

# IMPACT

University of Idaho  
Extension

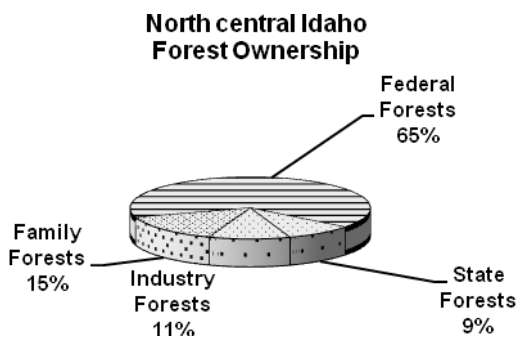
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## UI Extension Provides North Central Idaho Landowners Knowledge to Manage Forestlands

### *The Situation*

A 1993 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.

Over 55% of north central Idaho (Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nezperce counties) is forested. Roughly 591,493 acres (15%) of those lands are held and managed by family forest owners<sup>1</sup>.



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

<sup>1</sup> Also known as non-industrial private forest owners or "NIPF" owners

working knowledge of forest ecology, silviculture, and related forest management techniques, family forest owners can sustainably produce more wood 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 07-08, 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 program evaluations (see table below), a majority of participants indicated they would implement improved management practices as a result of

attending one or more of the programs. Evaluations also indicate sizable increases in knowledge after attending one of the programs.

**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.

***For More Information***

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**Table 1. Impact of Selected Extension Forestry Programs in North Central Idaho**

	Year(s)	Number of participants	Percent to use <sup>1</sup> Program Improved practices	% knowledge increase
Forestry Shortcourse	2001	35	100	n/a
	2002	6	97	n/a
	2004	17	94	n/a
	2006	16	85	47
	2007	12	92	58
Scaling/Marketing Timber	2000	44	98	n/a
	2001	34	100	n/a
	2003	28	100	59
	2004	20	90	63
	2005	23	90	60
	2006	22	91	55
Insect/Disease Field Day	2002	12	92	n/a
	2004	17	76	61
	2005	13	92	56
	2006	14	91	58
Thinning/Pruning Field Day	2000	12	92	n/a
	2001	17	88	n/a
	2002	10	100	n/a
Intro. to Conservation Easements	2003	19	77	n/a
	2004	15	65	62
	2005	17	93	60
	2006	10	86	57
Using Your GPS	2006	29	86	52
	2007	16	83	65