

2025

Idaho Department of Lands

Forest Practices Year-End Report



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Forest Practices Program within the Forestry Assistance Bureau

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Acknowledgements



Spring 2026 Private Forestry Specialist Meeting, Moscow: (Pictured: left to right) Joel Clark—Interdisciplinary Team Program Manager, Levi Hunt—Roads Specialist, Colton Finch—Biologist, Chris Gerhart—PFS Clearwater, Anthon Larson – Resource Specialist - Regulatory, Jay Clark—Stewardship Specialist, Robin Dunn—GIS Program Manager, Ashley Kirk—PFS St. Joe, Kylie Cirka – Ponderosa Resource Specialist - Endowment , Archie Gray—Forestry Assistance Bureau Chief, Robbie Easley—PFS Ponderosa, David Thorton—Fire Warden Priest Lake, McKenna Smith—PFS St. Joe, Sam Wittell—PFS Payette Lakes, Scott Sievers—PFS Supervisor South, Laurie Stone—Resource Specialist Eastern(hiding in the back), Rodney Cochrane—PFS Supervisor Central, Trask Hodgson—PFS Southwest, Dave Luther—PFS Maggie Creek. Missing from the photo: Hailey Frank-Bennett—Private Forestry Specialist (PFS) Mica, John Gaddess—PFS Pend Oreille Lake, Ken Homik—PFS Supervisor North, Jason Wilkerson—PFS Kootenai Valley, John Cook—Assistant Fire Warden Priest Lake, Abby Shagena—Resource Specialist Ponderosa, Emily Spet—Resource Specialist Maggie Creek. (Photo taken by Jeanne Bradley—FPA Program Manager.)

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to the success of the Idaho Forest Practices Program and the continued implementation of the Idaho Forest Practices Act (FPA). The collaboration and dedication of many individuals and organizations, along with the sound science supporting the rulemaking, have been pivotal in achieving high levels of compliance and sustainable forestry practices in Idaho.

Special thanks to the ongoing support from University of Idaho Extension and the Idaho Associated Logging Contractors in delivering the Logger Education to Advance Professionalism (LEAP) training sessions. These sessions have played a crucial role in

educating loggers on the FPA Rules and best management practices (BMPs), ensuring compliance with forest practices regulations.

We also acknowledge the significant contributions of Idaho’s larger industrial forestland owners and lumber mills, whose participation in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certification has positively influenced compliance rates. Similarly, the commitment of state endowment land managers and the American Tree Farm System in promoting sustainable practices on nonindustrial lands is deeply appreciated. IDL Regulatory & Stewardship Program staff wish to acknowledge the hard-working Private Forestry Specialists in each of the Supervisory Areas whose diligent efforts produce the data in this report. We acknowledge the hard work and assistance of the IDL GIS Program in advancing our interactive, centralized database. Their expertise—providing critical spatial datasets, application support, and GIS infrastructure—has been instrumental in developing our new inspection report tracking system.

Introduction

Policies

The Idaho Forest Practices Act (FPA)—Idaho Code § 38-1301 through § 38-1313—and the FPA administrative rules (FPA Rules)—Rules Pertaining to the Idaho Forest Practices Act, IDAPA 20.02.01—were developed and are modified to promote active forest management, enhance the ecological and social benefits derived from Idaho forestland, and maintain and protect vital forest resources. The best management practices (BMPs) defined within the FPA Rules are designed to protect air and water quality, wildlife habitat, and forest health while enhancing tree growth and vigor. They provide assurance to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency that Idaho is meeting the water quality standards prescribed for *forest practices* such as harvesting, burning, planting, and the transporting of forest products. Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is statutorily charged with administering the Forest Practices Program and ensuring the associated FPA Rules implementation.

Policy Updates

There have been no new changes to the Rules Pertaining to the Idaho Forest Practices Act since the 2022 legislative session. There was a change in the inspection rate matrix starting in the 2024 calendar year.

FPA Inspection Priorities

Characteristics of Notification	Target Inspection Rate
FPA Complaint (Resolved)	100%
Variance Request (pre-op. required)	100%
Site Specific Riparian Plan	100%
Stream Channel Alteration Project on Class 1	80%
Harvest within Class 1 Stream Protection Zone	80%
Stream Channel Alteration Project on Class 2	60%
Steep Slopes/Erodible Soils	60%
Options 2, 3, 4 and 5	50%
Questionable or New Contractor/Operator	80%
Request for Pre-operational Visit	100%

Before 2024, the targeting inspection rate was 50% of the compliance/notifications submitted to the Area Offices. Starting in 2024, operations with specific characteristics have been given a higher inspection rate goal.

When inspecting operations, Private Forestry Specialists (PFSs) and Fire Wardens should still conduct visits as follows:

1. Before operations begin, if an operator has requested a pre-operational visit, to discuss potential problems and sensitive areas.
2. During operations, to see that all phases correctly implement the FPA Rules and BMPs.
3. After completion of operations, to see that all harvesting and slash-management requirements have been met satisfactorily.

Executive Summary

This year-end report presents information that describes the overall picture of forest practice activities on *private* and *state* forestland. Private forestland includes industrial and non-industrial forestland and may include county or municipal forestland. State forestland includes all state trust lands and other state-owned lands.

Compliance with Forest Practices Act (FPA) rules has steadily increased from 85% in 1974 to over 95% in recent decades, reaching 98% compliance in 2024 and 2025 for inspected operations on state and private forestland. Factors like rural residential development, new forest owners, demographic shifts, and changing weather patterns make 100% compliance unrealistic.

Inspections in 2025 show continued high stewardship by Idaho forest managers and loggers, with compliance rates of 98% in recent years. Detailed data on these achievements are provided in the report.

1.1 Forest Practice Notifications on Private and State Forestlands

Accepted for operations on both state and private forestland, Forest Practice Notifications increased by 5% from the previous year, with 1,605 accepted Notifications. Of these, 208 were Notification Only (non-commercial operations). Of the remaining 1,397 commercial harvest operations, 1,264 were on private land and 133 on state.

1.2 Frequency and Location of Inspections

A total of 995 inspections occurred in 2025, across each of the ten IDL Supervisory Areas.

1.3 Individual Operations Inspected

In 2025, 828 operations were inspected across 1,605 notifications, a 52% inspection rate—down from 57% in 2024. For timber harvest-specific notifications, the inspection rate was 57%. For harvest-specific notifications, there were 1,264 Compliance/Notifications on private forestland, with 683 operations inspected, and 133 Compliance/Notifications on state-administered lands, with 106 operations inspected.

Characteristics of Notification	Target Inspection Rate	2025 Inspection Rate
FPA Complaint (Resolved)	100%	100%
Variance Request (pre-op. required)	100%	100%
Site Specific Riparian Plan	100%	100%
Stream Channel Alteration Project on Class 1	80%	82%
Harvest within Class 1 Stream Protection Zone	80%	114%
Stream Channel Alteration Project on Class 2	60%	84%
Steep Slopes/Erodible Soils	60%	74%
Options 2, 3, 4 and 5	50%	77%
Questionable or New Contractor/Operator	80%	N/A
Request for Pre-operational Visit	100%	N/A

1.4 Attributes of Inspection Reports

Of the operational areas, 19% had at least one Class I stream, and 47% had a Class II stream. From 2024 to 2025, the percentage of operations inspected with a classified stream stayed consistent, with such operations remaining a high inspection priority.

1.5 Rule Compliance

In 2025, 98% of all inspections found compliance with FPA Rules, including follow-up inspections after remediation. Out of 995 total inspections (which include multiple inspections of the same operation), 34 inspections reported at least one unsatisfactory condition. Compliance rates were 92% for state operations and 98% for private timberland.

There were 42 rule infractions cited across 19 operations that received an Unsatisfactory Inspection or Notice of Violation. The most common infractions were associated with Timber Harvesting Rules (030), accounting for 27 (64%) of the infractions. Of those, 9 involved Stream Protection (030.07), 7 involved Waste Materials (030.06), 5 involved Locations of Trails and Landings (030.04), 4 involved Drainage Systems (030.05), and 2 involved Soil Protection (030.03). Road Construction, Reconstruction, and Maintenance Rules (040) accounted for 12 (29%) of the infractions, including 4 involving Road Construction (040.03), 4 involving Road Maintenance (040.04), 2 involving Plans/Specifications or Culverts (040.02), and 2 involving Winter Operations (040.05). The remaining 3 infractions involved other rule categories.

1.6 Notices of Violation

In 2025, three Notices of Violation (NOVs) were issued, consistent with the typical yearly number. Two NOVs involved equipment use near Class I and Class II streams, drainage issues, and road maintenance. The other NOV involved a Class I Stream Protection Zone (SPZ) that was below minimum relative stocking requirements. Two of the NOVs resulted in individuals being added to the bonding list. Two NOVs have been cleared following completion of the required remediation, while one NOV remains active and is currently being monitored.

1.7 Complaints Made to IDL Regarding Forestry Practices

In 2025, IDL received 18 FPA-related complaints, an increase of 2 complaints compared to 2024. 100% of the complaints were resolved. Some of the complaints could be resolved by phone or but many require a site visit.

1.8 Variances

In 2025, 93 variances were issued for forest harvest operations, an increase of 39% from 2024. Variances were granted in less than 5.8% of the 1,605 notifications issued in 2025. There were 15 variances issued for state notifications and 78 variances issued for private notifications.

1.9 Stream Channel Alteration Projects Approved by IDL

In 2025, IDL approved 86 stream channel alteration projects, 5 more than in 2024.

Data Tables

2.1 Notification of Forest Practice on Private and State Forestland

Table 1. 2025 Notifications of Forestry Practice/Certificate of Compliance-Fire Hazard Management Agreement on both state and private forestland

Forest Protective District	2022	2023	2024	2025
Priest Lake	24	48	41	46
Kootenai V.	153	150	132	170
Mica	283	193	198	208
Pend Oreille	522	384	381	380
Cataldo	86	68	70	105
St. Joe	295	261	251	199
Ponderosa	148	83	149	74
Maggie Creek	40	37	48	28
Craig Mtn.	30	46	33	32
Southwest	11	6	14	10
Eastern Idaho	13	9	14	10
SITPA	45	42	55	48
CPTPA	266	235	140	295
TOTAL	1916	1562	1526	1605

Table 1 shows the number of Notifications accepted in 2025. This includes all forest practices IDL was notified of in 2025; 208 of these did not involve commercial timber harvest. A total of 1,605 *Forest Practice Notifications* were accepted statewide in 2025 for operations on *private and state forestland*. This is an increase from the 1,526 Notifications submitted in 2024.

Table 2. 2025 Notifications without commercial harvest on state and private forestland

Forest Protective District	2025 Notification Only
Priest Lake	2
Kootenai Valley	16
Mica	22
Pend Oreille	39
Cataldo	32
St. Joe	31
Ponderosa	19
Maggie Creek	1
Craig Mtn.	0
Southwest	0
Eastern Idaho	0
SITPA	6
CPTPA	40
TOTAL	208

Table 2 displays the 2025 *Notification Only* by Forest Protective District. IDL's Notification/Compliance management system and hazard withholding database supports reporting of harvest operations separate from "Notification Only" operations which have no associated Certificate of Compliance.

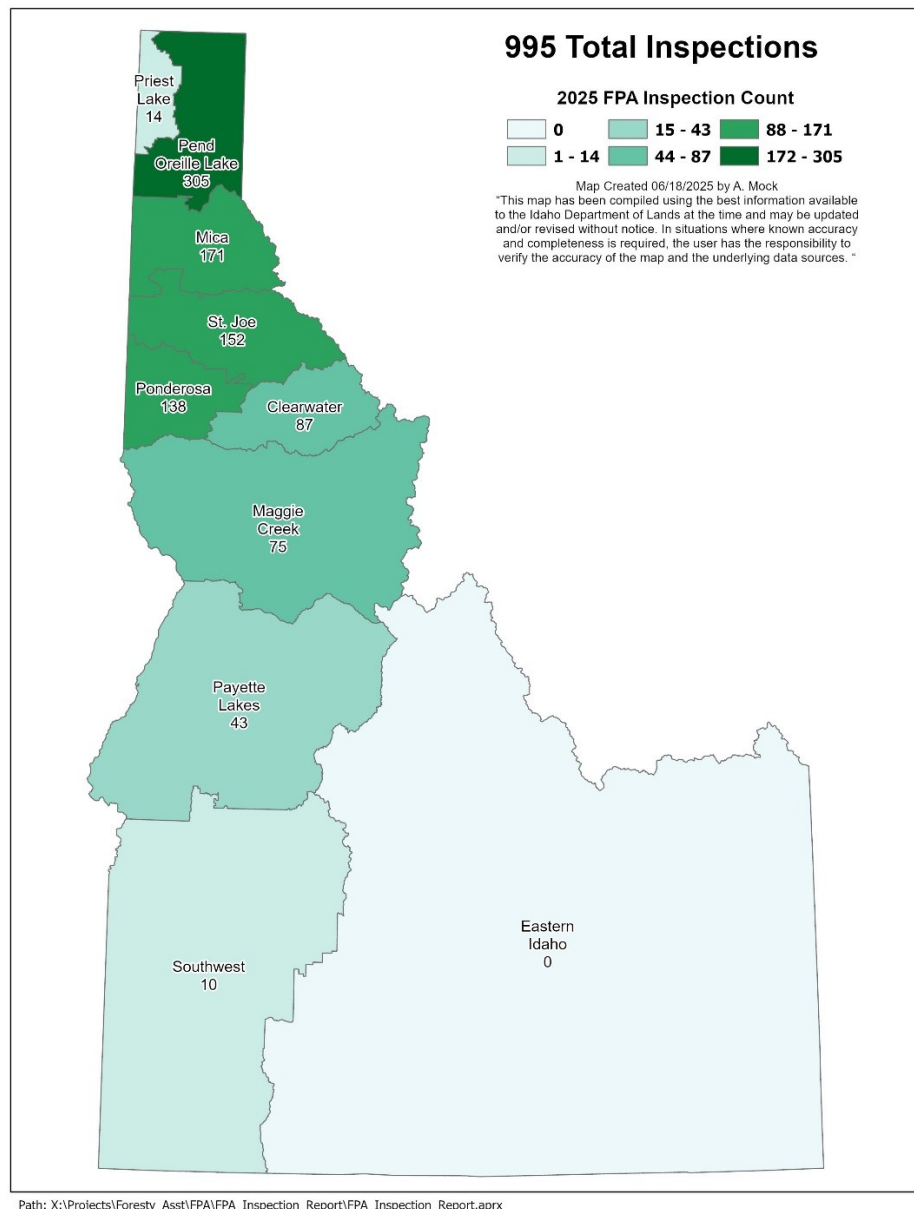
Table 3. *State and Private Forestland - Certificate of Compliance/Fire Hazard Management Agreements*

Forest Protective Districts	2025 Private	2025 State	2025 Total
Priest Lake	21	23	44
Kootenai Valley	151	3	154
Mica	180	4	184
Pend Oreille	333	8	341
Cataldo	71	2	73
St. Joe	149	19	168
Ponderosa	52	3	55
Maggie Creek	25	3	28
Craig Mtn.	28	4	32
Southwest	5	5	10
Eastern Idaho	5	5	10
SITPA	33	9	42
CPTPA	211	45	256
TOTAL	1264	133	1397

Table 3 shows the number of Notification/Compliance agreements granted for state and private entities by Forest Protective District. In 2025, 133 were granted for operations on state land, 1,264 on private land, for a total of 1,397 *commercial harvest operations*. The 1,264 on private land include operations conducted on industrial and non-industrial private ownerships.

2.2 Frequency and Location of Inspections

Figure 1. Map of all Forest Practices inspections performed in 2025 by IDL Supervisory Area.

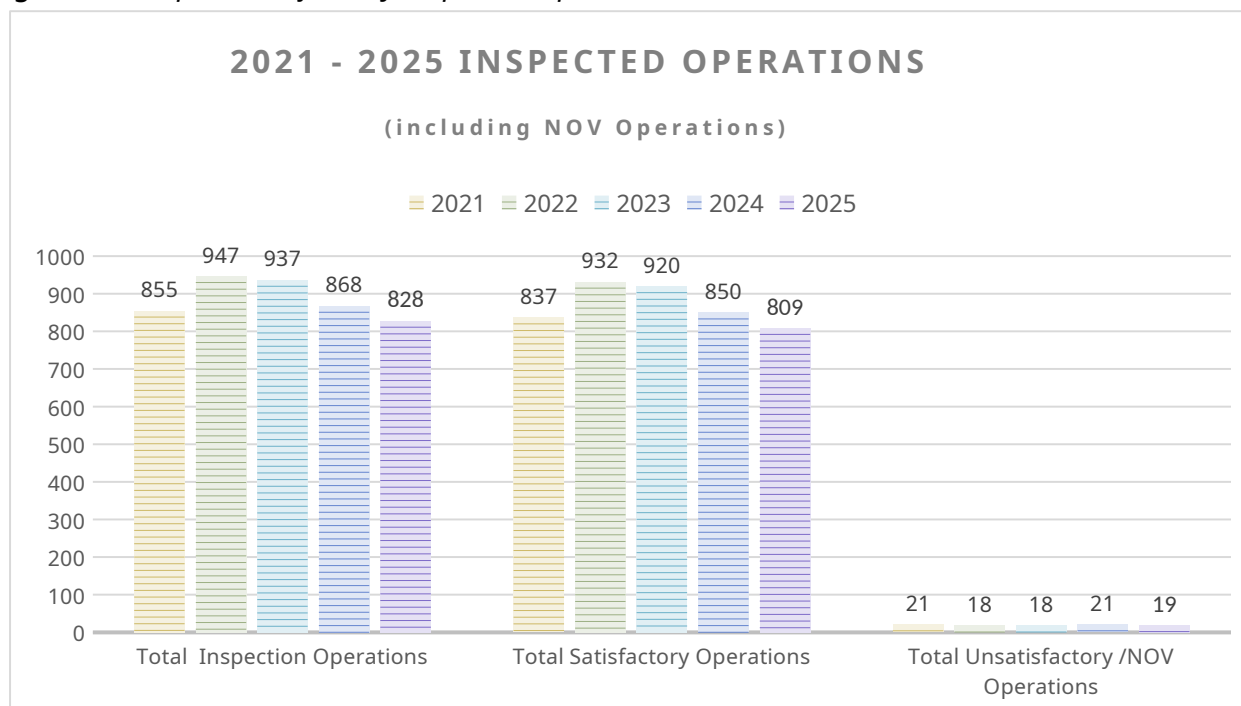


During 2025, IDL PFSs and assistants performed **995** total Forest Practices inspections across **1,605** notifications of state and private forestland. Inspections were proportionate to the active operations covered in every IDL Supervisory Area.

(Note: Many inspections are performed on sites with Notifications submitted in previous years and many late-year Notifications may not receive inspections until the next calendar year. This year-to-year carryover remains relatively constant over time. IDL consistently reports on the number of inspected operations compared to the total number of forestland Notifications accepted in a given calendar year, as well as a breakout of harvest operations.)

2.3 Individual Operations Inspected

Figure 2. Comparison of Yearly Inspected Operations on State and Private Forestland 2021–2025

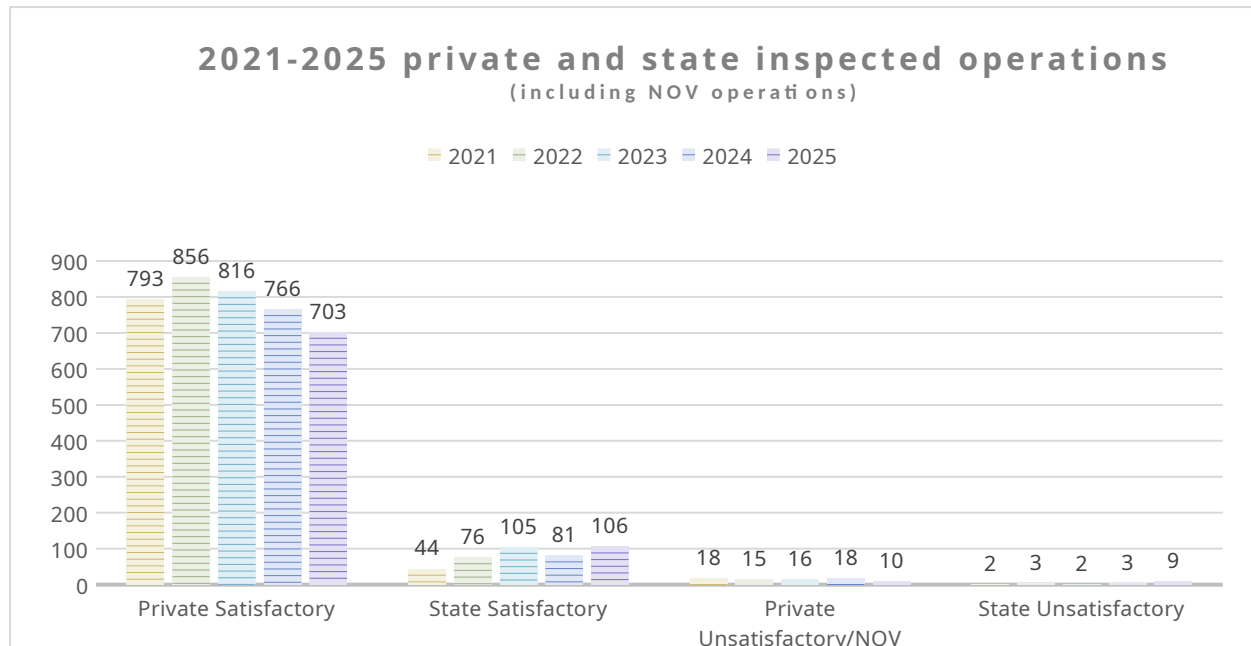


Inspected Operation	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Inspection Operations	855	947	937	868	828
Total Satisfactory Operations	837	932	920	850	809
Total Unsatisfactory /NOV Operations	21	18	18	21	19

Of the 1,605 accepted Notifications in 2025, there were 995 inspections on 828 operations. There was a 52% inspection rate—down from 57% in 2024. Many operations required two or more inspections based on complexity of the operation. Although IDL has changed the inspection matrix, a per operation inspection rate above 50% has been met.

Of the inspected operations, **98%** demonstrated satisfactory BMP implementation (in compliance with the FPA Rules). On average over the past five years, 97-99% of inspected operations demonstrate satisfactory implementation of the FPA Rules. Class I and Class II streams were present at nearly the same rate of inspected operations in 2025 compared to 2024.

Figure 3. Comparison of Satisfactory and Unsatisfactory Inspections on Private and State Operations

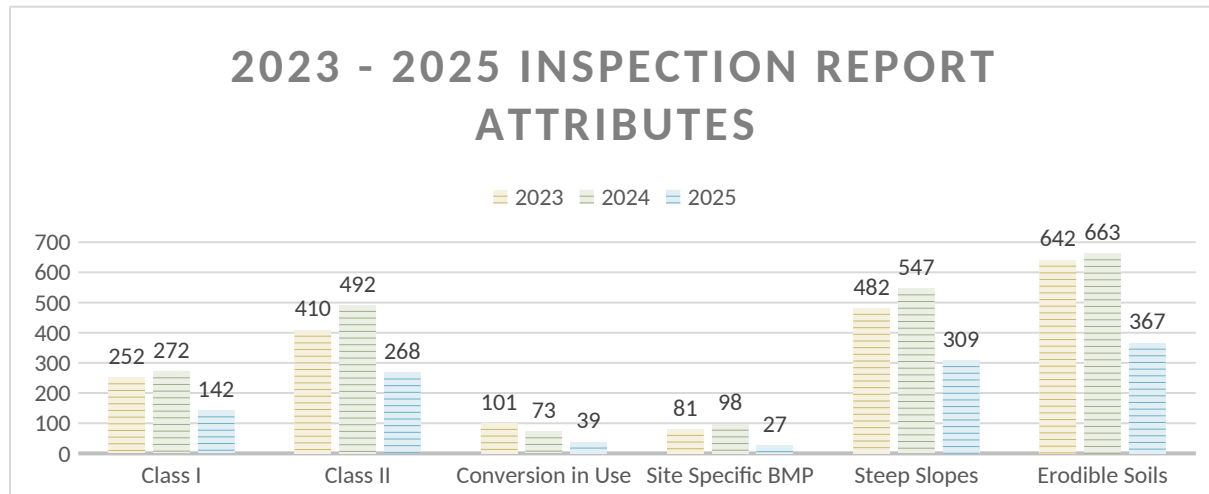


Private and State Inspected Operations	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Private Satisfactory	793	856	816	766	703
State Satisfactory	44	76	105	81	106
Private Unsatisfactory/NOV	18	15	16	18	10
State Unsatisfactory	2	3	2	3	9

Figure 3 is a comparison of state and private inspections in 2021 through 2025. Nine of the 19 unsatisfactory/NOV operations reported in 2025 were on state owned land and 10 were on private forestland. All NOV's were on non-industrial private operations.

2.4 Attributes of Inspected Operations

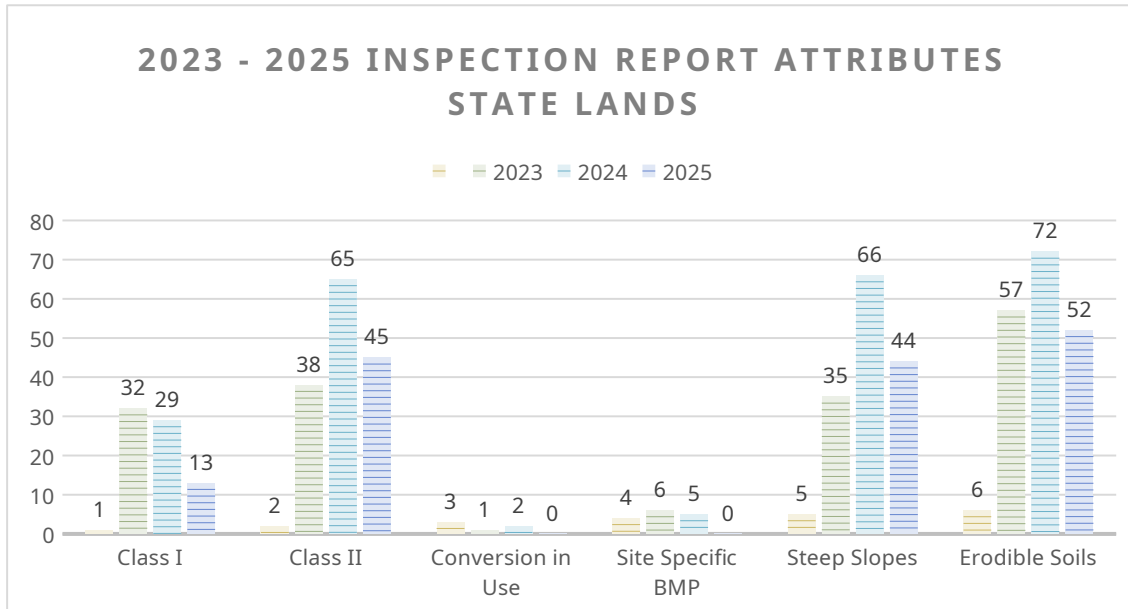
Figure 4. Comparison of Attributes of all Inspected Operations in 2023–2025



Inspection Report Attributes	2023	2024	2025
Class I	252	272	142
Class II	410	492	268
Conversion in Use	101	73	39
Site Specific BMP	81	98	27
Steep Slopes	482	547	309
Erodible Soils	642	663	367

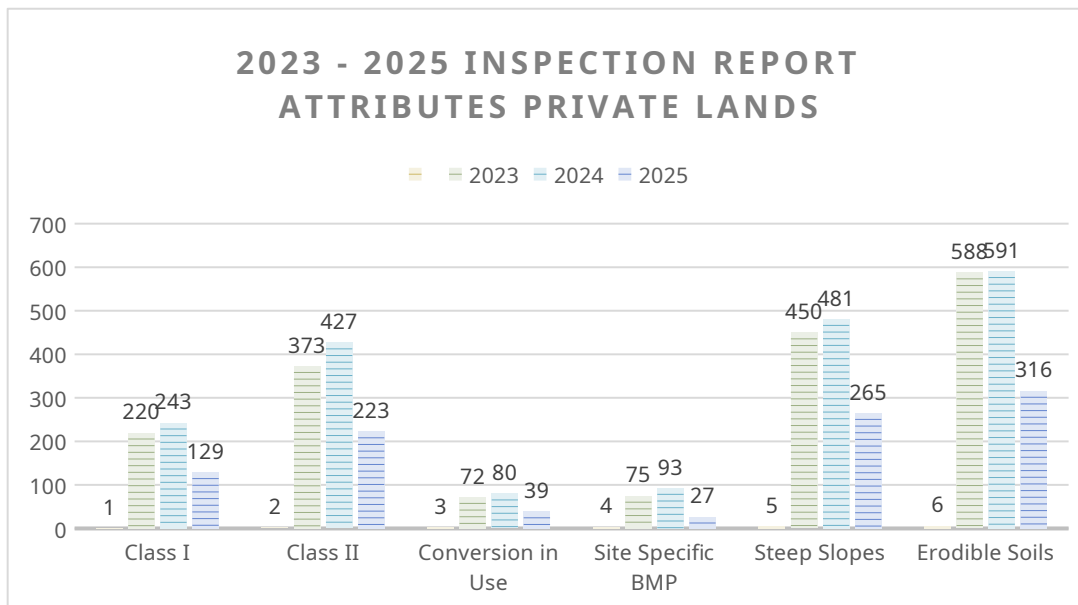
Figure 4 shows that often one operational area includes both Class I and Class II streams, as well as other attributes. *(Some data from 2023 and 2024 have been updated due to more accurate data collection)*

Figure 5. Inspected Operations Attributes on State (IDL managed) Land



Inspection Report Attributes State Lands	2023	2024	2025
Class I	32	29	13
Class II	38	65	45
Conversion in Use	1	2	0
Site Specific BMP	6	5	0
Steep Slopes	35	66	44
Erodible Soils	57	72	52

Figure 6. Inspected Operations Attributes on Private Land

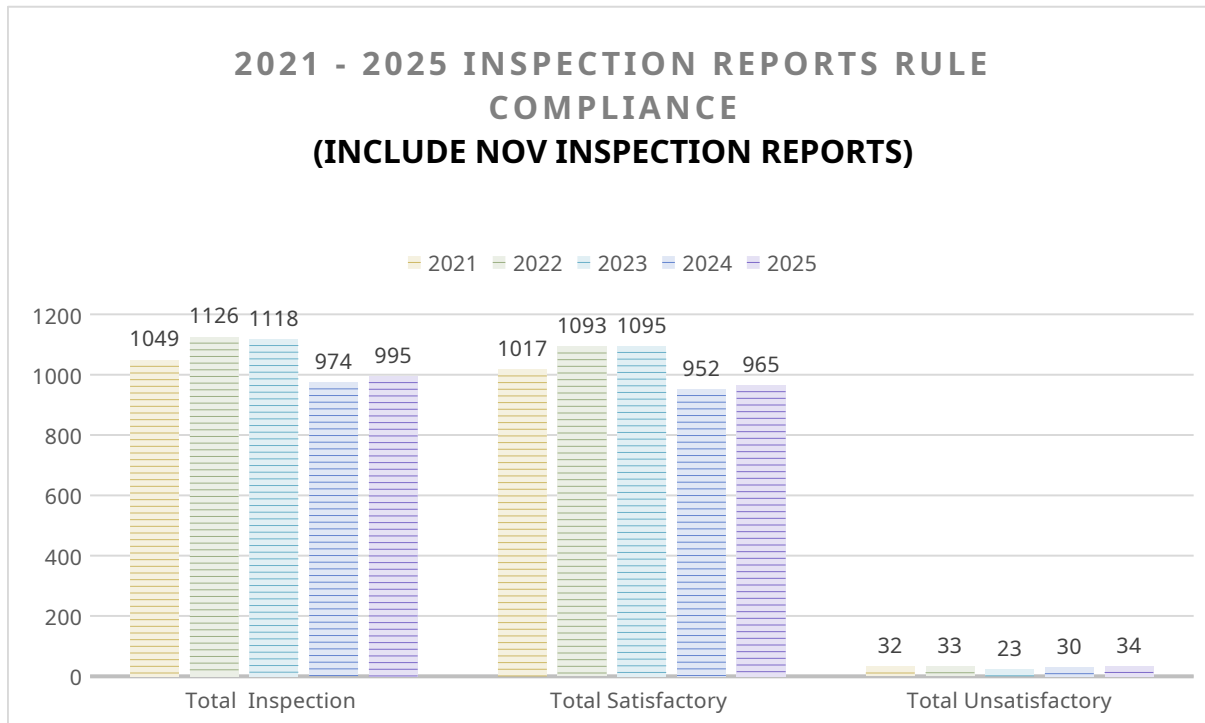


Inspection Report Attributes Private Lands	2023	2024	2025
Class I	220	243	129
Class II	373	427	223
Conversion in Use	72	80	39
Site Specific BMP	75	93	27
Steep Slopes	450	481	265
Erodible Soils	588	591	316

Figures 5 and 6 depict the Inspected Operations Attributes of the inspections conducted on operations on state land and private land, respectively. Harvest operations on all state lands, including endowment lands, are conducted by PFSs and listed as state operations.

2.5 Rule Compliance

Figure 7. Comparison of 2021 to 2025 Total Inspections

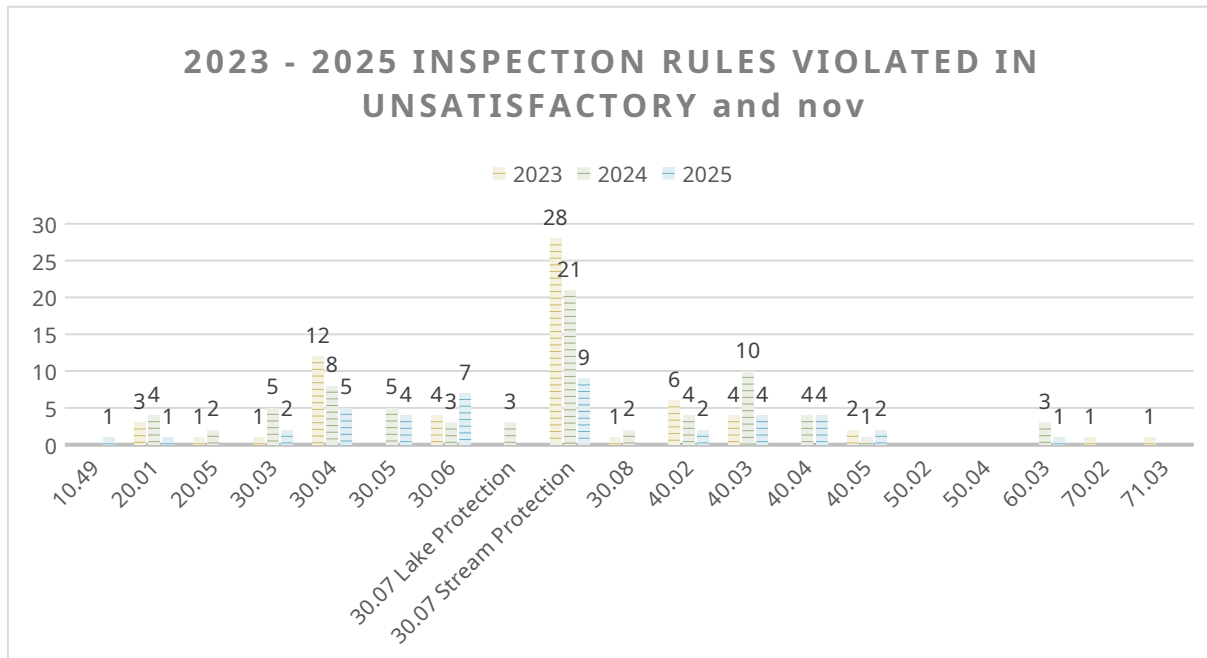


Inspection Reports Rule Compliance	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Inspection	1049	1126	1118	974	995
Total Satisfactory	1017	1093	1095	952	965
Total Unsatisfactory	32	33	23	30	34

Figure 7 shows a comparison of the **total** number of 2021 through 2025 Forest Practices inspections performed on state and private forestland and the breakdown of those inspections into satisfactory reports and unsatisfactory reports (Including NOV inspection reports.)

The data show **98%** of all **inspections** performed in 2025 found compliance with the FPA Rules. This includes sites that were found satisfactory in post-unsatisfactory inspections after they were brought into compliance through remediation. This total number of inspections encompasses all inspections, including multiple inspections of the same operation. Within these 995 performed inspections, the number of inspections that resulted in reports indicating at least one unsatisfactory condition or Notice of Violation totaled 34.

Figure 8. Comparison of Individual Rules Violated in 2023–2025

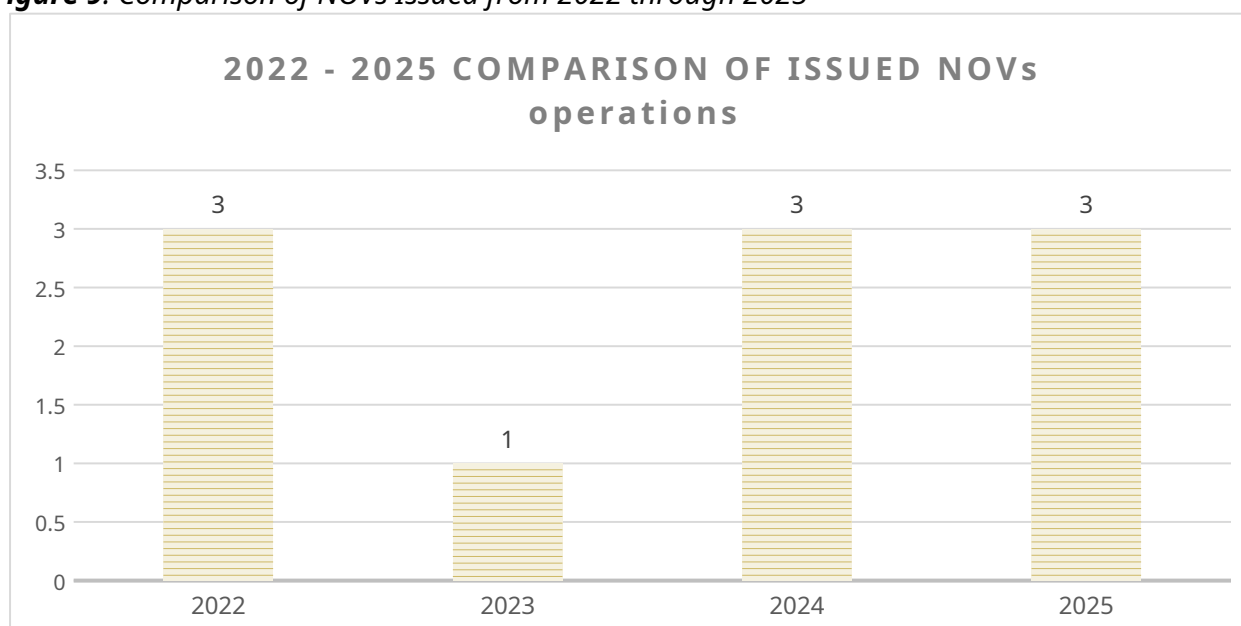


Rules Violated	*2023	*2024	2025
10.49	0	0	1
20.01	3	4	1
20.05	1	2	0
30.03	1	5	2
30.04	12	8	5
30.05	0	5	4
30.06	4	3	7
30.07 Lake Protection	0	3	0
30.07 Stream Protection	28	21	9
30.08	1	2	0
40.02	6	4	2
40.03	4	10	4
40.04	0	4	4
40.05	2	1	2
50.02	0	0	0
50.04	0	0	0
60.03	0	3	1
70.02	1	0	0
71.03	1	0	0
Total	64	75	42

Figure 8: The most frequently infringed rules were the *Stream Protection* rules (IDAPA 030.07), treatment of waste materials (030.06), location of trails and landings (030.04), and drainage systems (030.05), which comprised approximately **21%, 17%, 12%, and 10%** of infractions, respectively. Road Maintenance (040.04) also comprised approximately **10%** of the infractions, while Soil Protection (030.03) comprised approximately **5%**. There was a noticeable increase in infractions for treatment of waste materials (030.06). There was a decrease again this year in violations pertaining to variances (020.01). Rule 030.07 has the greatest number of subparagraphs of all the Harvesting Rules, and often when 040.03, 040.04, or 030.04 are cited, 030.07.c will also be cited for operating ground-based equipment inside the SPZ without a variance. In addition, multiple 030.07 subparagraphs may be cited for a single instance of resource damage. This has the effect of amplifying the weight of the *Stream Protection* rule infractions. **Please note 2023 - 2024 numbers differ from those reported in 2024 Year -End report because the current data reflect operations rather than inspection reports.*

2.6 Notices of Violation

Figure 9. Comparison of NOVs Issued from 2022 through 2025



Comparison of Issued NOVs	2022	2023	2024	2025
Notice of Violation (NOV)	3	1	3	3

In 2025, three NOVs were issued. The number of NOVs each year is typically three or less.

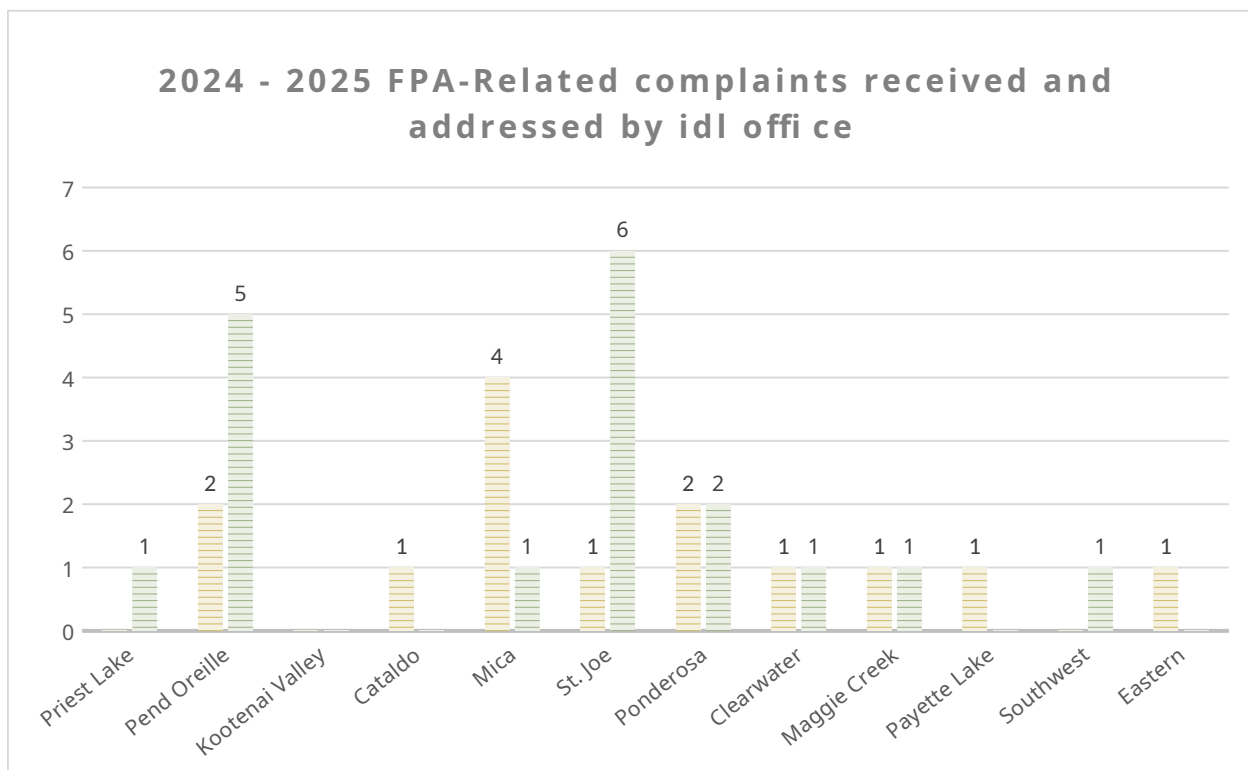
The first NOV was issued for multiple unsatisfactory conditions involving Class I and Class II Stream Protection Zones (SPZs), including skid trails and ground-based equipment operating within SPZs, inadequate drainage, stream impacts, and failure to comply with variance requirements. The required remediation work was completed, and the NOV was cleared.

The second NOV was issued for multiple unsatisfactory conditions involving stream protection and harvesting activities, including ground-based equipment operating within an SPZ, skid trails and landings within the SPZ, slash and debris within the stream protection area, and inadequate drainage and stream-crossing conditions. The required remediation work was completed, and the NOV was cleared. The follow-up inspection confirmed completion of the required remediation.

The third NOV was issued after previous unsatisfactory conditions were not remediated by the required deadline. The violations included skid trails located within a Class II SPZ and operation of ground-based equipment within the SPZ. Additional unsatisfactory conditions included inadequate drainage structures, temporary log stream crossings, and road maintenance issues. This NOV remained active and was being monitored.

2.7 Complaints Made to IDL Regarding Forestry Practices

Figure 10. FPA Related Complaints received in 2024 to 2025 by Forest Protective Districts.

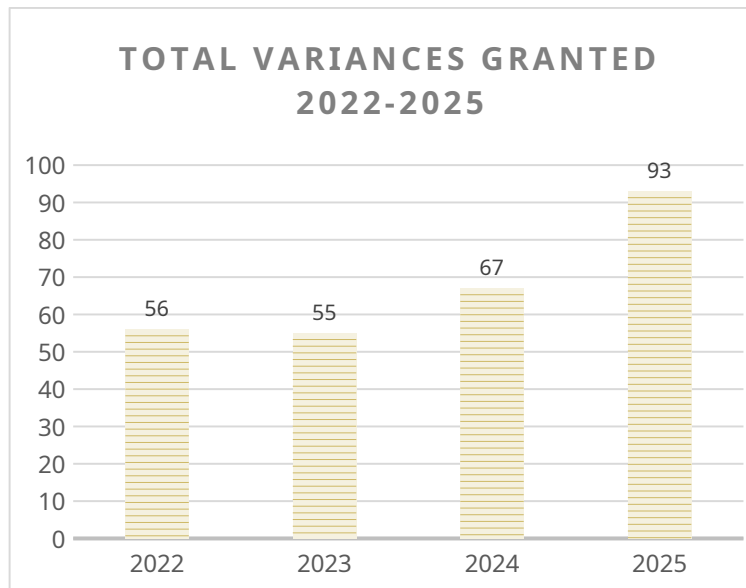


Complaints by Forest Protection Office	2024	2025
Priest Lake	0	1
Pend Oreille	2	5
Kootenai Valley	0	0
Cataldo	1	0
Mica	4	1
St. Joe	1	6
Ponderosa	2	2
Clearwater	1	1
Maggie Creek	1	1
Payette Lake	1	0
Southwest	0	1
Eastern	1	0
Total	14	18

When operations commence on private and state forestland, neighboring landowners, individuals from nearby communities or interested organizations occasionally voice concerns or complaints to their local IDL Offices. Complaints range from perceptions of resource degradation and resource damage, to concerns over aesthetics. IDL Private Forestry Specialists or Operations Foresters address these complaints by analyzing each complaint and deciding whether the complaint can be addressed by checking compliance with the FPA Rules. If so, a site visit is performed.

2.8 Variances

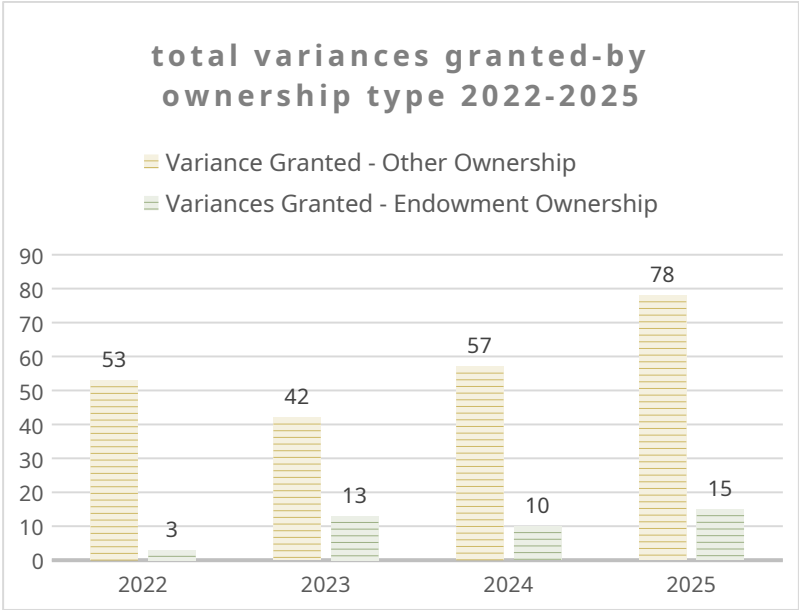
Figure 11. *Comparison of Variances in 2022–2025 Statewide*



Year	Total Variance Granted
2022	56
2023	55
2024	67
2025	93

Figure 11 shows during 2025, 93 variances were issued on all forestland harvest operations, an increase of 39% from 2024. Out of 1,605 Compliances/Notifications, variances were granted to less than 5.8% of all harvest-related operations.

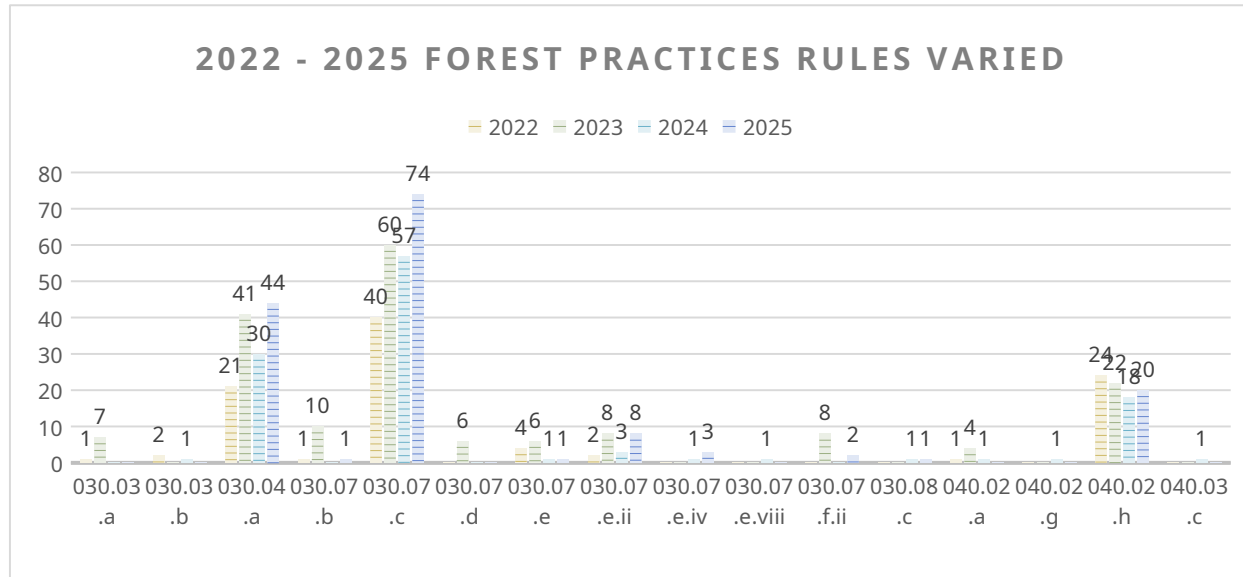
Figure 12. *Comparison of Variances Granted across Ownership Type*



Year	Variance Granted - Other Ownership	Variances Granted - Endowment Ownership
2022	53	3
2023	42	13
2024	57	10
2025	78	15

Figure 12 shows variances were granted on 9.1% of state operations and 5.4% of private operations. All variances issued in a Supervisory Area are reviewed and signed by the Private Forestry Supervisor and must meet the “equal or better over the long-term” protection criterion.

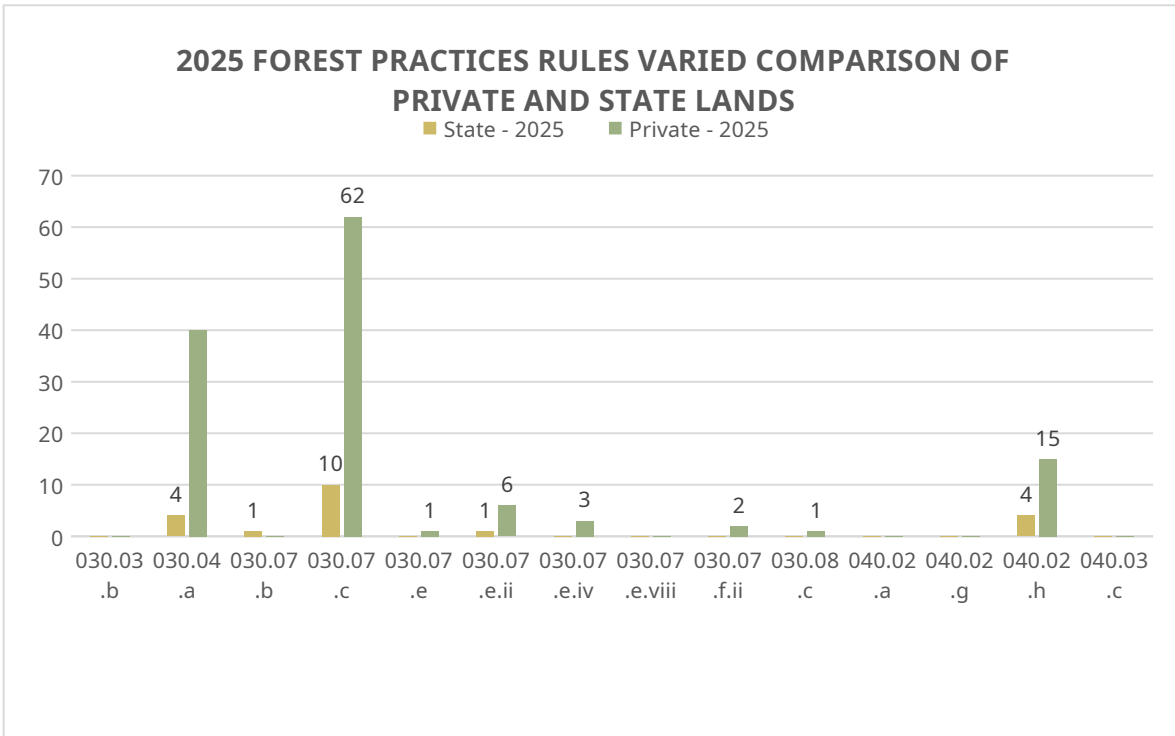
Figure 13. Comparison of Variances for 2022 through 2025



Total FPA Rules Varied	2022	2023	2024	2025
030.03.a	1	7	0	0
030.03.b	2	0	1	0
030.04.a	21	41	30	44
030.07.b	1	10	0	1
030.07.c	40	60	57	74
030.07.d	0	6	0	0
030.07.e	4	6	1	1
030.07.e.ii	2	8	3	8
030.07.e.iv	0	0	1	3
030.07.e.viii	0	0	1	0
030.07.f.ii	0	8	0	2
030.08.c	0	0	1	1
040.02.a	1	4	1	0
040.02.g	0	0	1	0
040.02.h	24	22	18	20
040.03.c	0	0	1	0

Figure 13 illustrates the specific rules for which variances were granted. Most of the rules within the variances are associated with activity within an SPZ. (Note: When an activity falls under more than one rule, a variance is granted for each rule where it is appropriate. For example, to reopen a road that lies partially within an SPZ, the operator will need to request a variance from IDAPA 20.02.01.030.07.c (operation of ground-based equipment within an SPZ) and from IDAPA 20.02.01.040.02.h (reconstruction of existing roads located in SPZs) for the single activity. The result is a difference in the number of rules varied being greater than the total number of variances granted.)

Figure 14. Comparison of Rules for which Variances were Granted by Ownership Type



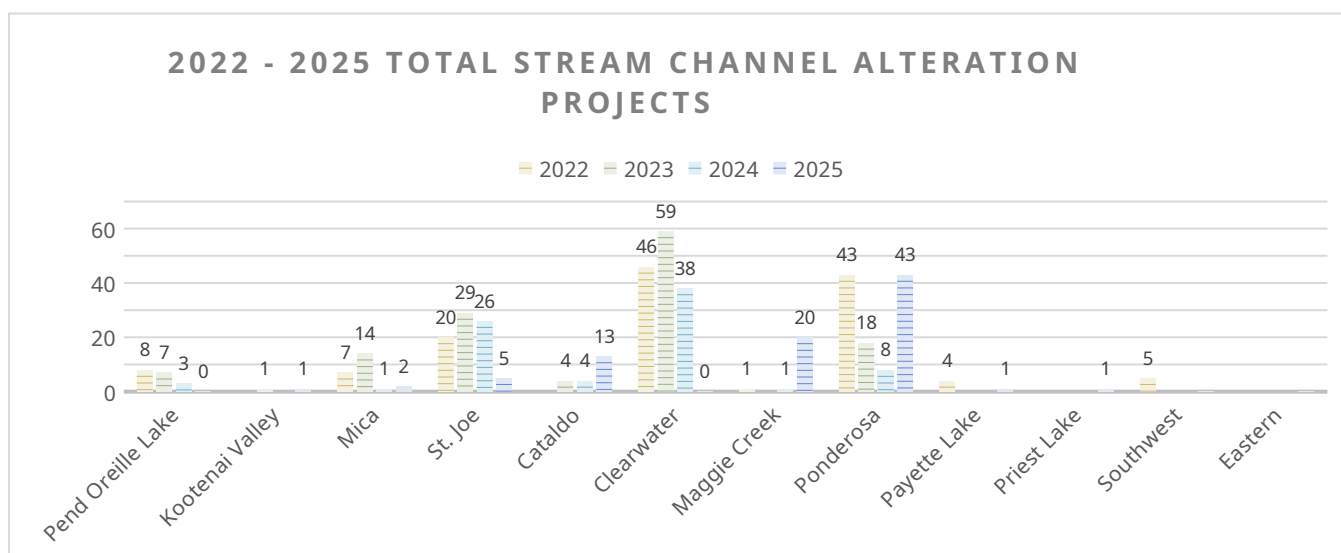
FPA Rules Varied	State - 2024	Private - 2024	State - 2025	Private - 2025
030.03.b	0	1	0	0
030.04.a	4	26	4	40
030.07.b	0	0	1	0
030.07.c	8	49	10	62
030.07.e	0	1	0	1
030.07.e.ii	1	2	1	6
030.07.e.iv	0	1	0	3
030.07.e.viii	1	0	0	0
030.07.f.ii	0	0	0	2
030.08.c	0	1	0	1
040.02.a	0	1	0	0
040.02.g	0	1	0	0
040.02.h	3	15	4	15
040.03.c	0	1	0	0

Figure 14 provides a comparison of variances issued on state land with those issued on private land. Even though the number of variances issued on state land was lower, it is clear the largest number of variances on all ownerships is for trail or landing use or construction in an SPZ and associated use of ground-based equipment in the SPZ.

2.9 Stream Channel Alteration Projects Approved by IDL

In accordance with an MOU between IDL and the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), IDL Private Forestry Specialists have the conditional authority to approve applications for culvert, bridge, and ford installations, re-installations, and removals on private land. To meet the conditions under which IDL has this authority, the stream channel alteration projects must be part of a defined forest practice, the stream must be perennial, and the stream-crossing structures must meet certain size limitations and installation criteria.

Figure 15. Stream Channel Alteration Projects Reviewed by PFS



Total Stream Channel Alteration Projects	2022	2023	2024	2025
Pend Oreille Lake	8	7	3	0
Kootenai Valley	0	1	0	1
Mica	7	14	1	2
St. Joe	20	29	26	5
Cataldo	0	4	4	13
Clearwater	46	59	38	0
Maggie Creek	1	0	1	20
Ponderosa	43	18	8	43
Payette Lake	4	0	0	1
Priest Lake	0	0	0	1
Southwest	5	0	0	0
Eastern	0	0	0	0
Total	134	132	81	86

Figure 15 shows the number of stream channel alteration projects reviewed and administered by IDL in 2022 to 2025. Compared to 2024, there were 5 additional projects in 2025, however, there were still 46 fewer projects statewide from 2023. *Eighty-six* (86) total stream channel alteration installations/removals were received and approved by IDL statewide in 2025. Some of these crossings

were temporary in nature and were removed at the end of the operation. Many others involved the removal and/or replacement of older crossing structures with bridges, culverts, and fords. In many cases, the installation improved fish passage for upstream migration by removing barriers. The decrease in stream channel alteration projects has no reflection of the process or work being done, and there could be multiple reasons for the decrease in installations across private lands. Some of those reasons could be a decrease in large road construction projects, overlay of stream channel supplemental notifications across multiple years or the decrease in activities/notification, and many other reasons.

Conclusion

Final Summary

The 2025 Forest Practices Program results continue to demonstrate a high level of compliance with Idaho's Forest Practices Act and associated rules. Statewide, 1,605 Forest Practice Notifications were accepted, including 1,397 commercial harvest operations. IDL conducted inspections throughout the state, with 828 individual operations inspected. Approximately 98% of inspected operations were found to be in compliance with the FPA Rules.

Inspection priorities continued to focus on operations with greater potential risk to forest resources, including operations involving Class I and Class II streams, steep slopes, erodible soils, stream channel alterations, and other site-specific conditions. The revised inspection priority matrix provides more specific inspection goals for these higher-priority operations while maintaining an overall inspection target of at least 50%.

Nineteen operations received an Unsatisfactory Inspection or Notice of Violation in 2025. A total of 42 rule infractions were cited on these operations. Timber Harvesting Rules accounted for the majority of the infractions, with Stream Protection continuing to be the most frequently cited individual rule category. Road construction, reconstruction, and maintenance rules also accounted for a substantial portion of the infractions.

Three Notices of Violation were issued during 2025. The NOVs primarily involved stream protection, drainage, road maintenance, and other practices with the potential to affect forest resources. Two of the NOVs were cleared following completion of required remediation, while one remained active at the end of the reporting period.

IDL continues to emphasize education, technical assistance, pre-operational planning, and communication with landowners and operators as important tools for preventing violations before they occur. Continued monitoring of inspection data, consistent implementation of inspection priorities, and follow-up on identified compliance issues will help maintain Idaho's high level of compliance with the Forest Practices Act

Operational Suggestions

Improve Communication and Documentation: Continue to improve communication among Private Forestry Specialists, Fire Wardens, Office Specialists, Administrative Assistants, and other staff involved with Forest Practice Notifications and Certificates of Compliance. Ensure that notifications, extensions, cancellations, inspection reports, and other compliance documentation are entered accurately and timely in the Regulatory database.

Improve Statewide Consistency: Continue efforts to standardize implementation of the Forest Practices Program across Supervisory Areas. This includes consistent application of inspection priorities, documentation of inspections, interpretation of FPA Rules, and follow-up procedures when unsatisfactory conditions are identified.

Focus Inspections on Higher-Risk Operations: Continue prioritizing inspections based on the established inspection matrix, particularly operations involving streams, steep slopes, erodible soils, stream channel alterations, and operators or contractors with a history of compliance concerns. Pre-operational visits should continue to be encouraged when they can help identify potential issues before operations begin.

Follow Up on Unsatisfactory Operations: Ensure timely follow-up and re-inspection of operations with identified unsatisfactory conditions. Operators with repeated or unresolved compliance issues should receive additional attention to verify that required corrective actions are completed and future operations comply with FPA Rules.

Continue Education and Technical Assistance: Use inspection findings and statewide trends to identify opportunities for additional education and technical assistance for landowners, operators, and contractors. Particular attention should be given to commonly cited rule areas, including stream protection, waste materials, trails and landings, drainage, road construction, and road maintenance.

Increase FPA Training and Field Mentoring: Continue to provide Forest Practices Act training and field-based mentoring opportunities for both Endowment and Private Forestry staff. Additional training and field experience, particularly for staff newer to administering the FPA Rules, can help strengthen their ability to recognize potential rule concerns, apply requirements consistently, document inspections, and address compliance issues in the field. Increased coordination and joint field training among Bureau staff, Private Forestry Specialists, and Endowment foresters will support consistent implementation of the FPA Rules and provide opportunities to share knowledge and experience across programs.

Appendix

Link to FPA Rules

[Rules Pertaining to the Idaho Forest Practices Act](https://www.idl.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/07/Web-Rulebook-2022.pdf)

(<https://www.idl.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/07/Web-Rulebook-2022.pdf>)

Key Terms

Best Management Practices (BMPs): Approved methods to protect forest resources like water quality, wildlife habitat, and forest health during forestry operations.

Compliance: Formal acknowledgement of wildfire risk, hazards, and FPA Rules associated with a planned forest practice; always attached with a Notification.

Idaho Forest Practices Advisory Committee (FPAC): The body of professionals and informed citizens charged with providing direction and leadership for new and revised FPA Rules.

Notice of Violation (NOV): Issued when repeated unsatisfactory conditions and/or severe resource degradation are observed during an inspection. An NOV can also be issued if an operator fails to perform the prescribed mitigation for an unsatisfactory condition within the time frame given by IDL. NOVs are serious violations and do not occur often.

Notification: A formal acknowledgement of planned Forest Practices by responsible party planning forest activity and the FPA program.

Satisfactory Report: Inspection report indicating compliance with all rules inspected.

Unsatisfactory Report: Inspection report indicating an infraction of at least one rule.

Variance: An approved, site-specific exception to the standard FPA Rules, allowing alternative practices when unique conditions make strict compliance impractical while ensuring equivalent or improved forest resources.