



AGREEMENT FOR SHARED STEWARDSHIP
Between
THE STATE OF IDAHO
And The
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
NORTHERN and INTERMOUNTAIN REGIONS

This Agreement for Shared Stewardship is hereby made and entered into by and between the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (Forest Service).

BACKGROUND

The Idaho Department of Lands is the trusted steward of Idaho's resources. Through professional and prudent management of Idaho's 2.4 million acres of endowment assets, long-term financial returns to public schools and other trust beneficiaries are maximized. Professional services are provided to the citizens of Idaho to use, protect and sustain their natural resources. Since 2016, the Idaho Department of Lands has been active in cooperative stewardship of Idaho's national forests through the Good Neighbor Authority.

The mission of the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Forest Service manages 193 million acres of National Forest System lands with tribal governments, state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forest research organization in the world. Being a "good neighbor" is an essential component in both Agencies' work.

Forested lands in Idaho provide abundant clean water for communities and agriculture, a renewable source of fiber, support a thriving outdoor recreation and tourism economy, and provide outstanding fish and wildlife habitat.

The management needs at the state-scale are unprecedented. Twenty million acres are managed by the Forest Service in Idaho. Of that, 12 million acres are available for some form of management, with 8 million acres at high risk from insect and disease, and fire. Within these landscapes, 6.1 million acres have been designated by the Secretary of Agriculture, with the advice of the Governor, as high priority landscapes that are at high risk for insect and disease outbreaks, and potential catastrophic wildfire impacts near communities. Ninety-four percent of State forested endowment lands border National Forest System lands. In the complex federal, state, industrial, and private lands intermix, impaired forest health conditions and wildfire impacts know no boundaries.

Idaho's unique forest land ownership includes 73.6 percent of non-reserve (non-wilderness) forest land managed by the Forest Service, 7.1 percent managed by the State, and 16 percent of forest lands are privately and tribally owned. The Forest Service provides 10 percent of raw material to Idaho mills. Idaho mills are currently operating at 68% of capacity, the lowest utilization on record. Each million board feet of milled timber produces 15 jobs, and an average salary of \$56,600. There is compelling value in augmentation of responsible timber harvest and processing in Idaho.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this agreement is to commit the Forest Service and the State of Idaho, through the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), to work together to accomplish mutual goals, further common interests, and effectively respond to the increasing suite of challenges facing western landscapes. Federal, state, tribal and private managers of forests and rangelands face a range of urgent challenges, among them catastrophic wildfires, invasive species, degraded watersheds, and epidemics of insects and disease. These conditions are not improving. Of particular concern, are longer fire seasons; the rising size and severity of wildfires; and the expanding risk to communities, natural resources, and firefighters. To address these issues, the Forest Service announced a new strategy, *Toward Shared Stewardship Across Landscapes: An Outcome-Based Investment Strategy*, outlining plans to work more closely with states to identify landscape-scale priorities for targeted treatments in areas with the highest payoffs.

Idaho culture at all scales includes bold, intelligent leaders and stakeholders who care deeply about the land and the vibrancy of communities. Using the best contemporary science and decision support tools, treatments can be located where they can do the most good, thereby protecting communities, watersheds and economies where the risks are greatest. Together, we will use every authority and tool available to do more work on the ground, including timber sales, mechanical treatments, and carefully managed fire.

A key component of the Forest Service's new shared stewardship strategy is to prioritize investment decisions directly with states using the most advanced science tools to increase the scope and scale of critical forest treatments that protect communities, create and sustain jobs, and improve forest health and resiliency.

I. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND INTERESTS:

The Forest Service and IDL will work jointly with other stakeholders to proactively carry out projects that reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest and grassland conditions in Idaho. To achieve landscapes that are more resilient to fire and other disturbances, we will take a more integrated approach to prioritizing investments where they will have the greatest impact to address risk across broad landscapes. A collaborative approach that addresses risk across different ownership boundaries and habitat types will have direct and positive effects on land management practices and the constituents of Idaho.

II. THE FOREST SERVICE AND IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS SHALL:

- Jointly work with other stakeholders – federal, state, tribal, non-governmental organizations, communities, and universities – to help identify land management priorities and desired outcomes, using all available authorities and active management tools.
- Collaborate on mutually agreed upon projects and other work within priority landscapes identified through federal and state planning documents, such as National Forest land management plans and the Idaho State Forest Action Plan, that reduce fuels and wildfire risk to communities, create and sustain jobs, and improve forest health and resiliency. Such projects may be defined within separate agreement(s).
- The Forest Service and IDL will jointly identify a list of initial projects, with a target of two projects, one in northern Idaho and one in Southern Idaho, by April 2019. The two projects will be at a meaningful landscape-scale and will be focused in areas where the Forest Service and IDL have active Good Neighbor Authority relationships and agreements underway.
- By 2025, the partners will work to double the annual acres treated through active management on National Forests and promote cross-boundary work on other lands within priority landscapes that reduce fuels and wildfire risk to communities, produce additional fiber, create and sustain jobs, and improve forest health and resiliency.

III. **AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES.** By signature below, each party certifies that the individuals listed in this document as representatives of the individual parties are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this agreement for shared stewardship.

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this agreement as of the last date written below.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Date: 12-18-18 for *Sonny Perdue*
Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture

State of Idaho, Governor and Governor-Elect

Date: 12-18-18 *C.L. "Butch" Otter*
C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor of Idaho

Date: 12-18-18 *Brad Little*
Brad Little, Governor-Elect of Idaho



USDA Forest Service, Northern and Intermountain Regions

Date: 12-18-18 *Leanne M. Marten*
Leanne M. Marten, Regional Forester, Northern Region

Date: 12-18-18 *Nora B. Rasure*
Nora B. Rasure, Regional Forester, Intermountain Region

State of Idaho, Idaho Department of Lands

Date: 12/18/18 *Dustin T. Miller*
Dustin T. Miller, Director, Idaho Department of Lands