she could about managing their forest so she started attending IFOA Board meetings as an observer. Eventually she became an Alternate Director and then in 2020 she was elected as a Director for the 2021-2023 term. She feels that there are a lot of family woodland owners that are unaware of IFOA and the services they provide, and she will do what she can as a Director to change that.

These days you can find Spencer holding down the gun shop in Sagle, Monique watching over the operations of Waste Management in Sandpoint, a new job she recently started, or maybe both of them competing in shooting matches somewhere around the world.

*by Thomas A. Leege, IFOA Member*

## IFOA MEMBERSHIP DUES CHANGE FOR 2022

After extensive research, analysis, and discussion, the IFOA Directors have acknowledged that our organization has grown impressively in size, scope, activity, and accomplishment. The cost of doing all that good business with the help of and on behalf of our membership has also, as can be expected, risen over the years. It's more than just the obvious inflationary creep. The volume of mailing costs, postal fees, business supplies, printing, sponsorships of forest educational activities, online venue connections, and more have all amounted to an increased pressure on IFOA's budget. These vital activities impact forest landowners' opportunity and ability to provide and enjoy all the public and private benefits that healthy forest management offers.

IFOA has always been keenly aware that fiscal efficiency is not only wise, but is also desired and appreciated by its members. Upon formation in 1982, the annual dues rate was \$20.00. After many years the rate was increased to \$25.00, and in 2012 to \$36.00. On the "eve" of approaching our 40th anniversary of representing, educating, and advocating for all Idaho forest landowners, the annual dues will increase to \$45.00.

In appreciation for all the wonderful support over the years from our existing members, IFOA Directors want to thank everyone by providing a special transitional offering.

SO HERE'S THE "DEAL OF THE MILLENNIUM"!

As an existing paid-up IFOA member, if you wish to "pay it forward" for yourself, your family, or a forest-owning friend or neighbor, until Wednesday, June 30th, 2021 you can pay any (yet unpaid) 2022 to 2026 dues at the existing rates of \$36/yr., \$99.00/3 yrs., or \$165.00/5 yrs. That's a potential savings of \$40.00!

As of Thursday, July 1, 2021 all dues rate payments will be \$45.00/yr., \$123.00/3 yrs., and \$205.00/5 yrs. - still a very worthwhile bargain!

With your dues and in-kind volunteerism to help conduct all the worthy activities that IFOA engages in, the future for healthy, prosperous, and enjoyable forests in Idaho looks bright!

## IFOA FOREST SEEDLING PROGRAM

The IFOA Forest Seedling Program's superior stock of containerized seedlings (Douglas fir, western larch, western white pine, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, and western redcedar) are available for planting next April. If you have not made your order yet for this Spring, *don't delay!* These vigorous seedlings sell out quickly! To be sure you'll fill your order with all the best trees you can buy at a most reasonable price, *this is the one and only outlet for IFOA's* properly seed bank-sourced inventory.

So, right away, ask Karla Freeman for IFOA's robust, healthy, and genetically improved forest seedlings, available only at the Kootenai-Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District office.

(208) 209-4348    ksswcd@yahoo.com



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## COMING EVENTS

### FEBRUARY 2021

#### Pesticide Safety Education

Online, Mon-Thur, 2/15-18/2021  
www.uidaho.edu/extension/ipm/pesticide

#### Idaho Ecosystems with WILD, WET & PLT

Online, 2/23-3/30/2021  
plt@idahoforests.org

#### Forestry Cost Sharing

Online, Saturday, 2/27/2021  
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

### MARCH 2021

#### Pesticide Safety Education

Online, Mon-Thur, 3/1-4/2021  
www.uidaho.edu/extension/ipm/pesticide

#### LEAP Update

Online, Thursday, 3/4/2021  
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

#### IFOA Board Meeting

Tuesday, 3/9/2021  
info@idahoforestowners.org

#### 10 Acres & A Dream

Online, Fridays, 3/12, 19, 26/ 2021  
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

#### Backyard Forests

Online, Saturday, 3/20/2021  
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

#### 2021 Family Forest Landowners & Managers Conference

Online, Mon.-Tues., 3/29-30/2021  
www.idahoforestowners.org

### APRIL 2021

Idaho Master Forest Stewards Core 1  
Sandpoint, Thursday, 4/8/2021  
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

#### Landscaping for Fire Prevention

Online, Saturday, 4/10/2021  
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

#### IFOA Board Meeting

Tuesday, 4/13/2021  
info@idahoforestowners.org

#### Backyard Forests

Online, Saturday, 4/17/2021  
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

#### Logger Education to Advance Professionalism (LEAP)

Coeur d'Alene, 4/20-22, 2021  
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

#### Logger Education to Advance Professionalism (LEAP)

Moscow, 4/27-29, 2021  
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

### MAY 2021

#### Logger Education to Advance Professionalism (LEAP)

Moscow, 5/4-6/2021  
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

Idaho Master Forest Stewards Core 2  
Sandpoint, Thursday, 5/6/2021  
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

#### Chainsaws 101

Moscow, Friday, 5/7/2021  
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

#### IFOA Board Meeting

Tuesday, 5/11/2021  
info@idahoforestowners.org

#### Identifying Idaho's Commercial Trees: A Walking Tour

Moscow, Tuesday, 5/11/2021  
www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry

### 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	info@idahoforestowners.org	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

## IFOA WELCOMES THESE NEW MEMBERS:

Kyle & Roxanne Averill, Sandpoint ♦ Bill & Sylvia Eisele, Sandpoint  
 Bob & Janet Elliot, Priest River ♦ Chris Furst, Sagle  
 Stephen & Jennifer Garwick, Rathdrum ♦ Ron & Mary Ann Giddings, Sandpoint  
 Richard & Susan Ireland, Coeur d'Alene ♦ Chris & Sarah Lynds, Sandpoint  
 Dan & Kathy McDonald, Sandpoint ♦ Rosalyn Meyer, Harrison  
 A.J. & Katie Moon, Cocolalla ♦ Jim Patton, Napa, CA  
 Tim & Tammie Shields, Sandpoint ♦ Mark Smith, Sagle

# SOIL SCARIFICATION FOR TREE SEED GERMINATION

Forests are complex ecosystems comprised of biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) components. Forests change constantly because of the interrelationships of different ecosystem components and the timing of environmental events. Some forest changes are dramatic, while most are quite subtle.

Germination is the process whereby stored energy in a plant seed is reactivated. The resulting metabolic activity leads to the development of a seedling. For germination of specific plant species to be successful, certain environmental conditions need to exist. Consequently, some seeds may lie dormant in the soil for years, only to be reactivated when appropriate environmental conditions arise. Seed storage in the soil can be referred to as the “seed bank.”

Different tree species have different sizes of seed. Some tree species are termed “heavy-seeded” because their seeds are large and require the assistance of dispersal agents. Blue jays and many other bird species can move seeds a long way. Rodents, such as squirrels, also disperse seeds farther from the parent tree than would otherwise occur.

Other tree species are termed “light-seeded” and produce very small seeds that can be dispersed significant distances by wind. For some light-seeded tree species that hold their seed into the winter, dispersal can be enhanced when seeds are blown across the crust that forms on top of snow. These tree species also function as natural winter bird feeders. Local examples of light-seeded tree species include birch, aspen, and alder.

Soil scarification is the process of preparing a site for seed germination by exposing mineral soil. Scarification can occur by different means. For instance, “windthrow” is the process in which whole trees are blown down. The result is exposed mineral soil where the roots once held the tree vertically in place. Windthrow is common on wetter or rockier sites because tree root depth is limited. Conversely, on drier sites with deep sands, fire can scarify the soil by removing the litter layer through the consumption of leaves, needles and other organic matter. The resulting ash may function as fertilizer for seeds that germinate on the exposed mineral soil.

For some light-seeded tree species, such as birch, fire is critical. While fire may kill adult trees, it also prepares the soil for the next generation. Because birch seeds are small, they have few energy reserves and can desiccate quickly and become unviable if they fall on leaf litter. Fire removes the leaf litter and prepares a seedbed and increases seed viability. Not surprisingly, many natural fires occur in late summer and birch has evolved to drop seed in the fall or early winter when mineral soil is still exposed and moisture is abundant. Because of this, birch is one of the more fire-dependent tree species. Fire suppression, along with secondary plant succession, has been reducing the abundance of birch in forests for decades.

Scarification can also be accomplished mechanically. Logging operations during the growing season can disturb the top layer of the soil when tracked machinery moves across the forest floor. And scarification can be enhanced when tree tops are dragged around the site.

Forest landowners should consider the important role of soil scarification in some forest types. When done during logging operations, soil scarification can aid the development of diverse forests by promoting the establishment of many underrepresented tree species. Besides birch trees, many pine species also regenerate much better when scarification occurs. Western white pine seeds have the ability to regenerate across a range of soil types, and ponderosa pine and lodgepole pine also benefit greatly from exposed mineral soil.

The role of soil scarification in promoting successful tree germination is but one way in which the integration of biological and ecological concepts are incorporated into recommendations for managing for complex forests that are resilient and resistant.

*Excerpts from Greg Corace, Alpena-Montmorency Conservation District.*

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* **DON'T FORGET TO CONSIDER A DEDUCTIBLE CHARITABLE DONATION TO THE IFOA-EDUCATION FOUNDATION** \*  
 \* **P.O. Box 1257, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816-1257** \*  
 \* \*\*\*\*\*

## SNOWSHOE HARE



I never saw a snowshoe (*Lepus americanus*) all last winter but I found plenty of tracks. There have been mountain lions and bobcats in the area, so the hares were probably in hiding or became a feline “lunch”, but last spring they were out and about. They were changing coloring, with white legs yet.

Snowshoe hares adapt to keep themselves camouflaged. Their pelts are white in the winter and reddish brown in summer. Not every part of their coats change with the season. An identification trick is the tips of their ears are always black.

Their hind legs are larger, have more fur, with larger toes than other hares or rabbits. This provides the support for walking on snow. The hind legs are what give the “snowshoe” hare its common name.

Snowshoe hares live in coniferous and boreal forests. Their diet includes mostly plants, grasses, flowers, and new tree growth. They are nocturnal, more likely to be seen at dusk or dawn. They have acute hearing to detect predators. They breed in spring and summer. Gestation takes around one month and females have up to eight young. They can have up to four litters per year. Hares reach maturity in one year but many don’t live this long, though some can live up to five years in the wild.



Hares and rabbits are related, but there are some key differences. Hares tend to be larger than rabbits and have longer legs and bigger ears. When threatened, rabbits typically “freeze” and rely on camouflage, whereas hares use their strong hind legs to flee at the first sign of danger. Rabbits are born blind and helpless, while hares are born fully furred and ready to run.

*by Carol J. Puetz, IFOA Director and Membership Committee Chair*

## JOIN THE FUN OF THE 2021 IFOA SILENT AUCTION!

[charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/Family-Forest-Landowners-and-Managers-Conference-19539](https://charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/Family-Forest-Landowners-and-Managers-Conference-19539)

The Idaho Forest Owners Association (IFOA) Silent Auction WILL BE HELD during the Family Forest Landowners & Managers Conference (FFL&MC) this year – just virtually. This auction is one of the biggest fundraising events for IFOA and is always a conference favorite. To participate, please follow the above link to Charity Actions after you register for the conference. We always have a unique mix of donated items. Auction items will continue to be added to the silent auction virtual platform through March 19, 2021. The item awarded to the winning bidder will be shipped following the close of the auction. Please consider a small donation to help cover shipping costs. If you wish to donate an item, please contact Marianna Groth at 208-682-3091 or at [customtel@gmail.com](mailto:customtel@gmail.com) to arrange for item pick up/drop off. All items must be received by March 19, 2021.



## PROTECTING IDAHO'S FORESTS & COMMUNITIES

*by Senator Jim Risch*

Seasons are beautiful in the Gem State. Idaho's mountains, rivers, lakes and trails are beloved by the people who live here as well as the millions who visit every year. From attending forestry camp in McCall as a student at the University of Idaho, to summers spent hiking through the Cabinet Mountains with my sons, I continue to be awed by the beauty and serenity of the great state that we are blessed to call home.

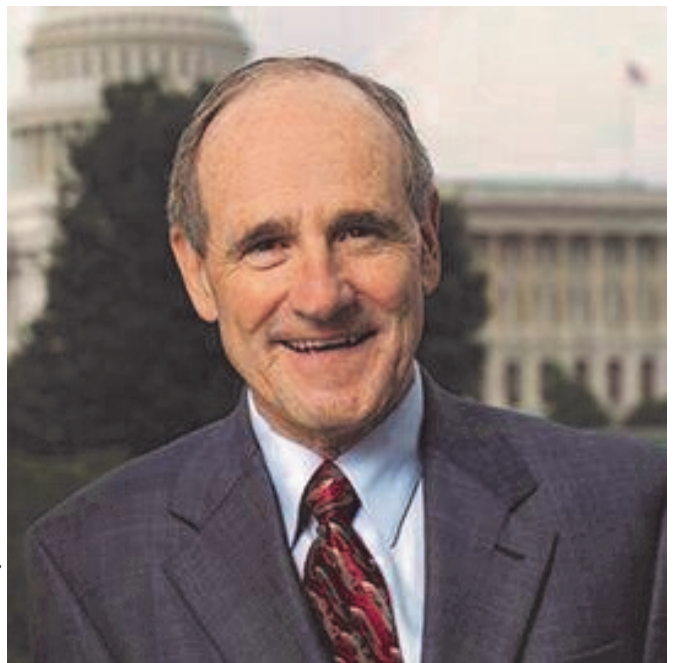
Idaho has 21 million acres of forestland, over three-quarters of which are managed by the U.S. Forest Service. These lands provide many benefits - fish and wildlife habitat, clean drinking water, treasured recreation, and vast renewable resources. Idaho's forests provide thousands of jobs, billions of dollars in economic activity, and immeasurable intrinsic value, but they also face significant risk.

Every summer, wildfires roll across western states, endangering communities and forests. Idaho's forests evolved with wildfire, but current forest conditions are not the same as in the past. Today's fires are no longer limited to remote, backcountry areas. Years of insufficient forest management have resulted in excess fuel and increased disease, leaving millions of acres at high risk to catastrophic wildfire.

These fires are increasingly severe, leaving economic and environmental destruction in their wake. For the many Idahoans who live and work in forest dependent communities, a significant amount of their incomes is earned during and reliant upon the summer season. When fire comes, small business owners whose livelihoods depend on the land can't operate, and our state's economy and our residents' daily lives are disrupted. As the line between communities and forests continues to blur, we must manage Idaho's forestlands to protect our people, steward our lands, and reduce the risk of wildfire. That's why Representative Fulcher and I introduced the Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act. For years, Good Neighbor Authority has enabled states to partner with the Forest Service to complete forest management and restoration projects. This bill will authorize Tribes and Counties to perform Good Neighbor projects and enhance the ability of all partners to prevent fires through forest restoration projects across landscapes. I also joined Senator Crapo in cosponsoring Senator Daines' bill to reduce activist litigation against responsible forest management.

Advancing management tools is important, but to be sustainable long-term, they must be paired with conversations among diverse interests. I have proudly supported collaboration for decades. When I was Governor of Idaho, we used a collaborative approach to develop the Idaho Roadless Rule, bringing the timber and conservation communities together to develop a plan to preserve and manage our forests based on Idaho's needs, not a federal mandate. This collaborative spirit has only continued to flourish. Today, Idaho is home to many locally-driven forest collaborative groups, with representatives from industry, rural communities, conservation, tribes, and others. These groups resolve conflict together, finding ways to move balanced projects forward. Consensus-driven conversations like these are truly the best way to ensure the health and vitality of Idaho's forests.

Without its rugged, forested landscapes, a fundamental piece of Idaho would be lost. To ensure we have this treasured resource into the future, we must foster both the tools and open dialogues that help to manage our lands against wildfire risk while still conserving them for future generations.



*U.S. Senator Jim Risch has a degree in forestry from the University of Idaho, and is a senior member on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.*

## **USDA OFFERS NEW FOREST MANAGEMENT INCENTIVE FOR CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is making available \$12 million for use in making payments to forest landowners with land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in exchange for their implementing healthy forest management practices. Existing CRP participants can now sign up for the Forest Management Incentive (FMI), which provides financial incentives to landowners with land in CRP to encourage proper tree thinning and other practices.

“We are offering CRP landowners an opportunity to use forestry practices for a more targeted approach to improve forest health and wildlife habitat on their land,” said Richard Fordyce, administrator for USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA). “The Forest Management Incentive enables landowners to maximize the conservation outcomes on their land, such as supporting wildlife, conserving soil and improving water quality.”

Right now, less than 10% of land currently enrolled in CRP is dedicated to forestland. But, these nearly 2 million acres of CRP forestland, if properly managed, can have enormous benefits for natural resources by reducing soil erosion, protecting water quality, increasing water quantity, and diversifying local farm operations and rural economies.

Only landowners and agricultural producers with active CRP contracts involving forest cover can enroll. However, this does not include active CRP contracts that expire within two years. Existing CRP participants interested in tree thinning and prescribed burning must comply with the standards and specifications established in their CRP contract.

CRP participants will receive the incentive payment once tree thinning and/or other authorized forest management practices are completed.

The incentive payment is the lower of:

- The actual cost of completing the practice; or
- 75% of the payment rate offered by USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) if the practice is offered through NRCS conservation programs.

### **MORE ABOUT CRP**

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest private-lands conservation programs in the United States. It was originally intended primarily to control soil erosion and potentially stabilize commodity prices by taking marginal lands out of production. The program has evolved over the years, providing many conservation and economic benefits. The program marks its 35-year anniversary this month. Program successes include:

- Preventing more than 9 billion tons of soil from eroding, which is enough soil to fill 600 million dump trucks.
- Reducing nitrogen and phosphorous runoff relative to annually tilled cropland by 95% and 85%, respectively.
- Sequestering an annual average of 49 million tons of greenhouse gases, equal to taking 9 million cars off the road.
- Creating more than 3 million acres of restored wetlands while protecting more than 175,000 stream miles with riparian forest and grass buffers, which is enough to go around the world seven times.
- Benefiting bees and other pollinators and increasing populations of ducks, pheasants, turkey, bob-white quail, prairie chickens, grasshopper sparrows and many other birds.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

CRP signup began Jan. 19, 2021. FSA will announce a deadline later this year. Interested producers should contact their local FSA county office. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

## YOUR VOICE NEEDED AT NRCS LOCAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

A voice where? And how can it be my voice? You may ask, and I hope to explain what is meant by this title. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in partnership with local Soil & Water Conservation Districts, holds annual Local Working Group (LWG) meetings where producers, conservation partners, and other members of the community discuss local natural resource priorities. Recommendations from these meetings are used to guide NRCS criteria for conservation activities and programs. On November 19, 2020, as a private forest land owner and as a member of IFOA, I attended a Team 2 virtual Zoom LWG meeting representing Kootenai, Shoshone and Benewah Counties (there are a total of 17 teams in Idaho representing various counties in Idaho). Locally-led Working Group meetings are a valuable part of the NRCS planning process, providing an opportunity for local farmers, ranchers, timber producers, industry representatives and land managers to be part of a collaborative effort to improve natural resources within each county and the community. The objective of the meeting was to; (1) Review performance of the past year's projects, (2) Help shape plans and priorities future projects, (3) Connect with partners and new audiences to seek opportunities to leverage partnership funds, and (4) Learn about other NRCS programs which may prove beneficial to you. The focus was on reviewing FY2020 NRCS resource concern priorities in order to revise the priorities for FY2021,

TEAM 2 RESOURCE CONCERN PRIORITIES		
RANKING	FY2020 CONCERNS	FY2021 CONCERNS
1	Soil Erosion	Degraded Plant Condition
2	Degraded Plant Condition	Fire Management
3	Water Quality	Aquatic Habitat
4	Fish & Wildlife Habitat	Wind & Water Erosion
5	Insufficient Water	Concentrated Erosion
6		Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss
7		Plant Pest Pressure

and reviewing FY2020 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) ranking pools to revise the pools if needed for FY2021.

TEAM 2 EQIP RANKING POOL CATEGORY FUNDING				
CATEGORY	FY2020 RANKING	FY2020 ACTUAL	FY2020 \$ SPENT	FY2021 RANKING
Forest	32%	36%	\$126,533	32%
Cropland	32%	29%	\$100,566	32%
Streambank/Riparian	32%	35%	\$123,285	32%
Pastureland	4%	0%	\$0	4%

I was just one of 25 online attendees at this meeting who took part in discussing these issues and voting on the rankings as we felt they would impact our individual and counties' concerns. I know that my personal interests and concerns are not the same as every private forest landowner, but I felt it important that I represented forest owners who goals are to practice the multiple-use concept of forest management. I also encourage every IFOA member, if you are not already in contact with your local NRCS county office, to contact your local office soon.

Go online to: <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=ID> to find the contact information for your county and introduce yourself and ask what they can do to help you manage your forest.

*by Marcus G. Smith, IFOA Legislative Committee Chair*

## THE SCATTERED LANDS PROJECT

The Shared Stewardship Strategy<sup>1</sup> entails collaboration between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Forest Service and individual states to address common challenges. For Idaho, it means that the Idaho Department of Lands and USDA-Forest Service work together to identify priorities for landscape-scale treatments. The Scattered Lands Project<sup>2</sup> is just such an undertaking, focusing upon the wildland urban interface (WUI) within Bonner County, Idaho<sup>3</sup>. Objectives include: 1, reduce hazardous fuels with the goal to reduce wildfire risk to people, private lands, and resources; 2, reduce the risk or increase resilience of forests to insect or disease infestation and; 3, improve timber production, thereby contributing to the local economy and forest products industry.

In recent years we have heard much about the expanding WUI - the area where urban development infringes upon undeveloped wildland habitat. The WUI grew rapidly from 1990 to 2010, with increases of 41% in homes and 33% in land, making it the fastest growing land use type in the conterminous 48 states<sup>4</sup>. WUI is the focal point for human-environment interactions that are not generally positive in nature, leading to destruction of homes by wildfires, habitat fragmentation, introduction of exotic species, and decline of biodiversity. Changes in land use, in conjunction with longer fire seasons and increased size and severity of fires, present increased risk to communities, habitat and first responders. The summer of 2020 serves as a prime example as loss of property, life and habitat were noteworthy and, in some instances, historic in nature in several western states including California, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming and Colorado.

The Scattered Lands Project consists of a mixture of federal, state and private lands that possess, upon review, high fuel loads adjacent to structures. Proposed action integrates harvest and fuel treatments and relies upon coordination with partners to maximize results. To this end, approximately 6,960 acres in Bonner County have been identified for treatment to begin in the fall 2021. In addition, federal grants will fund fuels reduction on almost another 1,700 acres of private forestlands surrounding hundreds of homes adjacent to National Forests in Bonner County over the next five years.

*by J. Frank Morado, IFOA President*

1. <https://www.idl.idaho.gov/forestry/shared-stewardship>
2. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=5863>
3. [https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/114241\\_FSPLT3\\_5342137.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/114241_FSPLT3_5342137.pdf)
4. <https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/data/WUI>

## 2021 IFOA Who's Who?

### 2021 IFOA DIRECTORS:

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Marianna J. Groth, Kingston	208-682-3091
Monique M. Hutchings, Cocolalla	208-627-7969
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Sandra F. Schlepp, Cataldo	208-682-4455
Marcus G. Smith, Harrison	208-446-6416
Paul R. Turcott, Moyie Springs	918-914-2682

### 2021 IFOA OFFICERS

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David A. Easley, Vice President
Marianna J. Groth, Secretary
Sandra F. Schlepp, Treasurer
Marrion E. Newsam Banks, Executive VP

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Paul A. Buckland, Fin. Review & Tellers
Sandra F. Schlepp, Forest Seedling Prog.
Marcus G. Smith, Legislative
Carol J. Puetz, Membership
Marrion E. Newsam Banks, Nominating
? ? ?, Patron Program

IFOA needs your input and assistance on all kinds of our existing projects - or interests that you may introduce to the Association. Contact [info@idahoforestowners.org](mailto:info@idahoforestowners.org) or a Director with your ideas!

## SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF IDAHO FAMILY WOODLAND OWNERS

Forests provide benefits at local, regional, and global scales. Families and individuals own more wooded land than any other group in the U.S., and their decisions about how to manage and care for their land have broad impacts. Understanding woodland owners in Idaho, including what we do with our land and why, and what our challenges and needs are, is important to help support healthy forests and vibrant communities now and into the future.

To better understand family woodland owners, the USDA Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis program, through the Family Forest Research Center, conducts the National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS). Below are results from 186 randomly selected Idaho woodland ownerships with 1+ acres who responded to the survey in 2017 and 2018.

- **Family Woodland Owners Matter:** Family woodland owners control 5.7% of Idaho's wooded land. An estimated 45,000 family woodland ownerships control 1.3 million acres in Idaho.
- **Size of Holdings Makes a Big Difference:** The average family woodland ownership (with 1+ acres) in Idaho has 28 acres of wooded land. Over half (65%) of the ownerships have relatively small holdings between 1-9 acres, but 62% of the *area* of wooded land is owned by ownerships with 100 acres or more. Because of the increased management options, program involvement, and other dynamics of larger ownerships, all following results are for family woodland owners with 10 or more acres.
- **Beauty, Privacy, Wildlife, and Nature are What Matter:** The most commonly cited reasons for owning wooded land in Idaho are related to wildlife and nature protection, as well as the beauty and privacy the wooded land provides.
- **We Love Our Land:** The vast majority of Idaho forest owners, 94%, agree or strongly agree with the statement "I want my wooded land to stay wooded." However, less than half are involved in traditional land management practices like having a management plan (30%) or receiving advice about their wooded land in the past five years (41%).
- **Management:** In the past five years, about half (51%) of Idaho forest owners have cut trees for their own use, and one in ten (10%) have cut trees for sale.
- **We are Older:** The average age of primary decision makers for family-owned woodland in Idaho is 64 years. 21% of acres are owned by people who plan to transfer some or all of their wooded land in the next five years.

Woodland conservation and management depend on the people who own it – in Idaho, many of these acres are held by individuals and families. We hope additional information about America's woodland owners will lead to more recognition of the roles these people play and will further enhance programs and policies that help the owners, the land, and society.

For more results, visit the USDA Forest Service's National Woodland Owner Survey website at: [www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos](http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos). To learn more about the services and resources available to woodland owners in Idaho, contact the Idaho Department of Lands or Idaho Forest Owners Association.

*By Emma Sass and Brett Butler. Emma Sass is a Research Fellow with the Family Forest Research Center and University of Massachusetts Amherst. Brett Butler is a Research Forester with the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station and Family Forest Research Center.*

### IFOA NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

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

## FOREST OWNERS FIELD DAY, JUNE 19, 2021

This year the Idaho Forest Owners Association has teamed up with the University of Idaho to present the 2021 Forest Owner's Field day. Mark your calendars for the June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 field day. The field day will be held at the University of Idaho's Experimental Forest on Moscow Mountain's Flat Creek area.

As always there will be presenters covering all your favorite topics like tree diseases, harmful insects, proper pruning, noxious weeds, and fire management to name a few. This year we will have some University of Idaho speakers, staff and students, to supplement our Idaho Department Lands speakers, who have always supplied many excellent topics for our Field Days.



The format will be the same as we have used in the past. On-site registration is from 8:00am until 9:00am with coffee and pastries available. Starting at 9:00am there will be three 50-minute presentations with 10-minute breaks to move between presentations. Between 12:00pm and 1:30pm there will be a lunch break and announcements. Again, starting with 1:30pm there will be three more 50-minutes presentations with the field day closing at 4:30pm. This is a great opportunity to be able to attend 6 excellent presentations in one day.

Presentations are within 10-minute walking distance of each other. IFOA usually has a side-by-side vehicle on site so if someone has trouble walking, please contact the registration desk.

At noon, IFOA will have lunches available for \$15 per person for those who wish to have a catered lunch. As always you may "brown bag it" and bring your own lunch. Water and coffee will also be provided.

If Covid-19 guidelines are effect at that time, IFOA asks that we all follow those rules.

Remember to place Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 on your calendar for the Forest Owner's Field Day. The field day is a great place to meet old friends and make new ones. Not to mention, you may learn a great deal about your forest! See you there.

*by David A. Easley, IFOA Vice President & Idaho Shared Stewardship Advisory Group Representative*

## IDAHO 2020 INTERAGENCY FOREST PRACTICES WATER QUALITY AUDIT

The Idaho 2020 Forest Practices Water Quality Audit was conducted by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), with assistance from Idaho Department of Lands (IDL). The report was published in December. This quadrennial audit is open to interested parties to accompany the process that inspects on-the-ground results with Idaho Forest Practices Act rule compliance. 63 operations on federal, state, industrial, and non-industrial timber harvests were visited this past year.

IFOA volunteer representatives have participated in these audits ever since they were instituted in 1984. A few comments from the recent 2020 IDEQ/IDL report are as follows:

"Acknowledgments" (pg. iii) - "In particular, we're grateful for members of the Idaho Forest Owners Association (IFOA) for joining us on almost every non-industrial private sale. Their expertise, and sometimes personal knowledge, of the sites proved helpful."

"2.2.1 Audit Team" (pg. 2) - "Representatives from the Idaho Forest Owners Association (IFOA) attended almost every non-industrial private sale."

The 39 page report is an extremely well written, "user-friendly", enlightening and educational read. It is available on the IDL website at [IDL.IDAHO.GOV](http://IDL.IDAHO.GOV).

## QUARTERLY LOG MARKET REPORT

<u>Species</u>	<u>October 2020</u>	<u>January 2021</u>
<i>Douglas-fir/western larch</i>	\$400 - \$515/MBF	\$400- \$525/MBF
<i>Grand fir/western hemlock</i>	\$390 - \$485	\$385 - \$480
<i>Lodgepole pine</i>	\$340 - \$450	\$380 - \$445
<i>Ponderosa pine</i>	\$370 (6-7") - \$420 (12"+)	\$320 (6-7") - \$435 (12"+)
<i>Western white pine</i>	\$390 - \$420	\$375 - \$420
<i>Western redcedar</i>	\$850 - \$1,100	\$1,100 - \$1,550
<i>Cedar poles</i>	*\$1,800*	*\$2,050*
<i>Pulp</i>	\$20 - \$28/ton	\$20 - \$34/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. \*Pole value varies widely depending upon length. Market information as of January 25, 2021*

Log prices have remained fairly stagnant over the last few months, with the exception of western redcedar. Competition for cedar has been very keen. Little change in prices is expected as we approach spring break-up conditions.

*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](mailto:IFM@inlandforest.com) or [www.inlandforest.com](http://www.inlandforest.com).

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## THE BOARD WALK: NOV, DEC, JAN

### November 10, 2020

- IFOA members of the Family Forest Landowners & Managers Conference Steering Committee met with the staff of the University Inn in Moscow, Idaho to discuss the Inn's capabilities to host the March 2021 Conference in a virtual platform. The current Covid 19 climate may require the Conference to be held in a completely virtual manner.

### December 8, 2020

- Three DEQ meetings were scheduled to take place in November at various locations in Idaho to gather input and discuss the proposed Smoke Rule. All had to be cancelled due to Covid 19 restrictions. This proposed Rule will regulate the size of slash piles that can be burned as well as when they can be burned ([www.deq.idaho.gov/air-quality/smoke-and-burning](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/air-quality/smoke-and-burning)).

Mark Boyle of DEQ visited the property of IFOA Director Marcus Smith during a time when Smith's logger was onsite burning slash piles. A lengthy conversation between the logger and Mr. Boyle seemed to result in a better understanding on both sides of "reality vs. regulation" concerning slash burning.

### January 13, 2021

- DEQ has re-opened the online survey concerning the proposed Smoke Rule. Every landowner who occasionally has a slash pile they need to burn is encouraged to visit the DEQ website and complete the survey. The survey consists of approximately twenty questions and provides a section in which to leave comments.
- Jeff Lau, USFS Northern Idaho Shared Stewardship Coordina-

tor presented an overview of the current Shared Stewardship project. Nicknamed "#NoBoundariesForestry", the purpose of this project is to focus on the treatment of large areas of forestland to reduce the risk of catastrophic fires and the impact that such fires have on forests and infrastructure. These areas may include a mix of private land, industrial land and/or public land. Evidence shows that well-managed forests can survive and even benefit from fire, while under-managed forests are usually devastated. For the purpose of Shared Stewardship, Idaho has been divided into two parts, northern and southern. The two million acres of forestland in northern Idaho are now being assessed according to need and readiness for treatment.

*by IFOA Secretary Marianna J. Groth*

## IFOA GOES ZOOM!

Early last year, as planning for the 2020 Family Forest Landowners & Managers Conference (FFL&MC) was well established, the Steering Committee began hearing whispers of a potentially life-changing virus. In early March, the writing on the wall was clear as, in response to the pandemic threat, scheduled speakers canceled invitations to speak at the conference. As cancellations mounted, the FFL&MC Steering Committee resigned itself to the obvious and cancelled the conference.

Throughout the summer and fall, IFOA began exploring options for monthly meetings, not only to plan for events such as the FFL&MC, but also to effectively communicate with Idaho Department of Lands and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality on rule considerations that impacted our membership. Other key considerations were: In a desire to reach out to a larger forest landowner audience and recruitment of new members to the Board, how can participation become more available to its membership? In short order, a solution became obvious – Zoom!

After several months of experience with Zoom, IFOA Directors are encouraged about its potential. Monthly Board meetings can occur on a regular schedule without venue concerns. Directors and committee members can be recruited and participate regardless of weather concerns and location of residence. More importantly, IFOA members can easily solicit participation to present and discuss forest owner issues at Board meetings. In the end, the disruption caused by COVID-19 has not been completely negative; it presented Directors the opportunity to improve IFOA's services despite an added cost to operations. As we gain additional experience, it is likely that Zoom (or a similar online application) can play an expanding role in IFOA functions, and that is a WIN!

*by J. Frank Morado, IFOA President*

## IFOA SUPPLIES

...IFOA COFFEE MUG... ◀◀ HANDY! perfect before heading for the woods!

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...IFOA SWEATSHIRT... ◀◀ LONG SLEEVED, DARK GREEN perfect for keeping warm in the woods!

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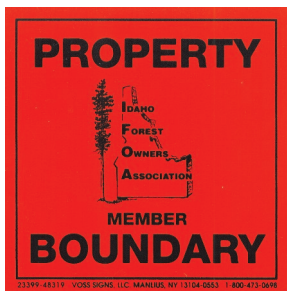
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☐ I own \_\_\_\_\_ acres of forest land in \_\_\_\_\_ County, Idaho.  
(If multi-county ownerships, please list all)

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

**NAME(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Winter 2021