Who owns Idaho’s Forests?

There are thousands of forest landowners in Idaho. All forests, even those that might appear to be wilderness, are owned by someone: state, federal or local governments, private businesses, tribes, families or individuals.

Federal Ownership
Idaho contains over 21 million acres of forestland. By far the biggest single forest landowner—79 percent—is the federal government. Most of this land is managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

State Endowment Forests
At statehood, the federal government endowed Idaho with forest and rangelands to provide a perpetual stream of income for public education for the new state. Since that time, revenues from timber sales on these state endowment forests are dedicated to fund public schools and institutions.

Different Owners, Different Objectives
Different forest landowners may choose to emphasize different values. Some own forestland to produce wood products. Others own forestland to promote wildlife habitat. And many promote a mix of environmental and economic values.

85% of all Idaho forestlands are publicly owned.

79% Federal Government
• U.S. Forest Service
• Bureau of Land Management

17.3 million acres
2.6 million acres
1.5 million acres

15% Private
• Corporations
• Tribes
• Family Forest Landowners

6% State of Idaho
• State Forests
• State Parks

Steve and Janet Funk of Wolf Lodge own forestland certified under the American Tree Farm System

Learn more at www.idahoforests.org