



State Forester weighs in on management of federal forests

Newsrooms across Idaho today received an opinion piece by State Forester David Groeschl.

The piece titled, "Success in land management is rooted in a clear mission," focuses on the "dominant use" concept that drives a clear mission for land managers.

Dominant uses that guide the management style of some federal lands include wilderness, recreation, and national parks.

In the case of state endowment trust lands, the Idaho Department of Lands and the Land Board manage 2.4 million acres under a **dominant use of active management to maximize long-term financial returns to public schools** and other beneficiaries. As State Forester David Groeschl points out, **a key part of managing for the long-term is to be good stewards of the land.**

Examples of that long-term stewardship include tree planting following a harvest and leaving in place seed trees for natural regeneration, and following all state and federal environmental laws aimed at protecting water, air quality, and habitat.



State endowment forest 10 years after a plantation.

But 7 million acres of federal forests in Idaho have no dominant use, creating gridlock in the federal land managers' attempts to be all things to all people on all acres.

On these 7 million acres, **a clear mission and the accompanying legal framework are needed** if professional land managers are to complete the work they deem necessary to improve the health of the forests on a large scale.

"Without a clear mission or mandate from Congress, the Forest Service is left longing for how to define and measure success," the State Forester writes.

[Read his entire opinion piece.](#)



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