



A Manulife Asset Management Company

September 23, 2013

Craig Foss, Chief
Bureau of Forestry Assistance
Idaho Department of Lands
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Brian J. Kernohan
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RE: Comments on Idaho Forest Practices Act Proposed Rule – DOCKET NO. 20-0201-01301

Dear Mr. Foss:

Please record these comments of Hancock Timber Resource Group in support of the proposed Idaho Forest Practices Act rule - DOCKET NO. 20-0201-01301.

Hancock Timber Resource Group (“Hancock”) has followed this rule-making from its inception and has participated with the Forest Practices Act Advisory Committee and the Idaho Department of Lands during the negotiated rule-making period.

Hancock Timber Resource Group was founded in 1985 and is the world’s largest manager of timberland investments for private equity investors. We manage approximately 6.6 million acres of working forests across the United States, and in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Brazil. In the United States, we manage over 4.3 million acres across 16 states. Our management of approximately 138,000 acres in Idaho makes us the second largest manager of working forests in the state.

We believe stewardship and sustainability are essential strategies to maximize value and we embrace them as core guiding principles. We manage our working forests on a long-term sustainable basis while actively engaging in conservation transactions to protect sensitive lands.

The proposed rule is thoughtfully drafted and based on sound forest science. It is consistent with our company’s commitment to forest stewardship and protecting private property rights. We particularly applaud the inclusion of options which allow different approaches to riparian area management for different landowners and different parcels. This is an innovative rule that reflects the diversity of forest landscapes in Idaho and is properly responsive to differing landowner values and objectives. The proposed rule provides scientifically sound and appropriate policy to support water quality and landowner property values.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Kernohan

CC: Scott Ketchum, HFM General Manager