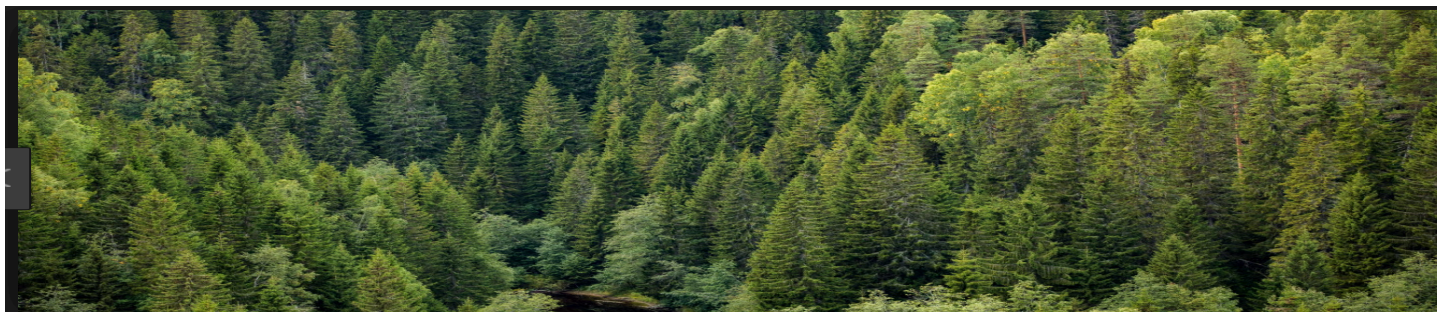


WESTERN LEGISLATIVE FORESTRY TASK FORCE



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

By Idaho Rep. Judy Boyle

Welcome to our Western Legislative Forestry Task Force newsletter! We held our summer meeting June 19 -21 in the beautiful Sandpoint, Idaho area. The Task Force was formed in 1974 by western state legislative resolutions appointing two House and two Senate members from their respective states. Our mission is to learn about and discuss shared forestry issues and look for solutions with our legislative colleagues, Congress, and the federal executive branch. Each year, the chairmanship is rotated to the hosting state. This year was Idaho's turn and I am very honored to have been voted in as our chairman during the Sandpoint meeting.

June was the choice simply due to the upcoming fire season. Field trips would have been difficult later with the lack of visibility, access problems, and the availability of our state forester. Unfortunately, the poor health of our federal forests are affecting many facets of our lives. Even cities like Seattle are now setting up "smoke shelters." Months of heavy smoke has created health risks for even otherwise healthy citizens. We all know that these horrific fires are negatively affecting our air quality, watersheds, wildlife, fish, livestock, rural homes and now even entire towns like Paradise and Chico, California with



unspeakable loss of life. This is unacceptable and not something Americans should "get used to."

In Idaho, we are leaders in Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) and Shared Stewardship forest management which can more quickly change the needle on federal forest health. Six of ten trees are dying in the federal forests of Idaho giving us the worst forest health crisis of all the Western states. Our state Department of Lands (IDL) is taking the lead on both programs using their sustainable forestry expertise of over 100 years. States can be more agile and timely with sale layout to fit local needs, contracting, and replanting trees appropriate for a particular site without onerous and conflicting regulations while still protecting the environment. IDL also jumps immediately on wildfires to keep them small. State land is managed for funding our endowments such as K-12, universities, and state hospitals which makes burning up valuable trees not an option. If a fire does burn

state land, IDL immediately salvages the burned trees to recover as much value as possible and begin site restoration.

The task force was able to travel to one unit of a GNA project. GNA is often considered a “postage stamp” solution to the forest health crisis as the units are small and scattered. The site we visited was about 10 acres and had been heavily infested with mistletoe. The USFS had done the site work using a new type of silviculture prescription where the operator (logger) is given a paper with each species of tree and the size in inches which can be removed. It is nearly impossible for someone sitting in the cab of a feller/buncher rig to accurately assess, down to a couple inches, if a certain tree fits the prescription with fines up to \$5,000 for cutting too large or too small a tree. The operator had to either stop the machine and go measure the tree or hire someone to follow the rig around the unit measuring questionable trees. Either way was costly and time-consuming. The tried and true method of marking either the trees to be harvested or the trees to leave appears to still be the best one.

At this mistletoe-infested site was a remaining dead lodgepole killed by mistletoe. When asked why that tree was left to infect others, including any tiny saplings to be planted, we were told the USFS official refused to allow it to be harvested. This made no sense and was a source of frustration to those who understand forestry with the fundamental goal of forest health. I took pictures of this infected tree and the surrounding site which I gave to USDA and USFS officials in Washington, DC the following week. I also shared with them one of the problems of non-marked sales. They were appreciative of on-the-ground information so appropriate changes can be made. This is just one example of how our Task Force can assist those who make forest decisions.

Besides USDA and USFS, I was able to meet with Department of Interior, several members of Congress and their staff, and lobbyists to discuss forestry issues including the roadless rule on Alaska’s 16.7 million acre Tongass National Forest. As America’s largest national forest, it is incredibly productive. It used to

supply timber to numerous SE Alaska mills fueling hundreds of family wage jobs both in the forest industry and associated businesses. However, that all ended during the late 1990s with a dramatic change in DC policy and the Clinton roadless rule in the last days of that administration. The national roadless rule is a very poor fit for the Tongass and its communities. Alaska deserves to be relieved of this one-size-fits-all rule and have a chance once again for a thriving forest economy. Modern forestry and good forest health for the Tongass will greatly benefit the people, the environment, the wildlife and tourism for SE Alaska.

Our Task Force heard from excellent presenters and discussed many issues relating to the forests. Our very capable Executive Director, Roger Seiber, will write about those in this newsletter. A huge thank you to Roger and his wife, Carol, for all their work making this Task Force meeting a wonderful success!



Lake Pend Orielle, Sandpoint Idaho

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



TOM SCHULTZ
VP PUBLIC AFFAIRS
IDAHO FOREST GROUP
FORMER DIRECTOR OF
IDAHO DEPT. OF LANDS

Tom presented an in-depth look of the current forest health crisis, why forest health matters, and how we can restore our forests. Of interest is for every 1 cubic foot of merchantable wood harvested in Idaho 3 cubic feet die and in Montana for every 1 foot of merchantable wood harvested 6 cubic feet die. Although, we spent about an hour with Tom. We would like to have spent much more time considering the interactive dialogue with participants. IFG has 1100 employees, \$70 million in wages, \$2 million in state taxes, and received 143,553 truck loads of logs last year. Tom took the group to IFG's very modern mill in Laclede, as well as arranged a demonstration on how his company uses drones. Note: We encourage you to view Tom's slide presentation at: [IDFG.com/2019/04/Forest Health Presentation](http://IDFG.com/2019/04/Forest%20Health%20Presentation). Tom and IFG were meeting sponsors.



DAVID GROESCHL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS
IDAHO STATE FORESTER

David's presentation tied nicely with Tom's as he delved into the Good Neighbor Agreements (GNA) and Shared Stewardship programs involving state and federal cooperation. Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture, Jim Hubbard, came to Idaho late in 2018 to sign the first GNA/Shared Stewardship agreement in the U.S. On Thursday, David arranged for our group to visit an active GNA logging site and view first hand the challenges and benefits of administering sales like the one we saw.



SANDRA MITCHELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
IDAHO RECREATION
COUNCIL

Sandra gave us detailed and factual effects of Designated Wilderness vs. Recommended Wilderness. As Sandra stepped us through real life examples of the oft times unintended consequences of such sweeping actions, members learned of actions impacting forest uses in Montana, Idaho, and Washington. Sandra is very familiar with the Washington, D.C. scene and works with members of Congress, the administration and agencies. As a result of Sandra's presentation, members drafted and approved Resolution 6-19 (See page 7 & 8) Note: Sandra was a meeting sponsor.



SKIP BRANDT
CHAIRMAN
IDAHO COUNTY COMMISSION
FORMER STATE SENATOR

Skip discussed the situation his county is faced with, since of the 5 1/2 million acres in Idaho County, 4 1/2 is federally claimed. Regarding county budgets and "PILT" - payment in lieu of taxes, his county just received their annual PILT payment which amounted to 39 cents an acre! He would much rather have the forest industry jobs than a "handout" from the 'Feds'. Skip introduced his County forestry consultant, Marty Gardner, (retired USFS forester) who observed that counties and state governments largely do not know how to participate in the USFS development of "Forest Planning". He works with governments so that they will be more effective in that regard.



BETTY MUNIS

DIRECTOR
IDAHO FOREST PRODUCTS
COMMISSION

Betty took us through her presentation which focused on the IFPC Mission statement—“Provide programs to increase public understanding, acceptance and support of responsible forestry, and recognition of the economic, environmental and social benefits of Idaho’s forest products industry. She shared with us TV and other media campaigns, research, polling data, and one of her personal programs YAY! LOGGERS!. It’s quite an interesting story on how she ultimately obtained copyright permission for the for the slogan!



WILL HART

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Will presented a very interesting and informative topic to attendees—liability exposure of electric utilities to forest events like fire or falling trees. We all saw the effects of the ‘Paradise’ fire in California, and the havoc not only wreaked upon residents and infrastructure, but the virtual destruction of the power company PG&E. According to Will, there is not enough insurance to protect the utilities from fire damages. Will’s 22 utility members, along with Idaho’s large utilities, are looking at the possibility of some legislative action to address the liability issue. Will and ICUA were meeting sponsors.



CLETE EDMUNSON

SUPERINTENDENT/HS PRINCIPAL
COUNCIL SCHOOL DISTRICT
FORMER MEMBER OF WLFTF
FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE

In 1980 Council School District had 451 kids—the local mill was going strong, the community was vibrant, and the Council school was tops for small schools in academics and athletics. Then ‘it’ hit—the community lost logging jobs and all that came with the forest products industry downturn. Enrollment dropped to just 201 students. Clete was hired in the last couple of years to save the school system. The county in which the school district is located, Adams, is funded with 65% federal money. Clete’s school district relies on ‘SRS’ money to help finance the school. Clete made note that many times the school can’t let the kids outside for recess or other sports activities because of all the smoke from forest fires. The positive side is Clete’s rebuilding efforts are paying off—enrollment is back up, kids have access to current model computers, dual credit classes are available and the district is back on track with its budget.



SHAWN KEOUGH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ASSOCIATED LOGGING
CONTRACTORS, INC.

Formed in 1966, ALC is one of the oldest logging associations in the country. Also in the late 70's ALC formed their own Worker's Comp Insurance Company. Shawn and her members work hard to provide safe operations, which benefits members and contractors. She noted that some members are going in to their 4th and 5th family generations of loggers. A big challenge is providing enough truck drivers. It's very difficult to compete in the commercial truck driver pool with the challenging situations a logging truck driver faces on a daily basis. ALC is going to schools, working with FFA, and other groups to explain what the modern logging industry is all about. Shawn and ALC were meeting sponsors.

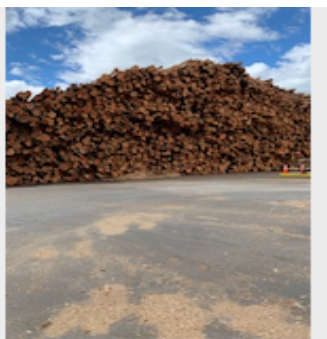
FIELD TOUR



Idaho Forest Group Mill – Laclede Idaho



Tom Schultz, IFG



Log Deck at Leclde Mill

IFG DRONE DEMONSTRATION



IFG brought the drone in primarily for safety. In the past, they would have to go on top of the log deck to

measure log inventory and bark piles. It can be used for straightforward tasks such as checking snow loads on roofs after storms, or surveying damage in the woods after a fire. It is also a part of more complex initiatives, such as helping find common ground between the lumber industry and environmentalists. The drones provide an efficient way to document what's happening in the forest at key times. IFG can show what land looks like before trees are harvested, during logging and after planting to help document good management practices.

GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY TOUR



Idaho Dept of Lands led the tour

Mistletoe Tree found on the Tour

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By
Roger Seiber

I want to thank our Idaho WLFTF members and private sector hosts for sponsoring our annual meeting in Sandpoint, Idaho. One of our most productive meetings, and thanks to the 20 attendees who participated in our informative meeting presentations. Our lodging and meeting facility on the Shores of Lake Pend Oreille were very nice and also quite affordable. In fact, the host committee received enough contributions from the private sector participants to offset most of our meeting expenses. I look forward to next year's meeting in Washington.

I am going to send you my email communications from another email address, roger.seiber25@gmail.com, due to some of our members' state email systems automatically blocking group emails from roger@wlftf.com. I will still continue to receive emails at both addresses and hope this minor change will improve our delivery of information to all members.

I encourage you to send us information you would like to share with our members, including relevant photos. Also, check our website often www.wlftf.com for news and updates. Please contact us with questions, suggestions, or news you might have.

Congratulations to Rep. Judy Boyle—ID for her election to Chair WLFTF, and to Rep. Ed Orcutt—WA for his election to Vice-Chair.

One final note regarding education of young people about the forest products industry. This process can start at an early age, and as Betty Munis discussed in her "Project Learning Tree" presentation, can have a positive impact upon students and educators. Following our annual meeting, Carol and I had our Grandsons—age 6 & 8 in the mountains for a week. Besides fishing and shooting, we enjoyed showing them what the forest is all about. (Gets them to turn off their iPads!). On one outing near Warm Lake, we saw first hand the impact of a massive wildfire. We stopped at a memorial to two truck drivers that lost

their lives during the fire. We also had lots of questions from the boys like; "Where do the deer go during the fire? Where can they live now? What happens to all these dead trees". A most rewarding discussion!



CONTACT INFORMATION

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WLFTF 2019 MEMBERS

California: Sen Jim Nielsen
Sen. Mike McGuire

Idaho: Sen. Abby Lee
Sen. Jim Woodward
Rep. Judy Boyle (Chairman)
Rep. Paul Shepherd

Oregon: Rep. Brad Witt
Rep. David Brock Smith
Sen. Fred Girod
Sen. Michael Dembrow

Washington: Sen. Shelly Short
Sen. Kevin Van Dewege
Rep. Ed Orcutt (Vice Chairman)
Rep. Brian Blake

WESTERN LEGISLATIVE FORESTRY TASK FORCE

Resolution 6-19

A RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO ADOPT A JOINT SECRETARIAL ORDER CLARIFYING THE STATUS OF LANDS, WATERS AND AREAS THAT MAY BE SUITABLE FOR DESIGNATION AS WILDERNESS.

WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives, United States Senate, and agencies and bureaus of the United States Departments of Agriculture and the Interior, regularly inventory, evaluate, and, where appropriate, recommended specified public land, waters and areas as potential additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System, often referred to as Wilderness Study Areas (“WSA”) or Recommended Wilderness Areas (“RWA”); and

WHEREAS, in the USFS Northern Region, Region One, which encompasses 25 million acres and is spread over 5 states and includes 12 National Forests located within northeastern Washington, Northern Idaho, Montana, and the National Grasslands of North Dakota and Northwestern South Dakota, the policy for managing WSAs and RWAs is to manage them as if they were congressionally designated Wilderness managed under the strict prescriptions of the Wilderness Act of 1964, 16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, with no direction from Congress, no rule, and no policy, USFS Region 1 adopted a policy that resulted in ‘Administratively Created Wilderness’; and

WHEREAS, currently in Montana there are 3,501,410 acres of Congressionally designated Wilderness and approximately 700,000 acres of Administratively created Wilderness, and currently in Idaho there is 4,796,559 million acres of Congressionally designated Wilderness and 392,919 acres of Administratively created Wilderness; and

WHEREAS, additional acres of Administratively Created Wilderness will be added as a component of required “forest planning”, which will inevitably only result in the loss of roads, trails and areas historically open and available for motorized and/or mechanized activity; and

WHEREAS, rural communities who turned to recreation for survival since the economic decline of timber, ranching, and mining industries, will once again struggle to survive as a result of access restrictions imposed within Administratively Created Wilderness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Western Legislative Forestry Task Force, comprised of legislators from the 4 Western states of Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and California, suggests that the United States Secretary of Agriculture and United States Secretary of the Interior adopt a Joint Secretarial Order concerning Allowable Uses in Recommended Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Study Areas and on Other Public Lands Identified as Potential Additions to the Wilderness System that will:

1. Declare and recognize that Congress has the sole authority to designate Wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and that no agency, bureau or instrumentality of the United States Department of Agriculture or United States Department of the Interior has the authority to manage public lands in a manner that administratively creates wilderness without Congressional authorization; and

2. Direct that the United States Department of Agriculture and United States Department of the Interior –

a. Only apply the blanket restrictions upon motorized and/or mechanized activity to those public lands formally designated by Congress to be within the National Wilderness Preservation System (“NWPS”); and

b. Protect the physical resources and attributes of RWAs and WSAs that make such lands candidates for addition to the NWPS, while simultaneously providing for multiple-use of those areas, including by motorized and/or mechanized activity, in a manner that does not diminish wilderness potential; and

c. Not manage any RWA or WSA as Wilderness or otherwise treat it as such or refer to it as such, until such time as Congress enacts and the President signs legislation formally designating such RWA or WSA as Wilderness; and

d. Not prohibit any use, activity, project or equipment in a RWA or WSA on the ground that the same would not be allowed in a formally designated Wilderness area; and

e. Presume that established uses (such as hunting, use of firearms, motorized recreation, mechanized recreation, aviation, grazing of livestock and construction of range improvements, water rights, mining claims, access to private property) occurring in a RWA or WSA prior to a designation as RWA or WSA shall be allowed to continue at historic levels without long-term impairment of suitability for designation as Wilderness; and

f. Direct the respective head of each agency, bureau or instrumentality of the United States Department of Agriculture or United States Department of the Interior to take such actions and make such changes in agency and department regulations, policies, procedures, guidelines, and handbooks as are necessary and appropriate to bring said agencies and departments into compliance with the foregoing within three (3) months; and

g. Direct that the foregoing shall include and consider an examination of all currently designated RWAs and WSAs and immediate changes

in management plans and directions to
comply with the foregoing and restore historic uses.

APPROVED JULY 10, 2019 by
WESTERN LEGISLATIVE FORESTRY TASK FORCE

