



New timber harvesting rules take effect July 1

June 23, 2014

Idaho forest landowners will follow new State rules for harvesting timber near fish bearing streams starting July 1.

A revised Class I Tree Retention rule, or "**Shade Rule**," was approved by the Idaho Legislature in 2014 after the Idaho Forest Practices Act Advisory Committee (FPAAC) spent more than 10 years working with multiple partners to create the rule, which **deals with harvesting of trees near Class I streams.**

The FPAAC is a nine-member committee that provides technical advice to the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and State Board of Land Commissioners in matters relating to the Idaho Forest Practices Act, which the IDL administers.

The new Shade Rule applies to all forest landowners in Idaho, large or small, including all private, State, and federal landowners, that have Class I streams on their property.

Class I streams are fish-bearing or used for domestic water use under Idaho Forest Practices rules. **Trees near streams provide shade that contributes to keeping water cool, which fish species in Idaho need to survive. Trees also occasionally fall across streams, providing large woody debris and nutrient cycling needed for fish habitat.**



Trees near streams provide shade that contributes to keeping water cool for fish. Trees also fall across streams, providing habitat for fish. The new Shade Rule deals with harvesting of trees near fish bearing streams.

What is allowed under the new Shade Rule?

The Shade Rule provides **two options for forest landowners** who want to harvest trees near Class I streams, offering a **level of flexibility in the law that is unique to Idaho.** The rule creates **inner and outer zones to provide greater retention of trees closer to the stream.**



[Detailed information about the new Shade Rule is available in a fact sheet here.](#)

New tools and resources help Idahoans comply

The IDL is adding **three full time Private Forestry Specialists** to help landowners and operators implement the new rule.

Already more than 1,000 loggers, landowners and foresters in Idaho have attended **presentations provided by IDL and partners** to explain the new Shade Rule.

The IDL also is in the process of creating several tools to help landowners, operators, and foresters implement the rule on the ground.

Tools will include a "**Forester's Forum**," an **IDL informational publication**, to explain the new rule and its implementation, along with **worksheets** with instructions to help people without access to tablets, phones, or computers in the field.

A **spreadsheet to help landowners calculate the Relative Stocking of riparian stands on their land** also is already available on the IDL Web site [here](#). Newer versions of the spreadsheet are in development and will be posted on the IDL Web site with the other tools as they become available.

Additionally, IDL, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the University of Idaho are developing a **new monitoring program** to inform FPAAC of the effectiveness of the new rule so that it can be evaluated in the future and adjustments made as warranted.

How did we get here?

Following required quadrennial audits in 2000 and 2004, DEQ recommended that FPAAC and IDL address shortcomings in the Streamside Tree Retention rule.

Since then, FPAAC and IDL have worked to incorporate input from many statewide stakeholder groups.

After more than 10 years of finding and evaluating protective measures to modernize standards in the existing rule, Idaho has a Shade Rule that is based on scientifically sound principles that uses actual Idaho forest stand data.

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