

Winter 2022

Idaho Tree Farm Program

****Note New Address**

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2021-2022 Officers:

- President –
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eroos@ifg.com
(T) 208.290.6037
- Vice President –
Open
- Treasurer –
Madeline David
madelinedavid0909@gmail.com
- Administrator –
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2021-2022 District Chairs:

- District 1 Chair –
Phil Dipofi
Idaho Forest Group
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- District 3 Chair –
John Lillehaug
All About Forestry
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2022 Family Forest Landowners & Managers Conference

Idaho Tree Farm Program 2022 Annual Meeting

“Getting the Job Done” is something we are all interested in on our own land, and the planning committee has chosen it as the theme of this year’s conference. The conference will be held in Moscow at the Best Western Plus University Inn and will run from Monday, March 28 through Tuesday, March 29. Options for both in-person attendance as well as by video will be offered this year. Also, a Ties to the Land workshop is being scheduled at the same location just prior to the conference Sunday, March 27.

As in the past, annual meetings for the Idaho Forest Owners Association, Inland Empire Society of American Foresters, and the Idaho Tree Farm Program will be held throughout the conference. Our Tree Farm meeting is scheduled for Monday evening beginning with a social at 6:00 PM followed by the business meeting at 6:45 PM. An overview of our program is planned as well as the presentation of awards to our Outstanding Idaho Logger, Inspector, and Tree Farmers of the Year. Both Tree Farm members and non-members are welcome at this event.

The conference sessions begin Monday morning with “Wildfire: Managed, Prescribed, or Full Suppression”. Several presentations are planned on subjects including historical versus current fire suppression policy, case study on a recent wildfire, and working with our rapidly changing forest conditions. After lunch we will switch to Session II – “Who will do the work on your Family Forest?”. This session is aimed at helping the family forest landowner identify and contract with the right operator to assist their management activities. Tuesday begins with Session III – “Circle of Stewards: Land Use”. We will hear from several landowners as they tell their stories regarding activities on their own land, as well as their involvement with various community land use projects.

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Family Forest Landowners & Managers Conference (Continued from Page 1)

The conference program will finish up Tuesday afternoon with sessions on subjects ranging from drone use to current smoke rules and water rights adjudication.

For further information or to register for the conference, email Idaho Forest Owners Association at evpifoa@gmail.com or Frank Morado at jfmorado99@gmail.com. A block of rooms is also being held at Best Western University Inn. This is the premier event in our area for over 300 forest landowners and the professionals who advise them, so act soon to reserve your place this year.

Looking for a Few Good Tree Farmers...(for our State Committee)

Our search continues for people willing to serve on our Idaho Tree Farm Committee. Our bylaws allow for an unlimited number of Tree Farmers on the committee. It is a great way to take a more active part in our activities and give back a little to the program. You could simply serve as a member at large, or choose to spend time on one of the subcommittees such as bylaws, budget, newsletter or review of candidates for Outstanding Tree Farmer, Logger & Inspector of the year. Also, we are still on the lookout for someone to fill the Vice President position for the remainder of the 2021-2022 term.

If you are interested in stepping up a notch and devoting some time, contact our State Administrator, Colleen Meek, at admin@idahotreefarm.org or call her cell at 208-691-5933 to let us know and answer any questions you might have.

Forestry for Southern Idaho Tour -2022

Our district 3 chair, John Lillehaug, has been leading field tours the past several years on sites throughout the southern area. This has been very well received by our Tree Farmers and plans are underway for a tour again this year.

Here is where we are currently:

"The Squaw Creek Soil District will be hosting the field tour in the High Valley area between Sweet and Smiths Ferry area. Topics to be discussed are EQIP practices on private lands and Tree Farms; GNA, IDL. and Forest Service timber sales; and fire mitigation measures through the Shared Stewardship program. No date has been announced yet but intentions are for late May or early June. By the spring newsletter we hope to have the date and location tied down. John"

As more information comes in on this popular event, we will keep you informed.



Project Learning Tree Update Michelle Youngquist

In 2021, Idaho Project Learning Tree served 299 educators through workshops and education conference sessions. Most of the events were virtual, with a few in person and outdoors. One benefit of our steep pandemic-time learning curve: Anyone may access PLT training and resources - anytime and from anywhere! <https://idahoforests.org/plt>

National PLT, headquartered at the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, has been very busy. I invite you to spend time learning about the Forest Literacy Framework at <https://www.plt.org/forestliteracy>. It's a great resource for everyone! We're also really pleased about the new K-8 Activity Guide, *Explore Your Environment* that was published in 2021. Learn more at <https://www.plt.org/news/awards-for-explore-your-environment-k-8-activity-guide>.

More people than ever are learning about Idaho trees and forests with the help of free materials from Idaho Forest Products Commission. The number of requested items in 2021 was more than double that of 2020, which was greatly increased from 2019. A good trend! In addition, engagement with our website, <https://idahoforests.org>, grows every year.

Coming soon: Forest Education Grants (deadline 3/15), Arbor Day Photo Contest for 5th-12th graders (deadline 4/11). We hope to offer a version of the Sustainable Forestry Tour in June. You can keep track of all these opportunities at <https://idahoforests.org/education>.

Thanks for your support and help in making 2021's PLT program a success. Onward into 2022!

2022 Idaho State Forestry Contest

After two years of dealing with Covid 19, the Steering Committee for the Idaho State Forestry Contest is pleased to announce that the traditional contest is back. This year the competition is open to all students grades 6-12 and will be held at Delay Farms in Careywood, Idaho.

The Junior Division, grades 7 and 8, and Senior Division grades 9-12, will compete in 8 events instead of the usual 10. We are eliminating Weed and Tool Identification events this year since they crowd students too close together for proper distancing since the virus is still problematic.

The Rookie Division, 6th graders, will compete in the five events: Plant Identification, Log Scaling, Timber Cruising, Compass and Pacing, and Map Reading as in the past.

Covid protocols will be announced soon.

Volunteers are the backbone of this contest and we hope to see many Forest Stewards and other Forest Owners/Tree Farmers participate. For more information contact Karen Robinson at the IDL office in Sandpoint.

208-263-5104 or krobinson@idl.idaho.gov

Please come and help celebrate this social and educational event!



Forest Health Updates - Erika Eidson, Idaho Dept of Lands

The spring of 2022 is likely to bring an increase in **Douglas-fir beetle attacks**, but read on! Fortunately, it isn't too late to protect your trees.

Severe windstorms in January 2021 caused extensive blowdown in many parts of the panhandle, setting the stage for Douglas-fir beetle to gain a foothold in the damaged trees. Douglas-fir beetles are highly attracted to fresh down logs of Douglas-fir and western larch (>8" diameter), seeking them out for attack in spring. Because the trees were blown down, they are easy for bark beetles to colonize. They still have the phloem tissue food resource for the beetles, but they no longer have a strong system of defenses to fight off attacks. Beetles spend a full year feeding and reproducing beneath the bark of these down trees. If they are still laying out in the woods, mature Douglas-fir trees that came down last winter are very likely full of Douglas-fir beetles right at this very moment. That brings us to spring 2022. By this spring, the beetle offspring in the down logs will be fully mature, and will chew their way out through the bark and look for new host trees to attack. They will have bolstered their population in the down trees, so they will be more capable of successfully attacking nearby healthy, standing Douglas-fir trees. They do not attack other tree species. What can we do about it? Luckily, there are several options that are still available to protect your trees. If it is feasible, you can remove the down logs from your property before the beetles emerge in May. If you cannot remove the logs, destroying the host material by burning or chipping will also destroy the beetles, but this must be completed before May 2022.

That sounds like a lot of work. Is there an easier method? Yes! **MCH is a pheromone that comes in a small plastic bubble pouch**. It can be stapled to your at-risk standing trees to repel Douglas-fir beetles for one year. How does it work? When Douglas-fir beetles first start attacking a host tree, they produce attractive, aggregation pheromones to call in more beetles. However, when the tree is fully colonized and there is no more room for additional beetles, they send out a repellent, anti-aggregation pheromone to let other beetles know that the tree is full. It is like hanging a "No Vacancy" sign on the tree. The anti-aggregation pheromone, MCH, has been synthesized into a liquid formulation that slowly dissipates through its plastic bubble pouch throughout the season. It effectively tricks Douglas-fir beetles into thinking that your healthy green tree is already full of beetles. MCH can be stapled to individual trees to provide one year of single-tree protection, or it can be applied in a grid pattern to protect an entire stand of trees. MCH costs about \$2-\$4 per pouch, or about \$60 per acre in a grid application. It should be ordered ahead of time, stored in a non-food freezer until use, and should be applied around mid to late April. For information on how to order MCH, contact the Idaho Department of Lands Forest Health Program.

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Forest Health Updates (continued from page 4)

What's the catch? Pheromones are species-specific, so MCH only works to repel Douglas-fir beetles, not all species of bark beetles. The only other repellent pheromone for bark beetles currently on the market is Verbenone, which protects pine trees from mountain pine beetle only. In either case, if a tree has already been attacked by beetles, it cannot be saved with pheromones or otherwise. It should be removed and disposed of or destroyed.

Proper use of MCH is critical for it to be effective. Want to learn more about MCH? The University of Idaho, Idaho Department of Lands, and U.S. Forest Service are putting on a comprehensive, free webinar training on MCH on **February 10th**.

Register here: www.uidaho.edu/MCH by **February 4th**. You can also view the [MCH Handbook](#) and learn more about Douglas-fir beetles from the [IDL Douglas-fir beetle fact sheet](#). The IDL Forest Health Program is also happy to answer any questions about MCH and can be reached at 208-769-1525.



MCH Pouch Attached to Tree



Stapling MCH Pouch to Tree



Events to Highlight

March 28-29, 2022 – Family Forest Landowners and Managers Conference, Moscow, ID

March 28, 2022 – Idaho Tree Farm Annual Meeting. Family Forest Landowners and Managers Conference, Moscow, ID

April 21, 2022 – Idaho Tree Farm Committee Meeting. TBD

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 7 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
Kenneth and Robin Kyle	10	Clearwater	Christopher Gerhart
Don and Debbie Chin	10	Latah	Robert Barkley
Denise and Darrell Mays	20	Bonner	Douglas Bradetich
Eric and Mary Silvers	60	Kootenai	Douglas Bradetich
Idaho Forest Group	870	Bonner	Remington Daniels
Teri Marcolina	14	Bonner	Erin Roos
Nancy Hadley	40	Bonner	Charles Roady

We hope to see you all in Moscow at the **2022 Family Forest Landowners & Managers Conference** on March 28-29, 2022 in Moscow, ID.

Please make plans to attend the Annual Meeting of the Idaho Tree Farm Program Monday evening of the conference, March 28.

Stay safe and we will see you there!

