



RILEY STEGNER AND ASSOCIATES

May 6, 2021

Mr. Gary Hess
Regulatory and Stewardship Program Manager
Forestry and Fire Division
Idaho Department of Lands
3284 W Industrial Loop
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
rulemaking@idl.idaho.gov

RE: Idaho Forest Practices Act Rulemaking for IDAPA 20.02.01

Dear Manager Hess:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Idaho Department of Lands' (IDL) Forest Practices Act (FPA) negotiated rulemaking for IDAPA 20.02.01 (Docket 20-0201-2101). Our firm has been involved with the Idaho Forest Practices Act for more than three decades. On this matter we represent Bennett Lumber Products Inc., Hancock Forest Management, Idaho Forest Group, Molpus Woodlands Group, and Stimson Lumber Company. These companies collectively manage nearly 500,000 acres of working forestland in Idaho.

We have long supported Idaho's process of developing rules related to forest management through the engagement of the Idaho Forest Practices Advisory Committee (FPAC). IDL's reliance on the technical assistance of FPAC prior to initiating negotiated rulemaking allows the agency to carefully consider how proposed rules will impact the environment and regulated public. FPAC's diverse membership includes large and small landowners, forest operators, geographic representation, informed citizens, and a fisheries biologist. Using knowledge of the conditions in the field and sound, peer-reviewed scientific research, FPAC provides critical guidance on necessary updates and changes to FPA provisions.

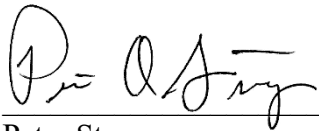
After a thorough review of the facts on the ground and the best available science related to tree retention next to Idaho's fish-bearing (Class I) streams, FPAC has voted in support of a simplified "Shade Rule" (030.07.e.ii (2014)) and refined the definition of Class I streams (010.60.a) to apply only to aquatic life beneficial use. In supporting the rule change, FPAC concluded that the simplified process maintains the shade and large woody biomass of the previous process while increasing compliance and likely lowering costs for the regulated landowner.

Responding to new technologies for harvesting timber on steep slopes, FPAC has also voted to support new rule language allowing techniques that use winch systems to tether ground-based equipment to a stationary base for stabilizing and assisting steep-slope operation. Efficient use of these traction-assisted harvesting operations increases the safety of those operating on steep slopes while minimizing soil disturbance.

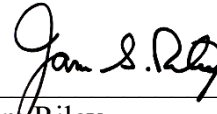
Maintaining a robust and defensible FPA developed in consultation with FPAC is paramount to protecting Idaho's natural resources, environment, wildlife, and the forest products industry. As such, we recognize and support the changes IDAPA 20.02.01 proposed by IDL.

Thank you for allowing us to comment.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Peter Stegner in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Peter Stegner
Principal
Riley Stegner and Associates

Handwritten signature of Jim Riley in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Jim Riley
Principal
Riley Stegner and Associates

From: [Peter Stegner](#)
To: [Rule Making](#)
Subject: Riley Stegner comments on Idaho Forest Practices Act Rulemaking for IDAPA 20.02.01
Date: Thursday, May 6, 2021 7:21:10 PM
Attachments: [2021_5_6 Comments on IDL Rulemaking on IDAPA 20.02.01 V3.pdf](#)

Good evening,

Please find the attached comments from Riley Stegner on behalf of Bennett Lumber Products Inc., Hancock Forest Management, Idaho Forest Group, Molpus Woodlands Group, and Stimson Lumber Company.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Peter

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RILEY STEGNER AND ASSOCIATES