



An Idaho Forester's Top Ten List



Things to Keep in Mind When Studying Forest Issues

10 Forests are naturally dynamic.

Because forests change constantly, no forest can be preserved in exactly the same condition over time. Insects, disease, fire, variable weather conditions and other natural events determine the life spans of trees and other members of the forest community. Forest management is the art and science of managing forest change. Natural or human-caused changes benefit some species and are detrimental to others.

9 Each wildlife species is suited to different forest conditions.

Some wildlife species prefer mature forests, others prefer clearings, and many rely on a mix of different forest age classes and densities. Forests can be managed to meet the needs of many species, from salamanders and songbirds to elk, salmon and bears.

8 Wildfire is a major force in Idaho's forests.

Fire is a primary shaper of Idaho forests, determining age, density and species present. Human interruption of the natural fire cycle can affect the health of the forests and lead to catastrophic conditions if no other actions, such as thinning, are taken.

7 The Idaho Forest Practices Act regulates logging and related activities.

Enacted in 1974, this law protects water quality by regulating how trees are harvested, roads are built and pesticides are applied on all forested lands in the state. It also requires that all harvested lands be reforested. Idaho is one of a few states with such laws.

6 Idaho's forests are part of a global web of life.

The way we manage our forests affects forests in other parts of the country and the world. Deciding not to harvest in one area may increase demand for harvest in another. Not all countries have environmental laws as strong as those in the United States.

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Developed with assistance from local chapters of the **Society of American Foresters.**

5 Demand for wood products is steadily increasing.

Use of wood has grown by 30% in the U.S. since 1970 and is increasing worldwide. Even if people greatly reduce their use of wood products and recycle wood and paper, demand will continue to grow given world population trends. Wood substitutes, such as steel, aluminum, brick and concrete, require more energy to produce than wood and are not renewable. Environmental costs of all materials need to be considered.

4 Every part of a tree is used when it is harvested.

Wood = lumber, solid wood products
Waste chips and sawdust = paper products
Bark = fuel, landscaping material
Needles, small branches and large woody debris = soil nutrients and structure
Pulping byproducts = thousands of goods such as synthesized oils used in detergents, toothpaste and chewing gum; turpentine; adhesives; polishes; and cellulose used in sponges, some plastics and rayon. With modern technology, we've become much more efficient at using the trees we harvest. Today, twice as much lumber is recovered from a log as in 1900.

3 Idaho's forests are managed for a variety of purposes.

Forestland owners include federal and state governments, private individuals and timber companies. Each has their own management goals and objectives.



2 By law, Idaho's federal and state timber cannot be exported from the U.S. to other countries.

Laws also prohibit private companies from exporting logs and replacing their inventory with timber from public lands. These laws ensure that economic benefits from public forest lands remain in the U.S.

1 When trees are harvested to provide products, other trees grow back.

In Idaho, millions of seedlings are hand-planted each year, while nature plants millions more. Forest growth exceeds harvest by over 60 percent.

The Idaho Forest: A Miracle at Work!