



## Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council

June 18, 2019

Fairfield Inn, Twin Falls, ID

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Knute Sandahl, ILRCC Chair, State Fire Marshal	Mallory Wilson, IOEM Plans Section Chief
Mike Wolcott, ILRCC Vice-Chair, Association of Consulting Foresters	Gerry Bates, Urban and Community Consultant
Tim Maguire, Urban Forestry Collaborative Groups/Bioregional Planning	Rita Chandler, USFS Fire & Aviation Management
Gregg Servheen, Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game	Mauri Knott, Latah County
John DeGroot, Nez Perce Tribe, Forestry and Fire	Janet Funk, Idaho Tree Farm
Janet Valle, USDA-FS, State & Private Forestry	Ed Koch, IFOA, Alternate
Elaine Clegg, Association of Idaho Cities	Ken Knoch, City of Ammon
Don Major, Bureau of Land Management	Hannah Sanger, City of Pocatello

### AGENCY STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT:

Ara Andrea, Forestry Assistance Bureau Chief, IDL	Andrew Mock, GIS Analyst, IDL
Tyre Holfeltz, Fire Prevention & Risk Mitigation Program Manager, IDL	Mary Fritz, Forest Stewardship Program Manager, IDL
Tom Eckberg, Forest Health Program Manager, IDL	Diana Rauschenbach, Data Coordinator, IDL

## **Welcome/Introductions**

Chair Knute Sandahl welcomed members, alternates, and guests to the meeting, followed by introductions. Meeting is called to order at 8:32 a.m.

Ara Andrea informed the group that Michael Beaudoin, IDL's new Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager, is expected to start within 2 weeks. Mark Elliot has left IDL and accepted a position with State Parks, and IDL is currently looking to hire a fire-prevention specialist with possible Public Information Officer skills to fill this vacant position. Meanwhile, Tyre Holfeltz is covering that position. Governor Little has assigned a third party to assess IDL's proposed reorganization proposal which would move IDL's Forest Management Bureau, Real Estate Bureau and Technical Services Bureau into a new Trust Land Division.

Tyre Holfeltz, the statewide coordinator for fire restrictions, will coordinate closure of certain activities in the woods as the season approaches. Several staff members have been attending the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) rulemaking meetings where air quality standards and the possibility of regulating prescription burns on a large scale are being negotiated. Currently, rule language has yet to be presented.

Ara Andrea presented the Shared Steward updates which primarily focus on improving forest health and mitigating fire risk to the communities. Idaho's Shared Stewardship Agreement includes the designation of two Shared Stewardship Priority Landscape, one in Region 1 (north Idaho) and another in Region 4 (south Idaho). These Priority Landscapes will be areas where multiple agencies' resources can be focused to provide the most beneficial cross-boundary treatments. The Shared Stewardship agreement specifies that Priority Landscapes will include Forest Service national forests that have Special Project Agreements (SPAs) with IDL's Good Neighbor Authority Bureau. Areas of consideration for a Priority Landscape in north Idaho include regions where GNA projects and forest treatments are planned along the Highway 2 corridor and I-90 going into Montana.

Craig Foss, David Groeschl, Peg Polichio and Robin Dunn met with managers from the Boise and Payette National Forests on Thursday, and with managers at the Idaho Panhandle National Forests on Friday. Their prioritized areas, where forest health and wildfire risks are the greatest, line up well with IDL's in both areas. On June 20, 2019, Kevin Halverson, from the Forest Service Region 4 Office, will present the results of National Forest spatial analyses. He will be working with IDL's GIS team to finalize Shared Stewardship Priority Landscapes. IDL will have a final meeting with Forest Service Regional Foresters and their teams on June 25. Narratives, products and press releases will be ready by the July 1 deadline. All resources, to the extent possible, will be focused on implementing cross-boundary projects on these two Prioritized Landscapes.

The federal budget came through for 2019 at either steady or increased amounts for our State & Private Forestry programs. There will be greater emphasis on fire risk mitigation through Shared Stewardship with the increased federal grant funds. NRCS funds as well as LSR funds will also be concentrated in these areas. Janet Funk expressed concern over smaller private forest landowner participation in fire mitigation due to lack of liability insurance availability.

David Groeschl wrote a proposed charter for the Shared Stewardship Advisory Committee that advises Governor Little on Shared Stewardship efforts in Idaho. The charter proposes that at least one of the eight members of the Advisory Committee be an ILRCC representative. A final decision is yet unknown.

Tom Eckberg presented updates to the group on Forest Health. Spruce budworm is on the decline from previous years. The El Nino drought, fires and wind/snow events created stressed trees. A lot of delayed bark beetle mortality showed up in the fall. The Douglas-fir tussock moth (DFTM) infestation is heavily impacting the Packer John and Round Valley area in southern Idaho. When IDL visited that same area in October, the defoliation was 90-100% on a lot of trees. The trees still had living buds despite complete defoliation, but egg masses were extremely dense and we expect to see some mortality here. We also noticed that this population of DFTM already appeared to have high infection rates of NPV, a virus that causes populations to crash, so with any luck this infestation will wind down quickly.

Ara Andrea updated the group on the Forest Legacy Program. The deadline for project submittal has been extended to July 15. Forest Legacy sub-committee will be touring the properties in September. The sub-committee will then evaluate and rank the projects prior to submitting the recommendations to ILRCC in early October. Full applications will be distributed to the group after July 15.

The Forest Legacy Hall Mountain Project is near completion, with the exception of a few private properties. The Moyie River Corridor Project for FFY2020 has ranked 6th in the nation. Funds, which were reduced from \$7 million to \$4.5 million, are expected one year from now. Due to reduced funding, The Nature Conservancy – the partnering land trust for this project – is adding some parcels from this Moyie River project for inclusion on its FFY2021 application.

Idaho Forest Group, Nature Conservancy and Idaho Department of Environment Quality are partners in the Prichard Creek project application. The project seeks to restore and protect a heavily degraded waterway. It will allow for public recreation, prevent further commercial mining, and include a long-term plan to conduct a major stream restoration project.

The Schweitzer Project was submitted but it did not score very high locally and would not likely score very high at the national-level either.

Greg Servheen informed the group of new wildlife modeling. He presented an overview of the Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT) which was developed by the Western States Governors Association in 2013. CHAT was designed to bring greater certainty and predictability to planning efforts by establishing a common starting point for discussing wildlife habitat conservation and development. It works on a 1 through 6 grid in terms of crucial habitat (1 /lightest color being the most crucial, in one square mile grid squares). This online tool is available at [wafwachat.org](http://wafwachat.org). CHAT starts with vetted, raw data of all resolutions, formats and sources. Inputs are summarized into ranked hexagons and standardized thematic categories.

Tyre Holfeltz updated the group on the 2020 Forest Action Plan (FAP) Resource Assessment narrative changes. The Forest Health spatial dataset had a substantial amount of changes. Changes to the Development dataset were exclusive to dates from the 2010 version. There were some updated additions to the Air Quality dataset. There were also updated data to add to the Water Quality dataset

that came from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. The Forest Products/ Economics dataset is based on data showing travel-time to the mills and forestry-related economic data.

Mary Fritz updated the group of the decision to remove the economic layer multipliers from the final map. Upon considering what the map was conveying, it was decided that this misrepresented the true picture of *where* we could perform forest management and get the most economic benefits. The discussion centered on what we are going to use forest action plan for, how it is going to be used and its intent to point to where work will be done on the ground. We will continue to use our transportation corridors to evaluate the extent of where the wood is going to the mills. Mike Wolcott requested clarification on weighted values as part of the issue process language.

Majority ruled yes on the motion to add a map that will look at Region 4 independently, with the red-to-blue "heat map" colors assigned *only* relative to other south-Idaho values, so that we may better define places of importance, or high-risk, in Region 4. Additionally, majority ruled yes on the motion to allow Andrew Mock to smooth out the Priority Landscape Area boundaries.

Tom Eckberg updated the group on 2020 FAP Goals. The group considered adding "adapted" to Goal 1; Goals 2 & 3 were combined into Goal 2; the word "more" was added before resilient in Goal 3; Goal 4 remained unchanged; the term "across boundaries" was added to include Shared Stewardship in Goal 5.

Goal 1: Idaho's Forests are diverse and resilient to climatic changes and other threats (fire, insects and disease, noxious weeds, etc.).

Goal 2: Forestlands that provide the highest ecosystem benefits are identified, maintained and enhanced.

Goal 3: Forest ecosystems are more resilient to human activities (development, harvesting operations, etc.).

Goal 4: Forest-based wood products markets are economically vibrant and sustainable.

Goal 5: Idaho has a framework for implementing the Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP) to guide project prioritization across boundaries.

Tyre Holfeltz proposed the 2020 FAP Strategies that are under the Goals to the group.

- Planning was considered for addition by the committee but decided against because of the amount of time that was taken to select the strategies for the individual goals in 2010
- Monitoring/evaluation should be a part of everything, it's the only way to identify what is going on as a result of what has been done. Maybe use the term evaluation instead of monitoring
- It was proposed that partnership may need to be replaced with the word collaboration. It was decided to leave partnership because of the definition of partnership vs collaboration partnership is the right term.
- Proposed that the strategies be combined into a single list that can be drawn from to implement goals.
- Each strategy is designed to incite action of some kind.
- Proposal to add "Adaptability" of the strategies not the resources
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The below represent the outcome of the discussion with the group for the goals and strategies.

**Goal 1:** Idaho's Forests are diverse and resilient to climactic changes and other threats (fire, insects and disease, noxious weeds, etc.)

Building in diversity (species, genetics, strategies) is the best way to address the uncertainty associated with climate change.

**Inventory and Analysis** – Assess and monitor conditions of forest systems on a landscape scale for sustainability and resilience

**Treatments** – Design and implement stand treatments on a landscape scale to increase and maintain vegetation diversity and resilience over time (urban and rural)

**Partnerships** – Develop an engage collaborative groups and partnerships for landscape scale forest health improvement, restoration and stewardship

**Education** – Provide education leading to understanding and support afforest health goals and strategies

(Planning was proposed for addition by the committee because of the efforts that are put into the already included strategies that can't be accomplished without planning.)

**Goal 2:** Forestlands that provide the highest ecosystem benefits or identified, maintained and enhanced

**Inventory and Analysis** – Conduct inventory, assessment and monitoring to identify the highest priority forest areas for habitat, forest productivity and management, biodiversity, ecosystem benefits, access comma and other benefits

**Planning** – Identify actions that maximize ecosystem services from forests

**Treatments** – Actively manage forests for good an ecosystem services

**Education** – Provide education leading to understanding and support of ecosystem services

**Access** – Maintain and enhance public access and recreation opportunities

**Forest Conservation Incentives** – Use conservation actions to effectively protect and enhance high priority forestlands

**Goal 3:** Forest Ecosystems are more resilient to human activities (development, harvesting operations, etc.)

**Inventory and Analysis** – Develop systems for early detection, rapid response and enforcement capacity for early and effective action to minimize adverse impacts to forest ecosystems

**Treatments** – Implement urban and rural forest practices to mitigate adverse impacts to forest systems and monitor/adapt

**Education** – Provide education for target audience is leading to understanding and support of forest ecosystem goals (developers, policy makers, planners, landowners, loggers, Realtors, recreationists, others)

**Regulation/Policy** – Develop land use best management practices BMPs, which may include rules, ordinances comma and or laws to protect and enhance forests and their ecosystem services and products

**Goal 4:** Forest-based Wood products markets are economically vibrant and sustainable

**Inventory and Analysis** – Conduct inventory and assessment to support energy and market development and local communities

**Treatments** – Use a balanced and sustainable approach in forest management to support both

**Marketing** – Support diverse markets, labor and product lines, including the sustainability of regional mill operations

**Goal 5:** Idaho has a framework for implementing the Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP) to guide project prioritization across boundaries

**Inventory and Analysis** – Improve information, identify and fill data gaps and explore or develop new tools and strategies for assessing conditions and implementing projects

**Partnerships** – Use a state working group to steer and guide implementation of overall Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP). Use local groups and partnerships to develop and implement strategies for individual priority areas. The statewide team and local groups will work together to develop and implement annual plans to update the FAP

Tyre presented the Threats and Benefits to the committee to make sure that the “right” strategies are paired with the “right” strategy. Changes were made based on the earlier discussion about term use, i.e. evaluation, planning, partnership. It was suggested that technical assistance be added as a strategy because it differs from education contextually. Marketing seems more like a tactic rather than a strategy it was suggest changing this to economic development, this resulted in changing the name of the benefit to Forest Products. There was discussion about begin sensitive to what economic development means could be a benefit or threat. Discussed about adding a user defined strategy incase we have missed something.

Ara updated the group on the state fiscal-year budgets. In federal fiscal year (FFY) 2019, most IDL State & Private Forestry programs were funded at equal or higher levels compared to FFY 2018. Hazardous Fuels Reduction grants went up significantly. Regarding state funding, FPA funds will increase following the statute change that facilitated a raise in the Forest Practices assessment rate; the assessment will move from \$.10/acre to \$.13/acre in 2020. The Fire Protection assessment is still .60 per acre.

The group discussed possible dates for the next meeting and agreed to consider dates during the end of October, mid-November or the first week of December. The meeting will be held in Coeur d’Alene or Boise. Decisions will be made based on Doodle Poll results.

Meeting adjourned 4:16 p.m.