



MEDIA ADVISORY

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USDA Under Secretary Jim Hubbard in Boise to sign historic agreement with Idaho

(Boise) – The State of Idaho and U.S. Department of Agriculture will enter into a new agreement to improve forest health conditions across Idaho that sets an example of interagency collaboration for other states to follow.

Jim Hubbard, USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment overseeing the Forest Service, will join Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter and Governor Elect Brad Little in signing the new “Shared Stewardship Agreement” on Tuesday in Boise.

The strategy is called “Toward Shared Stewardship across Landscapes: An Outcome-Based Investment Strategy,” and you can read more about it [here](#).

The Idaho Department of Lands and USDA Forest Service will present updates on Good Neighbor Authority and the new Shared Stewardship concept during the State Board of Land Commissioners (Land Board) meeting on Tuesday at 9 a.m. in the Lincoln Auditorium at the State Capitol.

Immediately following adjournment of the Land Board meeting there will be a signing ceremony for the new Shared Stewardship Agreement.

USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue recently held up Idaho as a shining example of what can be achieved when agencies work together to implement a shared vision of healthy, productive lands that positively contribute to people’s lives.

Idaho’s Good Neighbor program shows what can be achieved by state and federal agencies working together to increase active management and find collaborative solutions to challenging natural resource issues. The Shared Stewardship Agreement will take these collaborative efforts to a new level.

As part of the new strategy, IDL and the Forest Service will:

- Continue to focus on reduction of fuels and wildfire risk to communities, improvement of forest health and watershed conditions, and support markets to sustain and create jobs.
- Plan together, invest wisely, and create real outcomes at a landscape scale across boundaries while respecting all ownerships values.

The partnership between the Forest Service is strong and the new strategy strengthens what can be accomplished working together.

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The Under Secretary will be available to answer questions from the media, immediately following the signing ceremony.

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