



CENTRAL IDAHO LAND EXCHANGE

Fact Sheet | Updated April 2018

The **Central Idaho Land Exchange** is a concept the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and other parties are exploring that would transfer private lands in the upper Lochsa basin to the USFS to protect their special historical, ecological and recreational value. The land exchange would also bring federal forestland into Public School Endowment ownership, and the lands would be managed by the State for timber harvest and remain open for recreation. The IDL and others are currently reaching out to various stakeholder groups to gauge potential support for the proposal.

THE CONCEPT

It is a value-for-value land exchange involving IDL, USFS, and Western Pacific Timber (WPT).

IDL deposits money into escrow account based on the value of the lands exchanged.



WPT deeds ~38,000 acres of its land to USFS. The lands include important fish and wildlife habitat and hold historical value tied to the Lewis and Clark expedition.



USFS deeds selected federal lands to IDL. The value of the USFS lands transferred to IDL ownership equals the value of the lands USFS receives from WPT.



WPT receives cash in escrow account. WPT receives no land.



Idaho County receives funds equal to a certain number of years' worth of property taxes, to reduce short-term tax impacts.

BENEFITS

The lands in the upper Lochsa basin fit with surrounding USFS ownership and its multiple-use mission. The ecological, historical and recreational values of these lands are protected under USFS ownership.

USFS lands that go into IDL ownership would be managed for timber harvest to support Idaho's public school system. Activity on the lands supports local jobs and the economy, and the lands would remain open for recreational use. Endowment timberlands cannot be sold pursuant to Idaho Code 58-133(1).

Short-term property tax impacts are reduced for Idaho County.

What has to happen between USFS and IDL:

- IDL and USFS must mutually agree on USFS lands to be considered in the exchange.
- USFS must complete a final Environmental Impact Statement on the exchange properties.
- An independent third party appraisal of exchange properties must take place with adjustments made to the final exchange acres based on federal Yellow Book appraisal standards.

Gauging support: IDL will only pursue a land exchange if there is broad public support.

- The Idaho Recreation Council is discussing this exchange proposal with local recreation user groups
- The Nature Conservancy is discussing this exchange proposal with conservation groups.
- IDL is discussing the exchange proposal with the Nez Perce Tribe, Idaho County Commissioners, and others.

If broad support exists to pursue the land exchange:

- IDL will seek approval from the State Board of Land Commissioners (Land Board) to pursue the land exchange.
- If the Land Board approves, IDL will seek congressional support to finalize and pass federal legislation to authorize the exchange and provide the necessary resources for the USFS to complete the work to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and complete the land exchange within a specific timeframe.