

Idaho gets ready for Arbor Day

The last Friday in April each year marks Arbor Day - a special day to celebrate the wonders of sustainable, renewable TREES!

From Bonners Ferry to Boise to Bancroft and dozens of towns in between, Idaho is getting ready to celebrate Arbor Day on April 26.



[Fifty-five communities](#) were selected as recipients of 2013 Arbor Day grants. The grants are made possible by donations from **Idaho Power**, **Avista Utilities**, and **Rocky Mountain Power**. Trees promote energy conservation and the program fosters a stronger relationship between cities and the utility and nursery industries. The **Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association (INLA)** and the **Idaho Department of Lands** help administer the grants.

The \$300 grants are given to the winning communities to **purchase trees, shrubs and related planting materials** from INLA member nurseries for Arbor Day celebrations.

Trees are valuable assets for our communities. In the Treasure Valley, for instance, "community forests" are a resource worth \$3 billion (what it would cost to replace all the trees in the Treasure Valley) and provide nearly \$10 million annually in storm water reduction benefits, energy savings, and public health benefits through cleaner air.

Special timber license plates fund Arbor Day activities

Those special timber license plates don't just look good, they make money to promote learning about the benefit of trees and the planting of more trees across the state!



Foresters and other staff in the Idaho Department of Lands offices statewide use these funds from the Idaho Forest Products Commission to purchase trees and educational materials to celebrate Arbor Day with even more Idaho communities.

Idaho is full of Tree Cities!

Another fun part of Arbor Day is celebrating the Idaho towns and cities that have achieved the [Tree City USA](#) designation.

[Sixty-seven Idaho cities](#) will be recognized as official Tree Cities this year by arborists and forestry professionals who work in cities, State agencies, and federal agencies across Idaho.

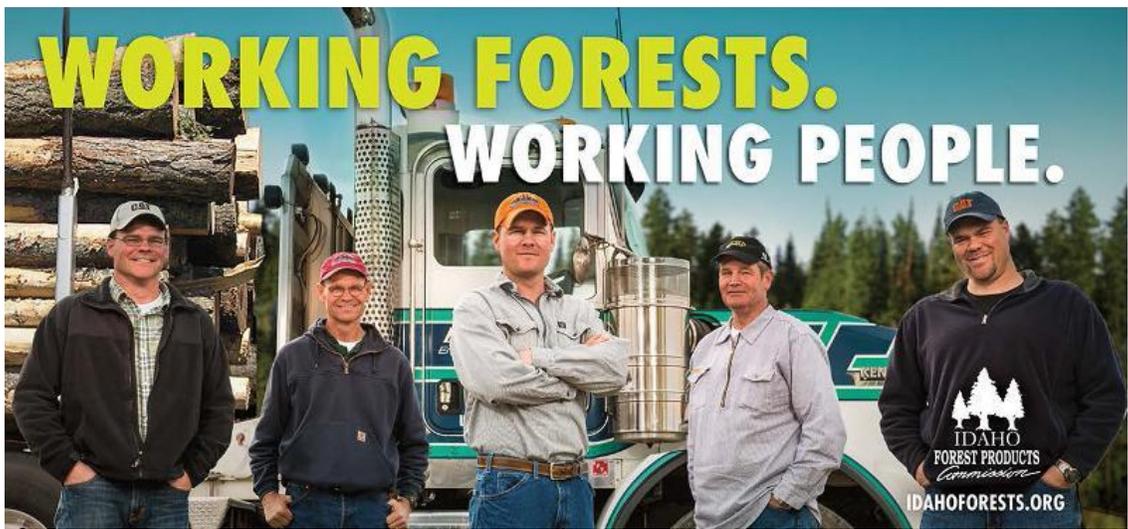
Working forests working for all of us

The forest products industry loves Arbor Day, too. The continuous cycle of "plant, grow, harvest" provides a healthy environment, good-paying jobs, and quality wood and paper products.

"With **40 percent of our State covered in trees**, Idaho has a lot to celebrate on Arbor Day," IFPC Director Betty Munis said. "Working forests work for Idaho by providing **jobs for more than 19,000 Idahoans** and **producing more than \$3.2 billion in product sales** last year. Plus, we all benefit from the **clean water, wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities and protection from catastrophic wildfires** that working forests provide."

State forests are working forests that provide industry with a healthy share of the total timber volume harvested annually. Even though State forests make up only 5 percent of the total forested acres statewide, in FY12 **the sale of trees grown on state endowment trust land provided 35 percent of the total timber volume harvested in Idaho.**

Trees are a renewable resource, so after we harvest we can start anew the cycle of healthy trees growing for the future. The law, too, says that harvested areas must be growing a new generation of trees within five years of harvest.



Lots of information about planned Arbor Day activities is available at <http://www.idahoforests.org/arborday.htm>, but **here are some of the things the Forest Products Commission is doing for Arbor Day this year:**

- **Giveaway of 28,000 tree seedlings** at Arbor Day events, Home Depot and FedEx Office locations across Idaho on April 26
- "Look to the Forest" **Arbor Day student photo contest** ([list of 2013 winners](#) available)
- "Working Forests, Working People" **statewide billboard campaign**
- **Arbor Day PSAs featuring Governor Butch Otter**
- **Arbor Day celebration** at the Capitol
- T-shirts, e-cards, brochures, and many more activities and materials



Idaho Department of Lands

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