

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND  
IDAHO FOREST PRACTICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)**

IDL Coeur d’Alene Staff Office: Sundance Room  
IDL Boise Director’s Office: Garnet West Room  
Teams Conference Webinar  
**November 12, 2025**

**\*Welcome and Introductions:**

**Members Participating in Person:**

Jeanne Bradley - Program Manager of FPA & Stewardship - IDL  
Archie Gray - Chief of the Forestry Assistance Bureau – IDL  
Hawk Stone - ID DEQ Rep  
Gretchen Lech – Manulife – Resource Consultant  
Paul Buckland – Inland Paper – General Public Rep At-large  
Kit Hart – PotlatchDeltic (FPAC Chair)  
Tim Link – General Rep North - FPAC Vice Chair  
Kennon McClintock – Non-industrial Forest Landowners  
Jim Elbin – IDL Endowment Representative  
Tom Bassista – IDFG – Fish Biologist  
Lee Andrews – Resource Consultant

**Members Participating Via Teams:**

John Lillihaug – General Public Rep South  
Kelly Riggs – Landowner Rep South  
Cody Steinbrecker – Operator North

| <b>Agency Staff &amp; Visitors via Teams</b> | <b>Agency Staff &amp; Visitors in person</b> | <b>Agency Staff &amp; Visitors in person cont</b> |
|--|--|---|
| Samantha Buys - IDL                          | Ashley Kirk – IDL                            | Andrew Larsen – IEP                               |
| Robbie Easley – IDL                          | Hailey Bennett – IDL                         | Kristy Tucker – PotlatchDeltic                    |
| Jason Wilkerson                              | Jeremy Shawver – IDL                         | Joel Clark – IDL                                  |
| Bob Smathers – ID Farm Bureau                | Kirk David – IFOA                            | Jeff Berend – IFG                                 |
| Russ Hendrix – Idaho Farm Bureau             | Evan Neal – IEP                              | Archie Gray - IDL                                 |
| Scott Sievers - IDL                          | Rodney Cochrane – IDL                        | Julia Lauch – IDL                                 |
| John Gaddes – IDL                            | Chris Gerhart – IDL                          | Tyler Nimke – Stimson Lumber                      |
| Robin Dunn – IDL                             | Dave Luther – IDL                            | Jay Clark – IDL                                   |
| Gary Hess – IFOA                             | Ken Homik – IDL                              | Mckenna Smith – IDL                               |
|  | Colton Finch – IDL                           | Madeline David – IFOA                             |

**\*FPAC Minutes Approval**

**08-26-25 FPAC Meeting Minutes:**

- Paul Buckland motioned to approve the minutes, Kennon McClintock seconded.  
Approved unanimously.

**\*IDL Updates:**

**Agency/Bureau – Archie Gray**

- Archie said that they were able to fill the Forest Health Specialist position.
- He talked about Ara Andrea’s retirement.

- He said that due to FY2026 budget constraints they will not be able to update the Burn Permit software, had to order half the Detection Cameras that they wanted to, and additional hiring has been delayed. In FY2027 an additional \$300,000 in General Funds will be held back. He said that the cuts would sooner or later affect GNA & Shared Stewardship.
- He said at this time the Dedicated Funds have not been impacted.
- Two days before the government shutdown we were informed we had been awarded the 7.5-million-dollar Community Wildfire Defense Grant for fire hazard mitigation work in Shoshone County. It's a huge grant but there has been no action on it since the shutdown.

### **Legislation – Archie Gray/Julia Lauch**

- A bill is being introduced that will formerly consolidate the Forest Service into the BLM. It's in the very early stages. The information was leaked. Not ready for public consumption. The bill would do three things:
  - roll the Forest Service under the Department of Interior.
  - Pull all the wildland fire programs into the U.S. Wildland Fire Service.
  - Moves the Forest Service Legislative Committee work in D.C. under the committees of Natural Resources and the Environment.

Who knows what will be changed or added but the bill will be introduced. The details of the bill are vague at this time. The NASF and the WSF are engaged with an advocate regarding some of the details. Mostly regarding the line of separation between wildland fire service and land management. They do not agree with some of the wording.

- The Fix Our Forest Act addresses GNA, Stewardship, and various funding options. Both the House and Senate versions of the Act will be good for forest health. Some of the highlights that are in the Senate version that have already met committee approval are:
  - The Ranger RNGR support act which codify support to state nursery infrastructure.
- Fixes the emergency Forest Restoration Program to allow upfront payments to landowners.
  - Directs the timely repayment on fire cost shares to states.
  - Tweaks the Healthy Forest Restoration Act definition of an at-risk community.
- A self-appointed State DOGE committee gave a list to JFAC of things they want to talk about that basically encompasses almost every state agency. Their proposals range from moving our fire program under Office of Emergency Management to consolidating all the Natural Resource's agencies under one department. That would mean Fish & Game, IDL Parks, and whoever else lumped together under one DNR. We'll have to see where this goes.

- A Legislative idea that IDL is going to be pushing forward this legislative session is to propose a change to statute regarding the Fire Assessment rate. The rate is currently capped at \$40.00. What we're proposing is to change that rate to up to \$100.00. It's largely due to the growth of the wildland urban interface within the state, the complexities of fighting fire in and around improvements, and the cost of doing that business.

## **\*Subcommittee Updates:**

### **Notification Only – Ken Homik**

- The subcommittee's focus was on mastication projects and whether notification is required for these projects. Currently there is no written guidance regarding Compliance/Notification requirements for mastication projects.
- Conclusion/Recommendations:
  - They are not overly concerned about this in the upland area, however there is concern in the SPZ's. They are comfortable with continuing on with self-notification.
  - PFS needs to be notified via internal process for grant funded projects.
  - Notifications required for private pay projects that contain streams.
  - Require a variance for operating in SPZ that contains class I or II streams.
  - Focus on education within the operating crowd.
  - Add fuel breaks to list of Notification Exceptions (020.06). Just something to consider going forward next time the rules open up again.
  - Upon approval from FPAC, develop language to incorporate into Guidance that says for mastication projects here's the criteria when notification is required.

### **Discussion outcome:**

- Kennon McClintock motioned: Based on the subcommittee's results as presented here they'll go back and form this into guidance. Paul Buckland & Tim Link seconded. Approved unanimously.

### **Class II Streams – Hawk Stone**

- The subcommittee's focus has been mostly identifying which Class 2 streams are in danger of exceeding the water quality standards. They've zoomed in on the studies that were done at Mica Creek as well as the Hard Rock and Soft Rock studies. They have intentionally not discussed any potential rule language. They've focused their discussions entirely on whether there is a problem and if so where that problem is. That conversation is ongoing.

## **Salvage Logging – Kit Hart**

- The subcommittee considered Rulemaking under the statute 381304 and subsection F that had not previously had rules made regarding salvage logging.
- There was very much consensus from the subcommittee on the value of promoting active management of Idaho's forest health and along with that, reducing the risk of loss where forest health may not be the focus or being adequately addressed. There's was consensus that the state is doing an excellent job with GNA projects. There's a tremendous amount of work that's being done through GNA and Shared Stewardship. Recognition of those programs was important to the group's considerations.
- As far as a recommendation to FPAC by the subcommittee, there wasn't a clear consensus. Federal Land Management, where a lot of the forest health and risk of loss is centered is primarily a policy issue rather than an FPA rule issue. But nonetheless, the question in front of the subcommittee was whether there is a place for Rulemaking, to help with the risk that the State faces. The group made a really sincere effort to evaluate this and think about options but in the end, they didn't have a consensus.

### **Discussion outcome:**

- Tom Bassista made a motion that FPAC write a letter to the Land Board in support of GNA and the collateral aspects of that. Kennon McClintock seconded. Approved unanimously
- Kennon McClintock made a motion that FPAC produce a second and separate letter describing FPAC's process and their conclusion that we do not enter into rule making specifically on salvage log. Tim Link & Kelly riggs seconded.

### **Roll Call:**

Tom Bassita - Support  
Kelly Riggs – Support  
Kennon McClintock - Support  
Kit Hart - Support  
Paul Buckland – Support  
Cody Steinbruecker – Support  
John Lillihaug - Support  
Tim Link – Support  
Motion Carried

### **\*Forest Practice Program Updates**

- Jeanne Bradley went over the FPAC Board membership list and discussed individual membership statuses.
- She talked about the new process of tracking Pre-Inspections and Variances across the state. Everything has been moved into an electronic database. The process from Pre-inspection to Compliance to Variance is electronically linked and easily tracked. Variances are generated from a GEO Database and now require two signatures. Either the Supervisor or Program manager and the PFS.
- They have been conducting two PFS trainings per year. The training's have been conducted in the field and in the classroom.
- Inspection numbers look good. They show we are getting out in the field and making it happen.
- The state centralized everything in what's called the M-files. This system is in the process of being updated to LASERFISH. It is a more user friendly, time efficient, and cost-effective database.

### **Schedule Next Meeting:**

- Primary Date: Wednesday 3-11-25
- Back-up Date: Thursday 3-12-25

### **\* Wrap-up/Adjourn**

- Meeting adjourned: 12:25 p.m.