

IMPACT

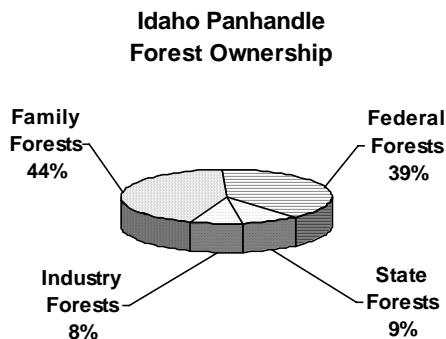


UI Kootenai County Extension Office, 1000 W. Hubbard, Suite 140, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814; (208) 446-1680

UI Extension Programs Give Idaho Panhandle Landowners Skills to Manage Family Forests

The Situation

Over 83% of the Idaho panhandle (Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai and Benewah counties) is forested. Roughly 44% of those lands are held and managed by family forest owners¹.



Family forests provide timber, water, wildlife habitat, and many other values. Since 1987, the average annual timber harvest from these forests in the Idaho Panhandle has been over 175 million board feet, with an estimated value of nearly \$105 million milled.

Forest owners have varied goals for their property, ranging from timber income to simply "a place to get away from it all". Forest owners, like other adult learners, also have varied learning styles and needs.

¹ Also known as non-industrial private forest owners or "NIPF" owners

Extension forestry programming is likewise varied, to help stimulate family forest owners' management.

A recent U.S. Forest Service study showed that Idaho private forest owners have more than doubled in number, from 21,700 in 1978, to 47,400 owners in 1993.

With better management, private forests can provide much more than they have historically. With a better working knowledge of forest ecology, silviculture, and related forest management techniques, family forest owners can sustainably produce more wood fiber and simultaneously improve forest biodiversity, health, genetics, and fertility.

Our Response

Workshops, Evening Programs & Field Days

As part of the Idaho Forest Stewardship program, a cooperative effort with the Idaho Dept. of Lands and many other partners, UI Extension provides an annual series of workshops, field days and other educational activities titled *Strengthening Forest Stewardship Skills*. The activities are designed to strengthen forest owners' ability to implement practices that improve forest health and growth, and are offered in a variety of locations and times.



In addition to Stewardship programs, many other Extension programs are given annually to groups requesting them, or in partnership with other agencies and organizations.

Woodland Notes

Woodland Notes, a forestry newsletter providing practical advice on forest management, is mailed out twice annually to over 4,000 Panhandle households. It is often the only consistent contact absentee forest owners have with professional forestry (26% of Panhandle forest owners receiving *Woodland Notes* reside out-of-state or south of Idaho County).

Publications and videos

Forest owners can choose from over 140 forestry Extension publications available through local UI Extension offices. Extension videos on water quality, “selective” logging, and forest tax management, provide additional resources to help forest owners learn on their own.

Program Outcomes

In FY 01-02, over 550 forest owners attended Extension workshops and other educational activities in the Idaho Panhandle. In most program evaluations (see table below), fewer than half of participants indicated previous involvement in forestry education or assistance programs; over 90% indicated they would implement improved management practices as a result.

The future

Strengthening Forest Stewardship Skills will continue to be offered annually, along with new publications, videos, and other efforts to help Idaho Panhandle landowners manage their forests more effectively.

We are also studying innovative ways to stretch limited Extension forestry staffing, by developing a master forest owner program, and researching more effective and efficient ways to reach more private forest owners and encourage their adoption of improved forest management practices.

For More Information

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Evaluation Summaries from Idaho Panhandle Extension Forestry Programs: 09/01 - 08/02										
Program	Number attended	Forest Owners	Forest Acres	Previous participation in forestry education or assistance programs					% to use improved practices*	
				Program (> 3 hr.)	Program (< 3 hr.)	Cost Share	Property Visit	IFOA Member	Yes	Probably
<i>Forestry Shortcourse</i>	52	41	2,326 ac.	22%	27%	2%	22%	8%	88%	8%
<i>Current Topics in Forest Health</i>	65	35	9,876 ac.	52%	61%	23%	30%	16%	51%	39%
<i>Landscaping for Fire Prevention</i>	33	21	1,697 ac.	19%	23%	13%	26%	0%	90%	10%
<i>Scaling/Marketing Timber</i>	70	43	10,168 ac.	16%	49%	0%	12%	4%	65%	29%
<i>Backyard Forests</i>	83	76	2,798 ac.	6%	9%	3%	9%	6%	74%	23%
<i>Pruning for White Pine Blister Rust</i>	22	19	2,092 ac.	29%	47%	6%	29%	24%	88%	12%
<i>Thinning/Pruning Field Day</i>	28	26	896 ac.	36%	43%	7%	36%	14%	100%	0%
<i>Managing Organic Debris & Slash</i>	27	25	2,835 ac.	38%	75%	19%	25%	13%	73%	7%
<i>Insect/Disease Field Day</i>	60	56	4,532 ac.	21%	57%	5%	17%	10%	83%	14%
<i>Growing Superior Tree Seed</i>	35	19	3,812 ac.	38%	54%	4%	8%	29%	58%	38%

* Responses to " Do you believe you will implement improved management practices as a result of attending today's program?", to which participants could indicate: "Yes", "Probably", "Not Sure", "Probably Not", or "No".