

Winter 2020

Idaho Tree Farm Program

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Family Forest Landowners & Managers Conference

“The Roaring ‘20s: A Call To Action”

Managing Idaho’s Forests in the New Decade

It’s hard to believe with all the white stuff on the ground, but the 2020 Family Forest Landowners & Managers Conference is just 2 months away! The theme this year is all about moving us forward into the next decade as successful forest stewards. We are once again gathering at the University Inn Best Western Plus in Moscow, ID. Our block of rooms will be held at a reduced rate until February 28 so contact them soon for reservations. Activities will begin Sunday March 29th with a “Ties to the Land” session facilitated by Kirk and Madeline David. This will be followed by a “get acquainted” social for all attendees that same evening.

The conference formally kicks off Monday the 30th beginning with our keynote and other sessions highlighting “Big Picture Action” that will speak to national, state and county issues throughout the morning. This will be followed with the afternoon session titled, “Local Level Action”, addressing items such as forest collaboratives, effective communications, and perspectives from representatives of our various local land management agencies. Tuesday the 31st we will be zeroing in during the morning on specific actions and information for your tree farm, and then offer you a choice between two series of breakout sessions in the afternoon. One set of breakouts deals more with the business aspect of managing your forest, and the other is directed at various wildlife issues for your land.

One of the feedback comments we have received from previous conferences is to have more presentations by landowners of issues they have faced on their own forests. We are very excited this year to announce one of the Tuesday morning sessions will be just that. “Circle of Stewards”: What’s Happenin’ in My Neck of the Woods? will feature several local forest owners detailing projects they have undertaken, particular management issues they have tackled, what worked, what didn’t, and why. Real life stories from some of your own neighbors - should be interesting and informative for all of us!

As always, this conference is also the setting for the annual meeting of our Idaho Tree Farm Program. A recap of activities, the opportunity for you to find out about upcoming plans, and announcement of our Outstanding Idaho Tree Farmer, Inspector, and Logger of the Year will be held Monday the 30th at 6:30 PM. We will partner again this year with IFOA in a social prior to the meeting at 5:45 PM. All are welcome, so come and enjoy!

Log on to www.idahoforestowners.org for a conference registration brochure.

Oscar Baumhoff – 1937 - 2020

January 6 was a sad day for Idaho. Our 2015 Idaho Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year, Oscar Baumhoff, passed away peacefully at his home in Centerville, ID.

Oscar grew up and spent nearly all his life on acreage his family had acquired around Centerville near Grimes Creek. It had been used heavily for mining, mostly between the late 1890's up until 1915. Shortly after graduating high school in 1956, Oscar went off to begin studying mining engineering at the University of Idaho. During this time his life took a sudden turn when his father sold their mining dredge and the family turned toward cattle ranching as the prime use of the land. They purchased additional ranching property north of Boise and a herd of Hereford cattle. Oscar began reclaiming some of the dredge tailings, gradually converting barren rock into pastureland along many of the streams on the Grimes Creek tract and moved the cattle herd there each summer.

It was around this time that regular timber harvest also began, with entries approximately each 5 years on a 20 year rotation. In the 1990's precommercial thinnings were performed on around 200 acres of the Tree Farm as well. Entering the early 2000's, Oscar expanded his efforts in reclaiming the land. He worked with Trout Unlimited in various stream restoration efforts on Grimes Creek and lead his family in planting 6,000 seedlings at Rye Flat. Today their family continues to manage a total acreage of 3,200 acres of timberland and an additional 750 acres of water and roads. We were so impressed with the commitment to proper care for the land we named the Baumhoff Family our 2015 Idaho Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year.

Oscar also gave back to his community in many ways beyond simply caring for the land. He served two terms as Boise County Commissioner, 20 years on the Basin District School Board (most as chairman), 7 years in the Idaho National Guard, and filled numerous other civic needs. In the mid 1970's, Oscar and his wife Dorothy bought the Idaho World when the weekly newspaper was in danger of going out of business. For the next 10 years, he worked with the staff, often driving around the county himself to make newspaper deliveries.

Oscar was a shining example of a good citizen, dedicated land steward, and friend to all that knew him.

He will be greatly missed.

Forest Owners Field Day Priest River Experimental Forest – June 20, 2020

Looking for an opportunity to get out with other land stewards for an enjoyable day in the woods? Mark your calendar for June 20 and plan to head just north of Priest River, ID for the 2020 Forest Owners Field Day. This annual event is a fun and informative outing for the entire family and the site for this year is the Priest River Experimental Forest.

The Field Day offers various stations set up throughout the site showcasing a variety of forest related topics. Over the years a very diverse list of subjects including log scaling, insect & disease issues, wildfire, thinning & pruning, plant identification, and wildlife habitat have been covered.

As we move closer, we will keep you informed as to registration, the topics for 2020, and other information about this year's event.



2021-2025 ATFS Management Plan Certification Standards

As many of you know, Tree Farm is the only Family Forest Landowner program that also provides certification of your land as sustainable through the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). The standards for certification determined by PEFC form the basis of your management plan and are updated every 5 years. The current standards are due for revision at this time and we will keep you up to speed as the process moves along. Below is an excerpt from a recent update by the ATFS National Office in Washington, D.C.

“The American Tree Farm System® (ATFS), a program of the American Forest Foundation (AFF), launched a 60-day public comment period on AFF’s current Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification (Standards). The Standards are the benchmark for all ATFS forest certification, which are third party audited. During this first of 2 public comment periods in 2020, interested members of the public are invited to participate in the public comment period January 2, 2020 through March 2, 2020, by submitting comments and suggestions here: <http://www.tfaforms.com/330231>”

Project Learning Tree Update

Michelle Youngquist

Project Learning Tree provides training and materials to teachers and others who work with youth. Workshop attendees experience hands-on, minds-on activities, indoors and out, with techniques to help young people learn about trees, forests and the rest of the environment. Idaho PLT is gearing up for a terrific 2020, and has just announced its spring and summer workshop schedule at <https://idahoforests.org/plt>, with workshops throughout the state, and something for everyone, from educators of PreK through High School. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend PLT workshops. *THANK YOU to Idaho Tree Farm Program for your funding support of PLT in 2019 and 2020!*

Here are a few of the events planned for this year:

PLT Offers Workshop with Forest Owners Field Day

Idaho PLT is pleased to offer its “Walk in the Forest” workshop in conjunction with the Forest Owners Field Day in the Priest River Experimental Forest in June. Workshop participants will receive a day of PLT training in the forest on Friday, and then attend Field Day sessions on Saturday.

New PLT Curriculum Introduces Youth to Green Careers

Idaho PLT is excited about this new curriculum from National PLT. We look forward to working with our Tree Farm, industry, agency and other partners to share it with teachers, counselors and others who work with youth ages 12-25. Learn more about the materials at <https://www.plt.org/plt-launches-green-jobs-exploring-forest-careers/>. Contact plt@idahoforests.org if you’d like to be in the loop as we plan how to implement this new program in Idaho.

Forest Education Grants

IFPC is accepting proposals for Forest Education Grants of up to \$250. Do you have an idea that will help youth learn about Idaho trees and forests? Apply by 3/15 at <https://idahoforests.org/grants>.

For more information on any of the programs offered by PLT, contact plt@idahoforests.org



Forest Health Updates, Idaho Department of Lands

Tom Eckberg, Forest Health Program Manager Idaho Dept of Lands

Drought, Snow, Storm Damage and Bark Beetles

What a difference a couple of weeks makes! Most of Idaho had a cold but dry fall, with November and December being atypically dry. November is normally one of the wettest months, but for much of Idaho November 2019 was very dry, and December wasn't much better. Then some very wet storms arrived in January and brought snowfall totals close to or above normal in many river drainages in Idaho. Last year had a similar pattern until heavy snows arrived in February. Adequate snowpack is important for so many reasons, but as far as forest health is concerned, good soil moisture in the spring ensures that trees will not be under drought stress during the growing season. Bark beetles are very good at identifying and attacking drought stressed trees. Other forest insects such as defoliators tend to cause more damage to drought stressed trees. A good example of this was the Douglas-fir tussock moth outbreak in the Cascade/Smiths Ferry area. During the dry summer of 2018, extensive mortality of grand fir and Douglas-fir occurred after one year of defoliation. The dry soil conditions during the summer caused partially defoliated needles to fall off the trees when there was little feeding. Under more normal conditions, trees would have retained more needles through the summer. The cooler spring of 2019 and better soil moisture allowed trees to sustain less damage, even though the number of defoliated acres increased.

Another effect of heavy snows can be storm damage such as broken tops or branches and trees toppled due to snow loads. This can be worse if we get rain after a heavy snow. If your stands do experience storm damage, try to remove or treat damaged trees before bark beetles become a problem. Pine engraver beetles (*Ips pini*) **WILL** infest down ponderosa, lodgepole and western white pine after their winter nap. Pine engraver adults overwinter in duff on the forest floor and will infest down trees or slash as soon as daytime temperatures reach the 60s Fahrenheit consistently (usually in late April or May). Since pine engraver has more than one generation per year, adults will emerge from the down trees or slash piles in early summer and usually attack green pines nearby. This can be prevented if green slash is chipped or removed from the property by the end of May. If slash can be safely burned in the spring, this will also help. The bark beetles affecting grand fir or western hemlock do not usually cause many problems in green slash.

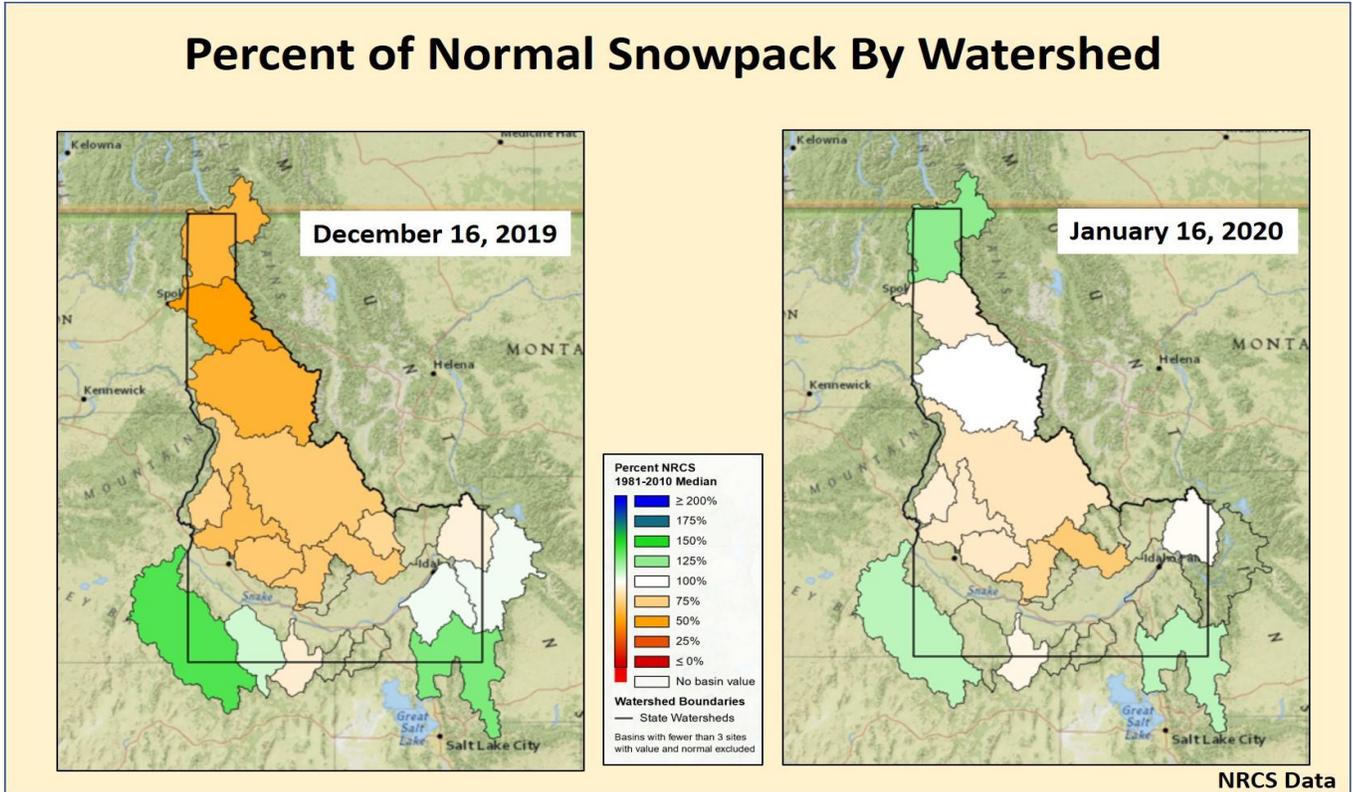
Douglas-fir that is storm damaged can be infested by the Douglas-fir beetles (DFB - *Dendroctonus pseudotsugae*), which also overwinters as an adult. Unlike pine engraver, DFB only has one generation per year. This means that you have more time to remove the trees since DFB will not reemerge until the following spring. As a practical matter, you really have until the snow starts to fly in the fall or winter or 2020. Deep snow or break up the following spring may prevent removing the logs before the beetles have left. Cutting the logs into firewood sized rounds and splitting them in the spring and summer will also kill the beetles, since they will remain in the wood until the following spring. The split wood will dry out before the beetles have time to emerge.

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Forest Health Updates, Idaho Department of Lands

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Comparison of water moisture in Idaho watersheds in December 2019 (left) and January 2020.



Douglas-fir (left) and ponderosa pine damaged during the fall and winter of 2015



Events to Highlight

Feb 5-7, 2020 – Forester’s Forum – CDA, ID

March 30&31, 2020 – Family Forest Landowners and Managers Conference – Moscow, ID

March 30, 2020 - Idaho Tree Farm Program annual meeting – Moscow, ID

April 16, 2020 – Idaho Tree Farm Program quarterly meeting – CDA, ID

Stay Informed....

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. Just log onto our website for Minutes of previous sessions, 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

About Our Organization...

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

Welcome New Members!

The Idaho Tree Farm Committee extends a special welcome to the 9 newest Idaho Tree Farm Program’s certified members. 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 to 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
Oscar Oscarson	20	Bonner	Karen Robinson
Ken Ross	246	Lewis	Frank Luther
Sheila Hasselstrom	53	Lewis	Frank Luther
Clearwater Scout Trust	237	Clearwater	Christopher Gerhart
Camp Stidwell	145	Bonner	Karen Robinson
Charles and Tara Turner	10	Bonner	Karen Robinson
Kanzo and Carol Oguri	18	Bonner	Karen Robinson
Roley Schoonover	47	Bonner	Remington Daniels
Wood Trust & Dan and Teresa Wood	53	Bonner	Douglas Bradetich

Be safe and enjoy the rest of winter.

We hope to see you in March at the Family Forest Landowners and Managers Conference!

Don’t forget to make your room reservations at the University Inn Best Western Plus in Moscow before February 28 to get into our block of rooms

