

Spring 2013

Idaho Tree Farm Program

204 E. Sherman Ave. • Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814 • (T) 208.667.4641 • (F) 208.664.0557
www.idahotreefarm.org • admin@idahotreefarm.org

2013-2014

Executive Committee:

- Chair – Doug Bradetich,
Idaho Forest Group
(T) 208.772.0505
- Vice-Chair –
Steve Funk,
Tree Farmer
(T) 208.667.7345
- Treasurer –
Steve Cuvala,
Idaho Dept. of Lands
(T) 208.245.4551
- Program Administrator –
Jennifer Childers,
(T) 208.667.4641

2010-2012

District Chairs:

- District 1 Chair –
Andy Eckberg,
Idaho Forest Group
aeckberg@idfg.com
- District 2 Chair –
Robert Barkley,
Idaho Dept. of Lands
(T) 208.877.1121
- District 3 Chair –
John Lillehaug,
All About Forestry
(T) 208.630.4076

2013 Idaho Tree Farm Annual Awards Announced

The annual meeting of the Idaho Tree Farm Program was held in conjunction with the Family Forest Landowners and Managers Conference on March 25th in Moscow. The meeting was well attended and informative for all those on hand. In addition to a review of 2012 activities and a look ahead at 2013, a main part of the agenda is the announcement of the recipients for Outstanding Tree Farmer, Logger and Inspector of the year.

Our Tree Farmers of the Year will be familiar to many of you. Jim and Jane Thornes from St. Maries have been part of ATFS for many years and we are pleased to announce them as Idaho Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year for 2013! They currently look after 270 acres of timberland and have been Tree Farm members since 1976. The stewardship and care they have devoted through the years is evident throughout their ownership. They have had a regular program of annual harvesting to promote growth, capture mortality, and improve forest health. In addition, they have also precommercially thinned, pruned and planted well over 100 acres. Wanting to take an active part in the management of their land, the Thornes have chosen to do the majority of this work on their own rather than contract it out. When it comes to inviting the public to view their land, no one takes a back seat to these fine stewards. Jim and Jane have hosted numerous tours, workshops and training sessions over the years. As a Project Learning Tree and Project WET facilitator, Jane teaches student and educator groups each year about our natural world. Jim has also given of his time as board member and president of Idaho Forest Owners Association, supervisor of the Benewah Soil & Water Conservation District, and serving on the Idaho Forest Practices Act Advisory Board. Together they are committed to the stewardship of their Tree Farm and are first class ambassadors for what we all want to see done on the land.

Congratulations Jim and Jane!!!



From left, Chairman Doug Bradetich, Jane Thornes, Jim Thornes and Vice-Chair Steve Funk





(Left, Chairman Doug Bradetich,
Center, Penny Kylo and Right, Tim Kylo)

This year the Outstanding Inspector award went to Tim Kylo of Idaho Forest Group. Tim has been doing a remarkable job of helping grow our program over the past several years. His efforts have resulted in over 200 newly certified Tree Farms and many thousands of acres being added to the ATFS system. As well, Tim has regularly nominated individuals for Inspector, Logger and Tree Farmer of the year; set up and lead our 2012 Fall Tour; helped work on grant writing and implementation; and volunteered on our state committee as a district chair. In his work for Idaho Forest Group Tim continued to spread our message by including statements promoting Tree Farm in their company print ads. Thank you Tim for all your efforts on our behalf!

Logger of the year honors went to Evergreen Wood Energy of Bonners Ferry. Alan Flory, Vance Warden, and Jamie Barton have been doing an excellent job of stewardship on private lands and were very much deserving of this award. During the recent market downturn, they have focused much of their efforts toward removing and grinding the smaller submerchantable material that tends to accumulate in our Inland forests. Improved forest health, increased yield and reduced fire risk have been the chief outcomes on these tracts. Along with their fine on-the-ground work though, they are also involved in several public outreach and conservation efforts. These include a riparian restoration project in partnership with the Bonneville Power Administration and the Kootenai Tribe, a film on the history of our Inland Empire timber industry produced by the Smithsonian Institute, as well as serving on the steering committee for professional logger training and helping with extension classes to improve practices on private timberland. Not just competent and caring loggers – they are also fully dedicated to improving the management of all the resources these forested acres provide.



(From Left, Chairman Doug Bradetich,
Alan Flory, Jamie Barton, Vance
Warden and Vice-Chair Steve Funk)

Coffee, Tea and Trees....Thursday, May 30th, Sandpoint/Ponderay, ID

The Idaho Tree Farm Committee and its members have been discussing ways to improve outreach and networking with both current and prospective Tree Farm members and have decided to hold a couple coffee socials this year. We plan the first for Thursday May 30th, 2013 from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. It will be held at the Holiday Inn Express in Ponderay, ID which is just north of Sandpoint on Highway 95 and across the road from the Big R store.

These will be informal sessions with coffee, soft drinks and snacks. We intend to start with a social time to get to know some of the other members in the area and then go into a short presentation of current issues affecting Tree Farmers. Items discussed would include current activities within our state program, items of importance on the national level, information on any legislative or regulatory things that may be coming our way, insect & disease updates, and a chance for us to answer any questions you might have regarding Tree Farm.

Feel free to bring along any friends, family or neighbors you think might be interested would benefit from this as well. Space is somewhat limited so please RSVP by Friday May 24 to admin@idahotreefarm.org or call 208-255-9212 if you wish to attend. If you miss this one or it is a little out of your travel zone, we plan to hold another later in the year in the McCall area as well.



Forest Thinning & Pruning Field Day to be held in Coeur d'Alene, Saturday, June 1st

Trees killed by bark beetle attacks always make forest owners ask: “what can we do about it?” Whether you have problems with insects or disease, concerns about fire, or just want to help forest growth, the response from foresters is nearly universal: **thin your forest**. This is especially true in northern Idaho, where forests frequently become overstocked. Thinning and pruning can favor better adapted tree species, improve tree quality, reduce fire risk, improve access, and enhance many other values. In June, local forest owners can learn how to implement these practices more effectively in a “Thinning & Pruning Field Day.” The program will feature:

- Presentations on fundamental concepts of thinning and pruning, as well as financial and technical assistance to help forest owners improve their stands.
- A field trip featuring: a thinned stand; a pruned stand; and demonstrations of manual and mechanical thinning and pruning tools, chainsaw safety, and forest genetics.

The program will be held on Saturday, June 1st, at the University of Idaho Extension Office in Kootenai County (1808 North 3rd Street) and will start at 8:00 a.m. and conclude by 5:00 p.m. Those wishing to participate should pre-register by Friday, May 24th. A \$15.00 registration fee covers a field notebook of publications and refreshments. For registration questions, contact the University of Idaho Extension Office in Kootenai County at (208) 446-1680. Registration forms can also be downloaded at <http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry>. For program questions, contact Chris Schnepf at (208) 446-1680.

The *Thinning & Pruning Field Day* is an Idaho Forest Stewardship program, co-sponsored by University of Idaho Extension, the Idaho Department of Lands, and many other agencies and organizations. The program will also be held in Moscow, Idaho on Friday, July 19, 2013. For more information on that session, contact Randy Brooks at (208) 885-6356. *University of Idaho, Kootenai Co. Extension*

“Ties to the Land” Workshop to be held Saturday, June 8th, 2013 in Newport, WA

Millions of acres of family-owned forest land, rangelands, and agricultural land in the U.S. will change hands in the next few years. Some forests and other rural lands may be converted to different uses because owners didn't take charge of the succession process in time. There are many reasons for this. Landowners may want to pass their land on to their children, but have not done the work to ensure it. Many landowners haven't talked to their children about who will care for the family forest after they're gone, or they wait for their children to take the initiative. Some owners' children may lack the skills to manage the family land or may not be interested in doing so. Other landowners assume that succession planning will be too expensive relative to the benefits or just don't know what to do next.

On Saturday, June 8th, 2013, a 7-hour workshop titled “Ties to the Land: Your Family Forest Heritage” will help families learn more about planning for an orderly transition. This award-winning intergenerational family forest project involves presentations, video clips, and interactive exercises. The program will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the CREATE Place Community Arts Center in Newport, Washington (900 W. 4th Street).

The program can accommodate a limited number of people. Those wishing to participate should pre-register at the University of Idaho Extension Office in Kootenai County by Friday, May 31st. A \$35 registration fee covers refreshments, a 76 page award-winning workbook, and companion DVD for the first family member. Additional family members are \$10 each and additional workbooks can be purchased for \$25. For registration questions, contact the University of Idaho Extension Office in Bonner County at (208) 263-8511. For program questions, contact Kirk David at (208) 683-3168. This program is co-sponsored by University of Idaho Extension, Washington State University Extension, the Idaho Department of Lands, The Washington Department of Natural Resources, and the American Tree Farm System. Registration forms for the program can be downloaded at <http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry/content/stewardship>. *University of Idaho, Kootenai Co. Extension*



2013 ID/WA Forest Owners Field Day, Saturday, July 13th, Latah County

Mark your calendars and plan to attend this fun and informative event. Small or large landowners, new to the woods or “well seasoned”, there is something for everyone. Enjoy a day in the woods with friends, new and old. Learn about the latest in forest improvement activities, innovations and practices. See first-hand some of the projects the University of Idaho forestry department is performing research on.

The event opens at 8:00 AM and presentations run each hour starting at 9:00 AM. Topics such as forest health, fire risk reduction, forestry tools & technology, noxious weeds and forest certification are included. Various woodland organizations, forestry consultants and industry representatives will have booths and information on hand as well. If you have any other questions contact info@idahoforestowners.org or robk@uidaho.edu.

Though walking short distances on forested terrain is required; seating, restrooms and parking are available on site. Refreshments, coffee, and drinking water will be available as well. Bring a friend, neighbor, and your whole family to this enjoyable day in the woods. You'll be glad you did!

Forest Owners Field Day Co-Sponsors:

Idaho Department of Lands
Idaho Forest Owners Association
Idaho Tree Farm Program
Panhandle Lakes Resource Conservation & Development Council
University of Idaho College of Natural Resources
University of Idaho Extension Forestry
Washington Department of Natural Resources
Washington State University Extension.

Recap of Tree Farm National Leadership Conference, February 2013

Each year the ATFS holds a National Leadership Conference aimed at committee officers and administrators from the various state programs. In part, due to grant funds we were able to secure from our national office, Idaho was able to send committee members Doug Bradetich, Steve & Janet Funk and Andy Eckberg to participate in Philadelphia. These meetings give a great opportunity to learn about items such as the various resources our national office has available for states to implement, any changes in required reporting or record keeping, updates in national legislation pertaining to Tree Farming, and a chance to network with Tree Farmers and committee officers from across the nation. The chief discussion topic this year was pertaining to dues and certification. Over the past couple years several states had been taking part in a Landowner Engagement Strategy (LES) project, part of which was testing an option for a dues structure based on various levels of membership. After polling their current members, the test states in the LES project reported an overwhelming sentiment against the dues structure as proposed. Consequently that proposal will not be going forward to the other states. Another item discussed was regarding certification through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). While some states have reported seeing a value to certification, others do not. As a result the current direction being pursued is for each state to decide if they wish to continue with certification or not and to either opt in or out by 12-31-15. The states desiring to continue would work out with the national office a financial plan to cover the associated auditing costs by 12-31-18. This will undoubtedly be a topic at the National Tree Farm meeting in Minneapolis later this year in July and we will keep you posted as things develop.

Thanks for all your help!

Doug Bradetich, Idaho Tree Farm Committee Vice-Chair



Idaho Forest Group Announces Preference for Tree Farm Logs

Idaho Forest Group, one of the major lumber producers in this area, recently adopted a policy of formal preference for logs from certified Tree Farms. In their announcement IFG indicated they will now be offering a bonus above their printed open market prices for logs from Tree Farms. The bulk of this bonus will go to the landowner and a portion will be accrued for the Tree Farm program in the state the logs originated. Should the need for log yard curtailments arise, IFG will give preference to ATFS loads over other open market wood.

In their statement announcing this policy, Idaho Forest Group says: *“The hope of Idaho Forest Group is that in partnering financially with the many dedicated members of the American Tree Farm System, more good forestry can be practiced on more acres of private land more often.”* IFG has been a consistent Tree Farm supporter and this new policy will certainly be appreciated as well. Not only will the landowners be rewarded for the fine stewardship they do through ATFS, but the state organizations will be better able to continue with their many outreach activities.

Supreme Court Upholds EPA’s Views on Forest Roads

The U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling Wednesday in a long-running lawsuit over forest roads (*Decker v Northwest Environmental Defense Center (NEDC)*). By a 7-1 vote, the Court reversed the 9th Circuit’s 2011 ruling that forest roads are subject to a mandatory permit requirement under EPA’s point source rules. This is a clear victory because it validates EPA’s longstanding interpretation of these rules that logging is not an “industrial activity” and, therefore, does not trigger a mandatory permit for forest roads. Unfortunately, the justices did not decide whether the 9th Circuit’s ruling that forest roads (and associated ditches and culverts) must be considered point sources, leaving these roads subject to EPA’s discretionary authority under the Clean Water Act to require a permit or to impose other federal regulatory requirements. EPA has been under Court order to review whether forest roads should be regulated under the agency’s stormwater program, and the decision in the Decker case will likely spur them to move this review forward. Congress should step in and settle this issue instead of letting the vagaries of 9th Circuit jurisprudence determine the outcome. FFRC supports legislation clarifying that forest roads are not point sources and shouldn’t be regulated by the EPA. –FFRC

U.S. Government Seeks \$18 million Refund from Timber Counties

As part of the cutbacks from the sequester, the federal government is demanding repayment of millions of dollars in federal subsidies to rural timber counties. In past years payments went to rural counties from sale of US Forest Service timber sales. From each dollar of timber cut, 25 cents went to the counties for roads and schools. These were known as payments in lieu of taxes (PILT), since the federal land paid no property taxes and could pose a burden to the counties. With the decline in timber harvest due to endangered species protections and other issues over the past 20 years though, these “25% payments” were replaced with subsidies through the Secure Rural Schools Act. The act has since expired and the last payments went out in January, 2013. Unknown to the counties at the time though, was the fact these payments would be subject to sequester reductions and that they will be receiving a bill from the federal government for repayment. Officials from both sides of the aisle are outraged and demanding action. Thirty-one House members sent a letter to the Obama Administration in late March protesting federal demands for refunds of \$17.9 million in revenue that pay for schools, roads, search and rescue operations in rural counties, as well as for conservation projects.

Insects and the 2012 Fire Season

2012 was a big year for fires in Idaho. Statewide over 1.7 million acres of wildlands burned, with approximately 1 million of those acres being forested. The majority of these fires occurred on federal lands, but over 9,100 acres of state and private forest lands burned. In addition to the forest fires, over 700,000 acres of rangeland also burned in the southern part of the state.

Some tree species (such as some pines, Douglas-fir and western larch) are adapted to fire, and not surprisingly, many insects are also adapted to feeding on trees that may be injured in a fire. Forest fires burn with different degrees of severity, and trees are not always killed outright. Crown fires usually always kill trees, but when trees have their needles or bark scorched, they are not necessarily killed. Mature pines, Douglas-fir and western larch have thick basal bark that has some resistance to heat, and low intensity burns are not always fatal. When less than 50% of the cambium or feeder roots are killed, the tree can survive. If less than 75% of pine foliage or 50% of Douglas-fir foliage is scorched, the tree has a good chance of surviving the initial fire. These survivors can be susceptible to certain fire-adapted insects afterwards.



Western pine beetle is a bark beetle species that only attacks ponderosa pine, and may be especially troublesome after a forest fire. Trees that have scorched needles or bark and survived the initial stress of a fire may be attacked by western pine beetle the following season. Look for boring dust or frass and pitch tubes on the bark in June and July. This species has two generations per year and the second generation flies in August and September. Western pine beetle transmits a blue stain fungus that can negatively impact the value of logs. Douglas-fir beetle is a bark beetle that usually causes problems in wind thrown or stressed Douglas-fir in normal years, but following a forest fire, trees may be attacked for several years afterward. Evidence of Douglas-fir beetle attack includes boring dust on the bark, and distinctive galleries beneath the bark. Douglas-fir beetle does not cause pitch tubes like those commonly found on pines.

Wood borers are generalist feeders and can usually attack most species of conifers after a fire. Longhorned beetles, metallic wood borers and horntail wasps may infest scorched trees even while smoke is still in the air. Wood borers mine in the sapwood causing scale defect and they can also transmit blue stain fungi in pines. Blue stain fungi do not undermine the integrity of the wood, but they do affect the value of the logs.

Managing insects after fire usually means removing trees that scorched to the point that survival is questionable. If salvage is in your management plan, remove trees that have more than 50% scorch on the needles or bark (dead cambium). Trees that are damaged more than this may survive, but future growth may be impacted, and the likelihood is high that they may be attacked by insects in following years. Prompt harvest of scorched trees will minimize damage from stain and decay fungi if they are attacked by bark beetles or borers.



A. Ponderosa pine needles scorched by ground fire



B. Same needles pulled back to expose protected dormant bud.



C. Bud scorched and killed by fire.



D. Boring dust on scorched tree from Douglas-fir beetle.



E. Western pine beetle boring dust.



F. Western pine beetle pitch tube.

Welcome New Members!

The Idaho Tree Farm Committee extends a special welcome to the **64** newest Idaho Tree Farm Program's certified members of 2013. Thank you to the District Chairs and Inspecting Foresters for promoting membership in the Idaho Tree Farm Program through the American Tree Farm System®.

As a current member, and a steward of the land, we appreciate your current support of the program and your management of the forestland for pride and pleasure. Thank you for your continued commitment of protecting watersheds and wildlife habitat, conserving soil and, at the same time, producing the wood America needs and uses.

Tree Farm Member	Acreage	County	Inspecting Forester
Charles E. Remmick	20 acres	Benewah	Tim Kylo
RCLC Crystal Tree Farm	37.26 acres	Benewah	Tim Kylo
RCLC Titus Tree Farm	40 acres	Benewah	Tim Kylo
PRLC Albeni Tree Farm	903.06 acres	Bonner	Tim Kylo
PRLC Albeni 20 Tree Farm	100 acres	Bonner	Tim Kylo
PRLC Bodie Tree Farm	80 acres	Bonner	Tim Kylo
PRLC Carr Creek Tree Farm	1,280 acres	Bonner	Tim Kylo
PRLC Cocolalla Tree Farm	316.05 acres	Bonner	Tim Kylo
PRLC Gold cup Tree Farm	83.90 acres	Bonner	Tim Kylo
PRLC Happy Fork Tree Farm	160 acres	Bonner	Tim Kylo
PRLC Homby Tree Farm	659.10 acres	Bonner	Tim Kylo
PRLC Hoodoo Tree Farm	40 acres	Bonner	Tim Kylo
PRLC Johnny Long Tree Farm	780 acres	Bonner	Tim Kylo
PRLC Johnson Creek Tree Farm	223.116 acres	Bonner	Tim Kylo
PRLC Mountain Meadows 18 Tree Farm	280 acres	Bonner	Tim Kylo
PRLC Mountain Meadows 20 Tree Farm	160 acres	Bonner	Tim Kylo
PRLC North Fork Tree Farm	40 acres	Bonner	Tim Kylo
PRLC Priest River 14 Tree Farm	160 acres	Bonner	Tim Kylo
PRLC Priest River 26 Tree Farm	37.40 acres	Bonner	Tim Kylo
PRLC Snow Creek Tree Farm	20 acres	Bonner	Tim Kylo
PRLC Wrenco Riley Tree Farm	1,107.93 acres	Bonner	Tim Kylo
RCLC Anselmo Tree Farm	675.50 acres	Bonner	Tim Kylo
RCLC Bear Creek Tree Farm	65 acres	Bonner	Tim Kylo
RCLC Four Corners Tree Farm	160 acres	Bonner	Tim Kylo
RCLC McAbee Tree Farm	65 acres	Bonner	Tim Kylo
Timothy and Deborah Gift	10.4 acres	Bonner	Doug Bradetich
Brinkmeyer Trail Creek Tree Farm	119.01 acres	Boundary	Tim Kylo
Drayton Tree Farm	78 acres	Boundary	Tim Kylo
Victoria Rowland	89 acres	Boundary	Tim Kylo
RCLC Madson Tree Farm	40 acres	Boundary	Tim Kylo
Kaschmitter Properties	640 acres	Idaho	John Lillehaug
Kipling and Loraine Adams	34.34 acres	Kootenai	Tim Kylo
Gary Finney	88 acres	Kootenai	Tim Kylo
James Hanaway	38 acres	Kootenai	Tim Kylo
Brett Kimball Harrison Tree Farm	24 acres	Kootenai	Tim Kylo
Steven M. Liss	90 acres	Kootenai	Tim Kylo
Kevin and Sonda McHail	10 acres	Kootenai	Jim Nichols
Lake Creek Tree Farm – Deborah Mitchel	80 acres	Kootenai	Tim Kylo
Gary & Kathryn Jenkins	13 acres	Kootenai	Tim Kylo
PRLC Big Baldy 31 Tree Farm	137 acres	Kootenai	Tim Kylo
PRLC Big Baldy 32 Tree Farm	320 acres	Kootenai	Tim Kylo
PRLC Boise Peak Tree Farm	40 acres	Kootenai	Tim Kylo
PRLC Frost Peak Tree Farm	1,431.50 acres	Kootenai	Tim Kylo



Events to Highlight

May 30- Coffee, Tea & Trees, Holiday Inn Express, Ponderay

June 1 – Forest Thinning & Pruning Field Day, Cd'A

June 8 – “Ties to the Land” Workshop, Newport, WA

July 13 – Latah County Field Day

July 18 – Idaho Tree Farm Committee Meeting, IDL Office, Cd'A

Minutes are online....

In case you are ever wondering what is going on at the committee level, our minutes are now being posted on the Idaho Tree Farm Program website. Improving this site to better serve you was one of our projects this past year. Just log onto our website for minutes of previous session, contact information, upcoming events, and other news of note to help you in your Tree Farm endeavors.

We're on the Web!

Learn more at:
www.idahotreefarm.org

Tree Farm Member	Acreage	County	Inspecting Forester
PRLC Hauser Tree Farm	35 acres	Kootenai	Tim Kylo
RCLC Latour Creek Tree Farm	20 acres	Kootenai	Tim Kylo
Leland Slind	30 acres	Latah	Robert Barkley
Omer Church	15 acres	Lewis	Clark Christiansen
Eric & Sheila Hasselstrom	731 acres	Lewis	Clark Christiansen
Mike & Brenda McCann	3,528 acres	Lewis & Nezperce	Clark Christiansen
Cecil Martin	640 acres	Lewis	Clark Christiansen
Justin Quinzio	34.9 acres	Lewis	Clark Christiansen
Jim & Alia Riggers	19 acres	Lewis	Clark Christiansen
Phil Hasenoehrl	445 acres	Nezperce & Lewis	Clark Christiansen
Brett Kimball Shoshone Tree Farm	57.52 acres	Shoshone	Tim Kylo
RCLC Big Fork Tree Farm	235.68 acres	Shoshone	Tim Kylo
RCLC Douglas Creek Tree Farm	342.46 acres	Shoshone	Tim Kylo
RCLC Gonzaga 1 Tree Farm	40.97 acres	Shoshone	Tim Kylo
RCLC Gonzaga 2 Tree Farm	40 acres	Shoshone	Tim Kylo
RCLC Government Gulch Tree Farm	1,731.29 acres	Shoshone	Tim Kylo
RCLC Kellogg Peak Tree Farm	207.84 acres	Shoshone	Tim Kylo
RCLC Lead Mines Tree Farm	80.53 acres	Shoshone	Tim Kylo
Shoshone Hecla Tree Farm	1,205.46 acres	Shoshone	Tim Kylo
Timothy Etherton Tree Farm	37 acres	Shoshone	Tim Kylo
Stan Kompst	45 acres	Valley	John Lillehaug

About Our Organization...

The purpose of the Idaho Tree Farm Program is to promote better forest management among nonindustrial forest owners. The vehicle for achieving this aim is the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS), sponsored nationally by the **American Forest Foundation (AFF)**, regionally by the **Idaho SFI Implementation Committee**, and statewide by the **Idaho Tree Farm Committee (State Committee)**.

