

IMPACT

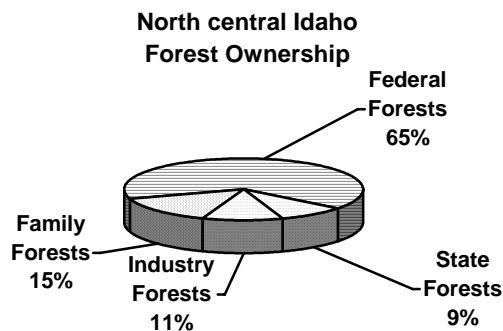


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UI Extension Programs Give North Central Idaho Landowners Skills to Manage Family Forests

The Situation

Over 55% of north central Idaho (Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce counties) is forested. Roughly 591,493 acres (15%) 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 north central Idaho has been over 112 million board feet, with an estimated value of nearly \$67 million milled.

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

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

fiber while simultaneously improving forest biodiversity, health, genetics, and fertility.

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

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 has provided an annual series of workshops, field days and other educational activities titled *Strengthening Forest Stewardship Skills*. The activities have been designed to strengthen forest owners' ability to implement practices that improve forest health and growth, and have been offered in a variety of locations and times.

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

In FY 03-04, over 340 people attended Extension workshops and other educational activities in north central Idaho.

Woodland Notes

Woodland Notes, a forestry newsletter providing practical advice on forest management, has been mailed out twice annually to over 3,000 north central Idaho households. It has often been the only consistent contact absentee forest owners have had with professional forestry (26% of Idaho forest owners receiving *Woodland Notes* reside out-of-state or south of Idaho County).

Publications and Videos

Forest owners have been able choose from over 140 forestry Extension publications available through local UI Extension offices. Extension videos on water quality, "selective" logging, and forest tax management, have provided additional resources to help forest owners learn on their own.

Program Outcomes

In most program evaluations (see table below), fewer than half of participants indicated previous involvement in forestry education or assistance programs. A majority of participants indicated they would implement improved management practices as a result of attending one or more of the courses.

The Future

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

We are also studying innovative ways to stretch limited Extension forestry staffing by 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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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	Site Visit	IFOA Member	Yes	Probably
<i>Forestry Shortcourse</i>	32	32	4,128 ac.	3%	3%	0%	16%	6%	91%	8%
<i>Current Topics in Forest Health</i>	98	39	7,769 ac.	40%	42%	13%	27%	9%	57%	33%
<i>Scaling/Marketing Timber</i>	38	21	4,392 ac.	42%	26%	11%	21%	11%	82%	18%
<i>Weed Control on Small Acreages</i>	28	23	1,931 ac.	18%	24%	12%	35%	0%	88%	12%
<i>Pasture Management for Small Acreages</i>	34	25	3,130 ac.	40%	40%	3%	23%	0%	60%	37%
<i>Insect/Disease Field Day</i>	32	18	2,062 ac.	48%	24%	10%	21%	10%	79%	5%
<i>Thinning/Pruning Field Day</i>	21	10	586 ac.	25%	38%	25%	13%	25%	88%	12%
<i>Intro to Conservation Easements</i>	18	8	2,027 ac.	22%	11%	17%	17%	28%	33%	40%
<i>Growing Superior Seed</i>	23	14	2,525 ac.	38%	63%	19%	19%	25%	73%	0%

* 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."