

**Idaho Department of Lands**

Forestry and Fire Division  
Forest Practices Advisory  
Committee  
3284 W. Industrial Loop  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815  
Phone (208) 769-1525



Dustin T. Miller, Director  
Working Lands, Trusted Stewards  
Equal Opportunity Employer

**State Board of Land Commissioners**

Brad Little, Governor  
Phil McGrane, Secretary of State  
Raúl R. Labrador, Attorney General  
Brandon D Woolf, State Controller  
Debbie Critchfield, Sup't Public Instruction

December 1, 2025

State Board of Land Commissioners  
Governor Brad Little  
Secretary of State Phil McGrane  
Attorney General Raúl R. Labrador  
State Controller Brandon D Woolf  
Superintendent of Public Instruction Debbie Critchfield  
Director of Idaho Department of Lands Dustin T. Miller

via email:

Re: Forest Practices Advisory Committee Letter of Support

Director Miller and State Land Board Commissioners:

The Forest Practices Advisory Committee (FPAC) was recently asked by the Idaho Department of Lands to evaluate the possibility of entering into rulemaking for the purpose of requiring federal land managers within Idaho to treat lands threatened by forest health related issues that could cause a greater risk to surrounding lands and property from catastrophic wildfire. FPAC created a subcommittee to examine the potential benefits of rule development pursuant to the ID Forest Practices Act at 38-1304(1)(f) that address salvage logging of dead or dying timber or timber that is threatened by various physical elements. FPAC does not recommend addressing the issue through rulemaking, we agree that there is a need to increase management on federal lands to reduce forest health risks to Idaho's forests.

Previously FPAC was briefed on the successful implementation of Idaho's Shared Stewardship and Good Neighbor Authority programs. While discussing the forest health issues in the state and ways to address those issues the committee found that these collaborative approaches have delivered effective results with on the ground treatments and show the most promise for addressing forest health and wildfire concerns on federal lands. They are also taking a more localized approach as counties with assistance from the state programs are beginning to enter into Good Neighbor Authority agreements of their own. This localized collaborative approach has the best prospects for producing large scale improvements in forest health and catastrophic fire hazard risk reduction.

At the November 12, 2025, FPAC meeting, the committee voted unanimously to encourage the state to continue to address forest health risks on federal and adjoining lands through the collaborative approach of Shared Stewardship and Good Neighbor Authority programs. It is critical that federal government provides dedicated and sustained funding to alleviate forest health risks stemming from federal lands.

Sincerely,

*Christopher P. Hart*

Kit Hart, Chairman Forest Practices Advisory Committee



Dr. Timothy E. Link, Vice Chair Forest Practices Advisory Committee

cc: Julia Lauch – State Forester, IDL  
Archie Gray – Chief, Forestry Assistance Bureau, IDL  
Jeanne Bradley – Regulatory/Stewardship Program Manager, IDL