Landowners and Foresters Learn How to Improve Forest Health

The Situation
Animals, plants, insects, and fungi often impede reforestation, wildlife habitat, or other forest stewardship goals. Foresters and non-industrial private forest (NIPF) landowners are constantly looking for better methods to deal with these threats to forest health.

Our Response
As part of the Idaho Forest Stewardship program, a cooperative effort with the Idaho Department of Lands and many other partners, the UI Cooperative Extension System conducts an annual 1-day workshop titled Current Topics in Forest Health.

The 1994 program was held in Coeur d'Alene and Lewiston in December, and updated forest owners, operators, and natural resource professionals on spider mite identification, prevention, and control; endangered species and pesticides; combining fertilizers and herbicides for reforestation; mice control for reforestation; tree shelters for animal damage prevention; and fertilization to reduce Armillaria root disease.

Achievements
Fifty-nine (59) people attended the two sessions. An estimated total of 38 NIPF owners and 17,746 NIPF acres were reached. One-hundred percent of the participants indicated they would implement improved management practices as a result of attending. Eighteen individuals received pesticide license re-certification credits for attending the program.

Over 144 people have participated in Current Topics in Forest Health at 2 locations in Idaho since 1993.
**The Future**

Forest owners and natural resource professionals must be continually updated on the latest technology to maintain healthy forest ecosystems. This program will continue to be held annually to meet that need.

*Current Topics in Forest Health* is part of a comprehensive Extension education program for NIPF owners, titled *Strengthening Forest Stewardship Skills*. The series of programs features a diverse array of educational activities designed to strengthen NIPF owners’ ability to implement practices which improve forest health and growth. Programs are offered in a variety of locations and times and are announced in a yearly calendar distributed each fall. Other programs offered in this annual series cover tree planting, thinning, forestry financial management, and many other topics.

**For More Information**

Chris Schupf  
Extension Educator - Forestry, (Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, and Benewah Counties)  
University of Idaho  
Kootenai County Cooperative Extension System  
106 E. Dalton Ave.  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814-9296  
Voice Phone: 208-667-6426  
Fax Phone: 208-664-4470

Ron Mahoney  
Extension Forester  
University of Idaho  
College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences  
Forestry Bldg.  
Moscow, ID 83844-1140  
Voice Phone: 208-885-6356  
Fax Phone: 208-885-6226