



LEWIS



CLARK



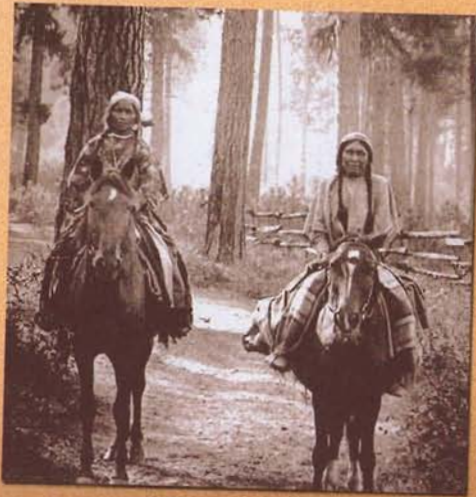
Before 1805

1805- 1890

## People and Idaho's Forests

People have appreciated Idaho's forests for hundreds of years. Native Americans hunted and gathered food in the forest. Early explorers and settlers needed wood to survive. As America grew, its people needed even more lumber and wood. Businessmen built sawmills to make lumber. Other kinds of mills made other wood products. Many people had jobs in the forest industry. Forest workers also cared for our forests, including fighting fires.

*Native Americans and the Land*  
The Shoshoni, the Kootenai, the Nez Perce, and other native people hunted, fished, and gathered food from the land. They were active land managers and often set fires to allow grass to grow for their horses and to grow forest crops.



### The Discovery

The 1805 journals of Lewis and Clark show that they used Idaho's trees. They made campfires and built dugout canoes for their journey to the Pacific Ocean. Native Americans had done this for centuries.

The Oregon Trail brought settlers to Idaho. In 1840 missionary Henry Spalding started a settlement near what is now Lewiston. He built a water-powered sawmill to provide lumber to help build a community. This was the first sawmill in Idaho.

Many people came in the mid-1800s. Gold had been discovered here. By 1868, the Idaho territory was the shape that the state is today. The population was less than twenty thousand people. This changed quickly as railroads were connected to the Idaho territory. Trains and paddlewheel boats needed firewood for their steam engines. All the people in Idaho depended on wood for their daily lives. By 1890 the population of Idaho was almost ninety thousand people.



500 FEET OF LOGS HAULED BY THE BULLDOG BEHIND HILL



1890-1910

### Getting Down To Business

Idaho became a state in 1890.

By that time, much of the open land had been claimed for homesteads. New arrivals claimed wooded land instead. Stories of Idaho's great forests began to spread.

Soon there was a "forest rush" to own forested land in northern Idaho. In 1900 Idaho's population had grown to more than 160,000 people. That same year, Frederick Weyerhaeuser and Associates came from the Great Lakes area of America and started a timber company in Idaho. Other families and companies did the same.

In July 1893 Charles Odell Brown came to see Idaho's famous forests. He had been a timber worker in the eastern U.S. for many years. He guessed that there were 500 million ponderosa pine in southern and central Idaho. However, the great forests of western white pine in the north impressed him the most. He worked to bring timber companies to Idaho.

The U.S. Government set aside large forested areas as "Forest Reserves" that became National Forests. The State of Idaho became responsible for forest lands, too. These lands were to be used to help support public schools.

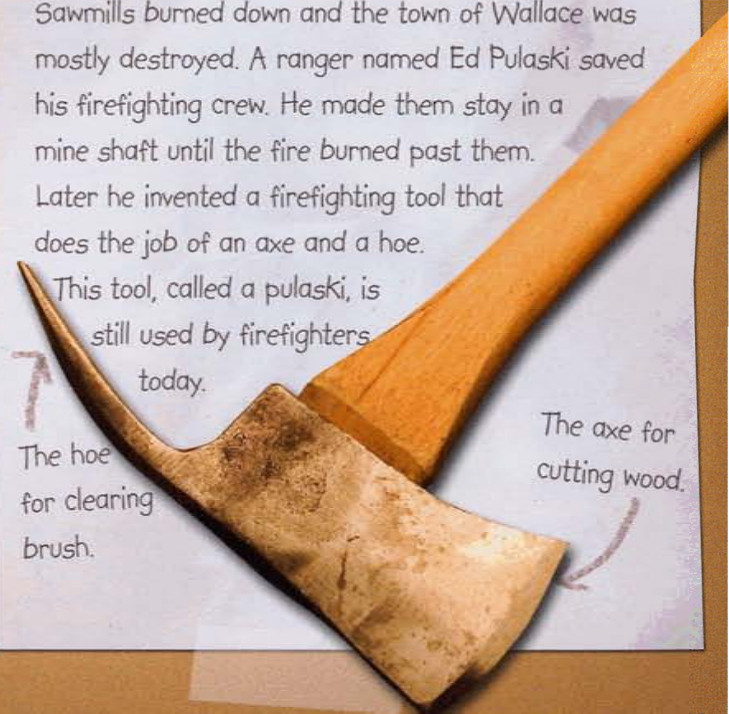
Within a few years Idaho had several new national forests. In 1906, a new sawmill at Potlatch, Idaho became the country's biggest. Idaho was becoming a leader in the nation's timber industry. Forests were valuable property, and firefighting efforts began. A snag (a standing dead tree) on Bertha Hill in the Clearwater River country was possibly the first fire lookout. A ladder was nailed to the side of the tree, and a platform was placed at the top.

In August 1910 a huge wildfire swept across the northern part of the state. It burned 3 million acres in two days. Dozens of people were killed. Sawmills burned down and the town of Wallace was mostly destroyed. A ranger named Ed Pulaski saved his firefighting crew. He made them stay in a mine shaft until the fire burned past them. Later he invented a firefighting tool that does the job of an axe and a hoe.

This tool, called a pulaski, is still used by firefighters today.

The hoe for clearing brush.

The axe for cutting wood.





1910-1960

The "King," 425 years old, 207 feet tall and several feet in diameter.



*The Production Years*

By 1910 the state population had doubled again to more than 320,000. People everywhere needed wood. The timber industry was booming. Frederick

Weyerhaeuser, Jr. declared that one western white pine, found near the current town of Bovill, was "the King of White Pines." It was cut down in 1911 because it was diseased and rotting. A bigger specimen of western white pine has never been found.

Times were changing. To stay in business, companies had to change, too. Three of the companies that added more modern equipment were Potlatch Industries, Boise-Payette Lumber (later Boise-Cascade) and Diamond Match Company. Some companies started making other products, like paper and paperboard that is used for milk cartons and many other things.

Laser-guided saws with very thin blades get more dimensional lumber from each log.





Modern processes use smaller logs and wood waste to produce products like particle board, oriented strand board (OSB) and lumber.



### Forest Management

Idaho's forests have become more valuable than ever, and not just for the trees. Attitudes about forests have changed. Early Idaho settlers worried most about their daily needs. They didn't think much about the future of their forests. Today, over a million people live in Idaho. They still need wood from the forests for building materials, paper products and fuel. But they also want the forests to provide places for recreation, wildlife habitat, clean air and water, scientific study and scenery.



To provide so many things, forests must be cared for well. Trees are harvested in certain areas. Foresters plan when to harvest trees, and what logging method is best. Roads are built to be safe and to protect water quality. Wildlife habitat, soil conservation, safety and tree planting are all part of forest management. Wildfires are sometimes allowed to burn. Sometimes they are put out. Today, businesses, government agencies and private landowners work together to sustain the health, beauty and production of Idaho's forests.

### Present

Foresters are planting disease resistant white pine so that it can be "king" again someday.

