



INTRODUCTION

HISTORY

Welcome to the Idaho State Forestry Contest! The inaugural Idaho State Forestry Contest was held in May 1983 at Delay Farms near Careywood, Idaho. There was no question that the contest would become an annual event based upon its initial success. The contest was jointly sponsored by the Idaho Department of Lands, the Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Panhandle Lakes Resource Conservation and Development (Project 16-6001-988-003). Since then, the Idaho Panhandle National Forest (US Forest Service) has also become a sponsor. The contest is intended to encourage young people to learn about Idaho's vast forest resource.

CONTEST OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the contest is to introduce young people to some of the basic skills used in the forestry profession. It is hoped that by learning these skills, contest participants will possess a higher degree of understanding and knowledge about our forests.

A secondary objective of the contest is to provide students and professional foresters, conservationists, and other resource management professionals with a unique opportunity to interact. Combined with the contest, this interaction gives students a chance to explore a variety of career opportunities in the field of forestry.

PURPOSE OF THIS MANUAL

The purpose of this manual is to provide instruction in practical forestry skills in ten specific areas of forestry and forest measurements; the practical skills in these ten areas are tested at the contest. They are generally not common knowledge among teachers and students. Rather, they involve specific knowledge of forestry and forest measurements.

Supplementation of the knowledge in this manual is highly encouraged. It cannot be overemphasized that one of the best means for a student to acquire the necessary forestry skills is to spend "hands-on" time practicing the skills under the guidance of a professional forester. The Appendix of this manual provides contact information for various professional foresters available to assist students in developing the skills.

HOW THE CONTEST WORKS

The Idaho State Forestry Contest is open to 6th grade, middle and high school students at three levels of testing: Rookie, Junior, and Senior Divisions.

The contest is not limited to school-sponsored teams: 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, FFA and other youth organizations are actively encouraged to participate. In addition, a non-competitive Novice course is available to 2nd through 6th grade elementary school classes. Each contestant receives an individual score and competes for recognition as the top individual in their division. Contestants can also compete as part of a team. Contestant teams consist of four people each. The individual scores of teammates are combined into the team's score.

The ten categories of forestry or resource management tested include: 1) log scaling; 2) timber cruising; 3) tree and plant identification and tree planting; 4) map reading; 5) compass and pacing; 6) tool identification; 7) soils and water quality; 8) tree health; 9) silviculture; and 10) noxious weeds.

The Rookie Division is designed to introduce 6th grade students to the basic contest format. Rookie Division tests cover only four of the subjects in this manual: compass and pacing, cruising, scaling, and tree identification. Rookies are also introduced to Silvicultural concepts at a fifth station but do not receive a score there.

Students compete in the Rookie, Junior or Senior Division depending on grade level. Coaches of 6th grade students may choose to have their students attend as Novices or compete in the Rookie Division contest. Junior Division includes 7th and 8th grades. The Senior Division is 9th through 12th grades. Prizes are awarded to top individuals and teams in all divisions. Note: Contestants may choose to "move up" and compete in a higher division but are not allowed to compete in a lower age or grade bracket than they actually are.

TIE BREAKER

If two teams or individuals have identical scores, a tie-breaking system has been established as follows:

The team (or individual) with the most points on the Plant Identification section will be declared the winner. If the Plant Identification section is also a tie, the team with the most points for the Log Scaling section will be declared the winner. In the event they are also tied, we will go to Timber Cruising, Map Reading, Compass and Pacing, Tool Identification, Soils and Water Quality, Tree Health, and Silviculture, in that order.

The Contest Steering Committee hopes you all study hard and enjoy the upcoming

IDAHO STATE FORESTRY CONTEST!!