



Another record year for timber harvest on State endowment lands

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(BOISE) - A record 347 million board feet (MMBF) of timber valued at more than \$72 million was harvested on Idaho endowment trust lands in fiscal year 2014, and two million tree seedlings were planted to perpetuate the long term health and productivity of the forests.

The majority of timber sale receipts are deposited in endowment funds that benefit Idaho's public school system.

The harvest supported more than 6,200 jobs, \$183 million in wages and salaries, and \$1.1 billion in sales of goods and services. The numbers are derived from a [report from the Universities of Idaho and Montana](#) that confirms every million board feet of timber harvested in Idaho provides \$528,000 in wages and salaries, \$3.2 million in sales of goods and services, and 18 jobs - 10 forest products industry workers and five in support industries.

The record harvest accounts for about a third of the total amount of timber harvested across ownerships in Idaho annually, and endowment trust forests make up only five percent of the forested land base, evidence that endowment trust forests truly are "working lands" that generate economic activity to benefit all Idahoans.

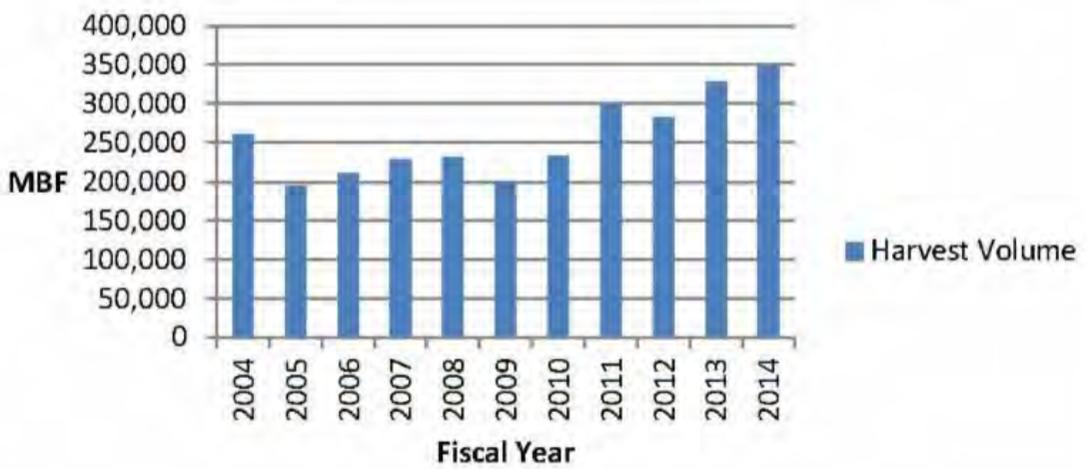
The State harvest volume exceeded expectations mainly because extra timber sales were made available in response to trees damaged or killed by wildfire and insects in 2013, and because of timber sale purchasers' harvest scheduling decisions.

Effective forest management focuses on harvesting overstocked stands, planting new trees, and keeping in place seed trees for natural regeneration. Once thinned, the stands benefit from increased space, moisture availability, and available sunlight to grow new trees. Well spaced, vigorously growing trees are more resistant to fire, insect infestations and disease. Many tree species, adapted to specific planting sites, are planted every year on Idaho endowment lands, and in FY14 IDL supervised private contractors to grow and plant about two million tree seedlings.

State endowment trust lands - including nearly one million acres of forested lands - are managed under a constitutional mandate to maximize long term financial returns to public schools and other State institutions. The Land Board - Chairman Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter, Secretary of State Ben Yursa, Attorney General Lawrence Wasden, State Controller Brandon Woolf, and Superintendent Tom Luna - provide the directives to the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) in managing the lands.

The mandate to manage endowment forests for the long-term means we must be good stewards of the land. Through harvest and reforestation we are growing a renewable resource that benefits wildlife, promotes clean air and clean water, and ensures revenues are available for today's students as well as future generations.

Idaho Endowment Timber Harvest Volume



The Details

The IDL sells a variety of forest products using various units of measure. The record FY14 harvest volume includes sawlogs, pulp, utility poles, cedar products, house logs, firewood and other forest products.

At the end of FY14 ending June 30, IDL had 193 timber sales under contract with an estimated 439 MMBF ready for harvest valued at approximately \$103 million.

Stumpage prices have been improving over the past three years. As the U.S. and global economies continue to gain confidence, IDL average stumpage price trends have improved from \$191/M in FY2012, to \$227/M in FY2013 and 265/M in FY2014.

The table below illustrates historical harvest volumes and inventory levels on Idaho endowment lands. The future desired standing timber volume for endowment lands is currently determined to be approximately 5.5 billion board feet, according to the most recent state-wide forest asset management plan. The future standing volume goal is the result of shorter rotations (the period between tree seedling establishment and final harvest) that reduce the risk of loss to insect, disease and fire. Shorter rotations also reflect market trends and milling technology that favor smaller, more uniform log sizes.

The first timber sold by the Idaho Board of Land Commissioners was in 1901. State of Idaho Timber Sale #1 harvested timber growing on lands granted to the Idaho State Penitentiary in Latah County.

Calendar Year Period	Average Harvest (MMBF)	Period Annual Maximum Harvest (MMBF)	Period Estimated Standing Volume (MMBF)
1951-1959	215	275	
1960-1969	157	187	
1970-1979	156	208	8,149
1980-1989	163	241	9,008
1990-1999	223	260	8,541
2000-2009	198	231	7,116
2010-2013	310	372	7,372

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