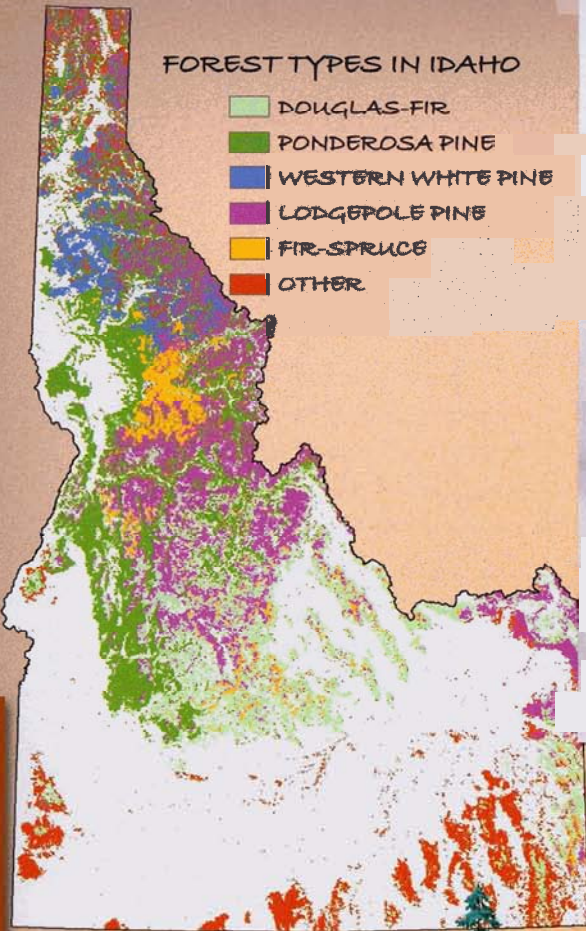


FOREST TYPES IN IDAHO

- DOUGLAS-FIR
- PONDEROSA PINE
- WESTERN WHITE PINE
- LODGEPOLE PINE
- FIR-SPRUCE
- OTHER



SPRUCE-FIR

This type of forest has two main kinds of trees: Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. Engelmann spruce have short, prickly needles. Subalpine fir have short, blunt needles. These two trees grow together high up in the mountains. Winters are long, cold, and windy, and summers are cool and wet. The trees are very narrow. This helps them spill snow off their branches. Spruce-fir forests are dark, often with many dead branches on the forest floor.

LODGEPOLE PINE

The lodgepole pine is a medium-height tree with a straight and slender trunk. These trees were used as poles for lodges and tepees. Lodgepole pines grow at higher elevations and can thrive in poor soils. They have special cones that open with the heat of fire. After a fire, thousands of seeds sprout at once. The narrow trees can grow so close together that they block the sunlight from reaching the forest floor. Not many other plants can grow in a lodgepole pine forest.

WESTERN WHITE PINE

One of the world's largest pines, the western white pine is Idaho's state tree. White pines grow in forests with many other kinds of trees. They thrive in the moist forests of northern Idaho. The white pine was once a very common tree in northern Idaho. It was prized for its excellent wood.

PONDEROSA PINE

Ponderosa pines are large trees with sweet-smelling bark. They grow in dry mountain areas. Ponderosa pine forests are usually open and sunny. Grasses and wildflowers grow on the forest floor. People have described ponderosa pine forests as open "park-like" places that are good for watching birds and wildlife.

DOUGLAS-FIR

The Douglas-fir is the most common tree in Idaho. It is a tall tree with very thick bark. It grows in rocky soils on mountain slopes. It needs more moisture than the ponderosa pine, but less than spruces and true firs (like grand fir and subalpine fir). Douglas-firs often grow in forests that are mixed with many other types of trees.

FOREST DIGEST

IDAHO FOREST TYPES

Everyone knows that Idaho's forests are great places to explore. Whether you prefer the dry ponderosa pine forests, or cool, shady spruce forests, there's a place here for you!



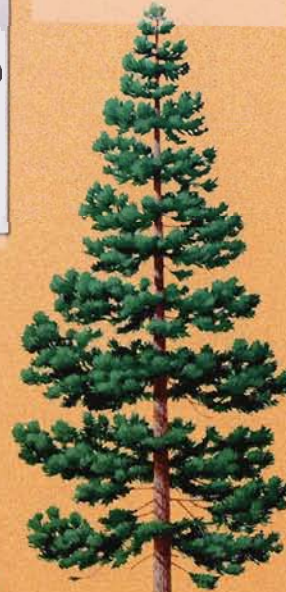
Subalpine fir



Engelmann spruce



Lodgepole pine



Western white pine



Ponderosa pine



Douglas-fir

Illustrations by Will Nelson

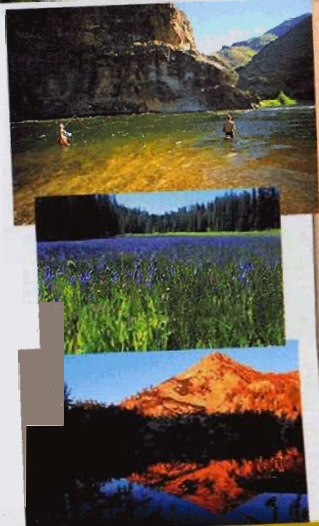
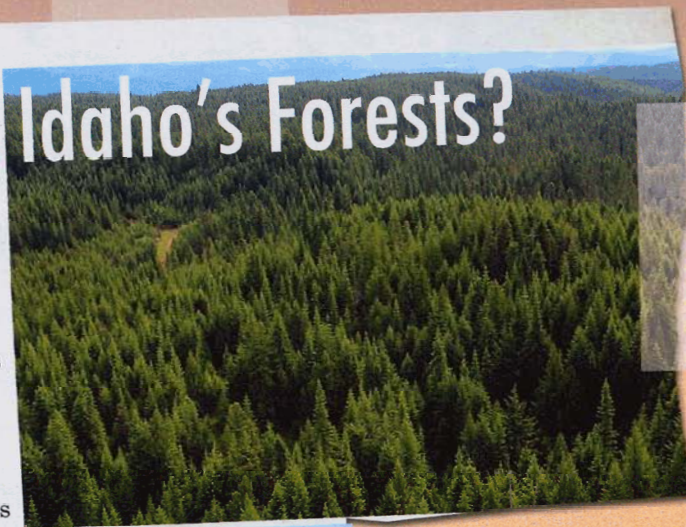
Who Owns Idaho's Forests?

About 70% of Idaho is **public land** – land owned by the government for the benefit of citizens.

Federal public land is managed by United States government agencies. State public land is managed by state agencies. Each agency has its own purpose, which determines how the land is managed.

Private land is owned by a person, a family, or a business. For example, your home and your backyard are private land. Your city park is public land. Some private forestland owners are businesses that grow, harvest and replant trees. Others are families or individuals, sometimes called "tree farmers." Native American tribes also own and manage forests.

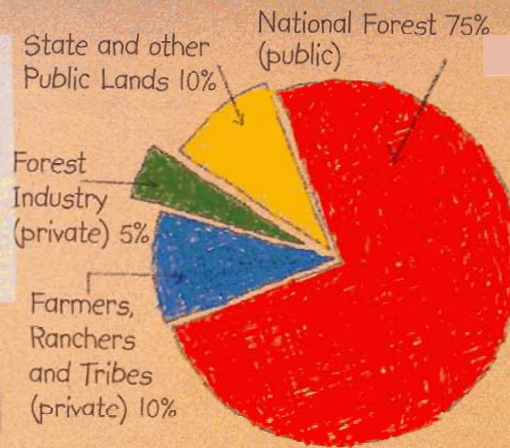
Idaho's forests have an interesting history of land use and ownership. There are some places on a map where private and public land ownership looks like a checkerboard. In other places, large areas of forests are managed by just one public agency.



In Idaho, these government agencies take care of most public and trust lands:

- U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- National Park Service (NPS)
- Idaho Department of Lands (IDL)
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)
- Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

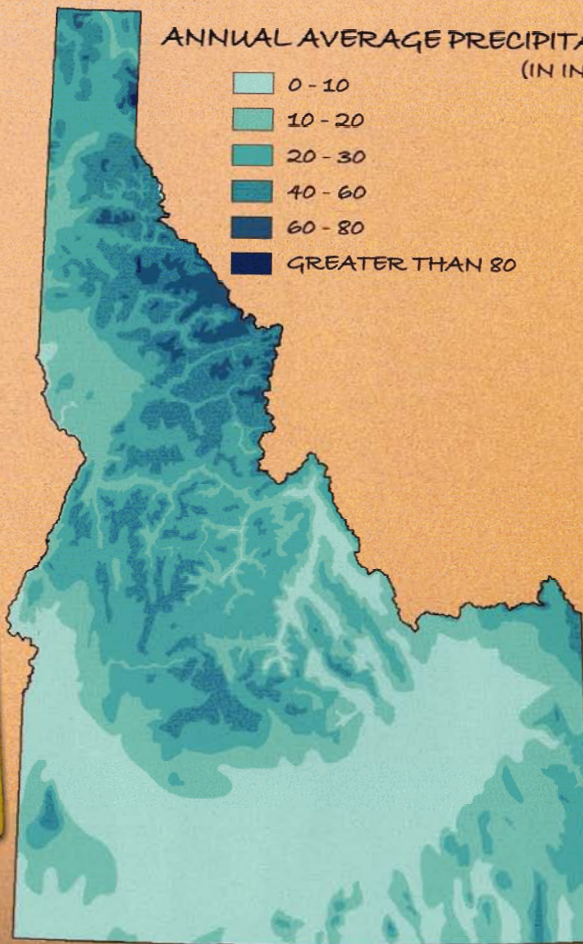
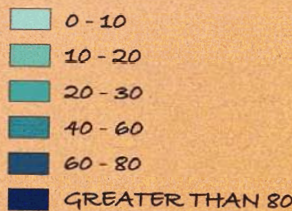
OWNERSHIP OF IDAHO'S FORESTLAND



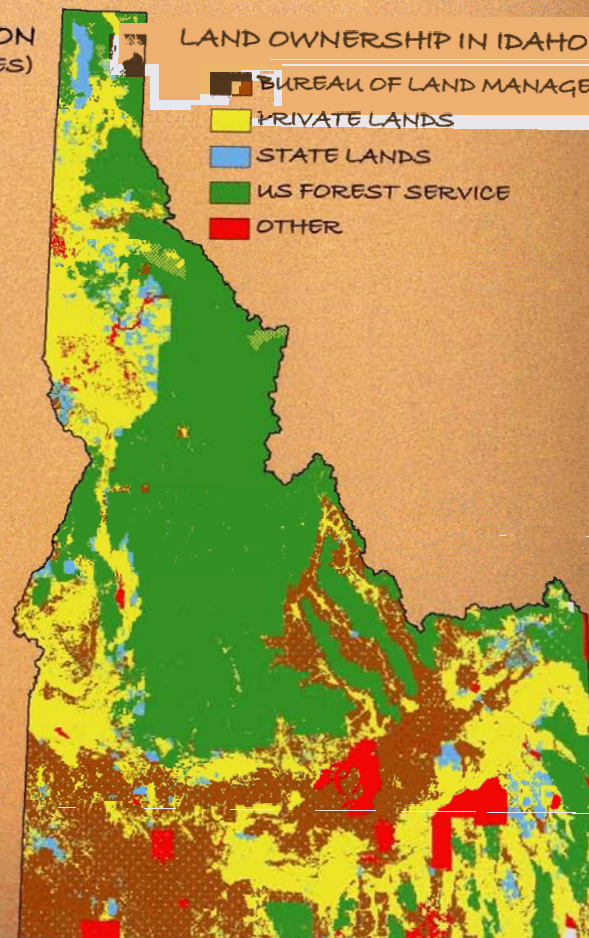
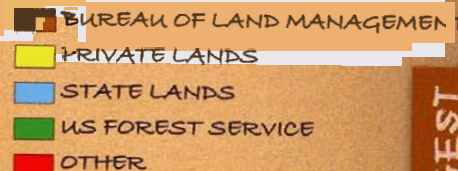
STATE FORESTS ARE SPECIAL

Through treaties and purchases, the United States acquired western lands. Even though states were formed, the federal government still owned much of the land. In 1890, the federal government gave the new state of Idaho thousands of acres of forestlands to produce income and support Idaho public schools. Today, trees are still being harvested from these state-owned "trust" lands that are cared for by the Idaho Department of Lands. The money supports public schools throughout the state.

ANNUAL AVERAGE PRECIPITATION (IN INCHES)



LAND OWNERSHIP IN IDAHO



This Land is Whose Land?

The story of public and private land in Idaho

Long ago, in a land we now call Idaho, there were millions of trees, and very few people. The forested parts of this land were like a patchwork quilt. There were forests of many ages. New trees sprouted after forest fires and there were various ages of growing forests. Some older forests had big pines with grass and flowers under them. Other old forests of cedar and hemlock trees were deep and dark. Native people hunted, fished, and gathered food from the land.

The Oregon Trail brought new people to Idaho. They came to farm its rich soil and ranch in its high valleys. Then gold was discovered. More people came to mine this treasure. Through the Homestead Act, farmers, ranchers and miners claimed land for themselves. Wood was needed for homes, fuel, mine supports and railroad ties. Word spread about the great forests of Idaho. People came from other places where they were running out of trees. There were so many trees in Idaho! The supply of wood seemed endless.

Huge areas of the forest were cut down. No new trees were planted. People worried that the forests might soon be gone. In 1891, the United States government set aside some land as forest reserves. These reserves became national forests in 1905. National forests are owned by all the people of our nation and cared for by the U.S. Forest Service. These public lands provide many things - timber, wildlife and fish habitat, clean water, recreation, scenic beauty, and more. Nearly 40% of Idaho's land is national forest land.

(next page)

"Lewis and Clark on the Lower Columbia," Charles M. Russell, 1905.
Courtesy of the Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, Texas.



Public land is managed for the benefit of citizens by local, state or federal agencies like your city, the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and the U.S. Forest Service.

Private land is owned by a person, family or business.



This Land is Whose Land? (continued)

The state of Idaho has its own forestlands. They are cared for by the Idaho Department of Lands. Money made by selling timber from these forests supports public schools.

Many forests in Idaho are privately owned. Some private owners are businesses that manage their forests much like farmers grow crops. They cut down the trees and sell the wood or make it into products like lumber and paper. Then they plant new trees for the future. One example is Potlatch Corporation, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2003. Some private forests are owned by individuals and families.

Today, in the land we call Idaho, there are many forest owners and many uses for our forests. Some forests grow trees for wood and paper products. Some are places we go to enjoy nature and recreate. Some are set aside as Wilderness Areas. In a Wilderness Area, no one can build houses or roads. You can't drive a car, use an ATV, or even ride a bike in a Wilderness Area. No logging is allowed. These areas remind us of how this place we now call Idaho may have looked, **long ago.**

1891
Forest Reserve Act.
Forestland was set
aside to be protected
and managed by the
U.S. government.

1905
U.S. Forest Service is formed.
"Forest reserves" become
"national forests." The new
agency is to manage forests
for a variety of uses.

