

# The Forest Steward's Journal

Summer 2019

Volume 31

## Journal of the Forest Stewardship Foundation

*The MISSION of the Forest Stewardship Foundation is to “educate and inform landowners, natural resource professionals and the general public about the science and ecology of forest lands, the many values derived from forested lands and the principles of sustainable forest land development.”*

*DISCLAIMER: As in the past, we again advise that this information is submitted for your interest only. The Foundation's mission, as indicated above, is to “educate and inform”, not to advocate or persuade. The Foundation takes no position, either endorsing or opposing, approving or disapproving, any of the assertions or arguments in the contributed information.*



## From the Chair

Our summer journal promises to be a potpourri of articles we hope you enjoy. We celebrate our successful 10th annual joint landowner conference with the Society of American Foresters last April, Amy Gannon discusses a few common forest insect beetles, Lorrie Wood gives contract tips for a successful timber sale, and we introduce a new Montana lumber mill and their plans for the future. Board member John Chase introduces us to his efforts to help new home and property owners in Montana get off to the right start and asks for your help.

As we continue to expand our website we are now providing opportunities for advertising goods and services pertinent to forest landowners. Our treasurer, Linda Leimbach, presents this new policy on page 8.

After much deliberation we decided that we would move our 2020 annual landowner conference back to Helena on May 1. Butte was a great host location, but we felt that Helena was more our home. Our board also made the decision to once again hold a Ties To The Land Workshop on successional planning in Helena on May 2. Stay tuned for more information on these educational opportunities.

We hope all of you have a safe and productive summer. Don't forget that we never know for sure what kind of fire season we are likely to have until it's over so make sure your home and property is Firewise.

*Ed Levert, Chair*

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## Homes and Homesites– in the Urban Wildland Interface

*By: John Chase*

### A PROPOSED PROJECT

I believe that people moving into the Urban-Wildland Interface should have the opportunity to be appraised of potential issues of living in these areas. Certainly folks moving from large city environments may be clueless as to what issues they may be confronted with that could be financially costly and unnecessarily stressful. Another way of stating it, “If you don’t know what you don’t know, it can cost you”. Legitimate issues for discussion would be reducing impacts to the local environment, an awareness of proper land management practices, how the local environment may have an effect on their well-being, and some potential advice on steps to take that could protect their investment. To accomplish this, I suggested the idea for a potential project of a DVD and/or a website program or simply a website that could point out potential issues as well as sources of advice and information related to specific issues. Current thinking suggests that the most cost effective way to proceed would be to establish a website to see what we can learn, prior to moving to the DVD or a program format, if circumstances warrant doing so. It is not intended as a tutorial on how to fix things, the intent is to highlight issues and provide direction for assistance (if needed).

The “program” is planned to consist of contributions by landowners and resource professionals on a wide variety of issues that people living in the urban-wildland interface should be aware of or have to deal with. Progress to this point has been slow, the project committee is very small, committed to other required work, and lacks the expertise to adequately deal with some of the selected topics. In other words, we could certainly use some additional help. By necessity, we need to rely on volunteers.

This abbreviated topic list/status report indicates where additional help would greatly benefit progress on the project:

1. INTRODUCTION: Requires well written outline or plan. Consideration needs to be given to a marketing plan as well.
2. INSURANCE ISSUES: Needs someone with a good background in this topic as it applies to residences and/or properties in the urban-wildland interface or an interview plan with someone that can provide that information.
3. EASEMENTS: Have a good written narrative, needs to be converted into a script with photo requirements or a form suitable for use on a website.
4. TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS: Focus on specific items on tax bills as they pertain to rural properties. Someone to do research or interview county assessors.
5. MANAGE YOUR FOREST: Current committee members dealing with this.
6. FIRE DEFENSIBLE HOMES: Plan to defer to “FIRE SAFE MONTANA”.
7. LIVING WITH WILDLIFE: Have an extensive file as well as a reasonable written narrative, would benefit from the expertise of a wildlife biologist.
8. WATER ISSUES (wells, septic systems, erosion control, water rights): Need someone that can speak with authority on these issues.
9. AVAILABILITY OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT IN RURAL AREAS: Need to develop an interview plan, would like to have input from several counties as to what residents can expect.
10. DEALING WITH WEEDS: Done except for recording.
11. CONSERVATION DISTRICTS: In progress.
12. MSU EXTENSION: Requires a plan.

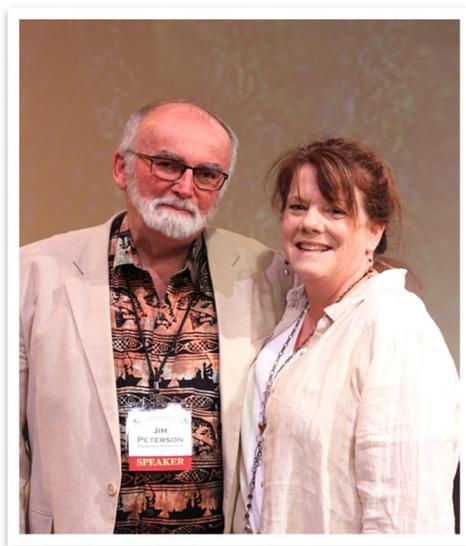
In summary: Some professional grade assistance with regard to wildlife biology and hydrology would be a blessing. Much of the rest could be accomplished by individuals with good writing, planning and interview skills, as well as some time that they would be willing to contribute to what we feel is a worthwhile project. Most of the topics would require plans for acquiring appropriate photographs.

**TO DISCUSS YOUR THOUGHTS, PROVIDE ADVICE, OR VOLUNTEER CONTACT:**

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## A Decade of Forest Landowner Conferences

*By Clyde Robbe, Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation Board Member*

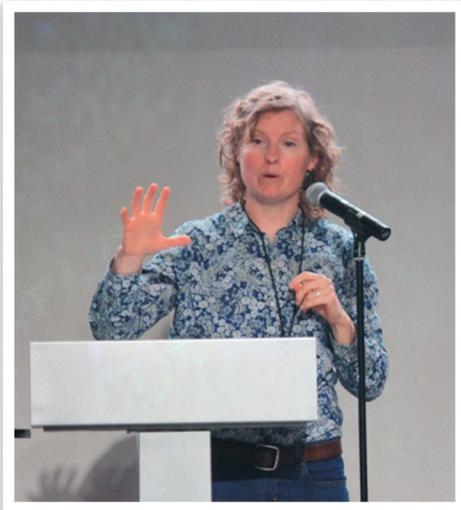


*Opening session speaker Jim Peterson, Founder of the Evergreen Foundation, and wife Julia.*

The 10th annual Montana Forest Landowner Conference was held in Butte, Montana at the Clarion Copper King Inn on April 12th. Sponsored jointly this year with the Montana Society of American Foresters (SAF) State Meeting, the attendance represented a good mix of private forest landowners in addition to forest and logging professionals, educators and students. With approximately 125 people in attendance, the 2019 themed event “Montana Forests: Past, Present & Future” provided a myriad of interesting and timely topics in each of the sessions such that attendees had plenty of opportunity to add to their own global or local knowledge base and refresh areas of personal interest. The leadership team, represented by Ed Levert of the Forest Stewardship Foundation, Gary Ellingson with Northwest Management, Inc. and Bruce Schlaebitz with the Montana Society of American Foresters, should certainly be applauded for putting together an outstanding joint conference agenda in an informative and relaxed atmosphere!

The conference agenda once again offered the very effective format of morning and afternoon breakout session choices, which followed a very interesting opening presentation by Jim Peterson, Founder of the Evergreen Foundation, titled “Montana Forest Management Past, Present and Future”. Mr. Peterson is a very informed watchdog of forest management practices and offered keen insight as to where we have been and where we appear to be headed, forest management-wise.

Through-out the day, speakers notably passionate about their vocations and area of expertise provided thought provoking reviews of everything from collaboration and forest partnerships, forest products infrastructure, forest management assistance programs, forest science and on to weed management. Any rec-cap of the 2019 conference would not be complete without noting the outstanding speakers we had participate again this year, representing folks from Montana’s educational, State, Federal and professional resources. Session speakers represented The MT DNRC; University of MT Bureau of Business & Economic Research; MT State University Department of Earth Science; USFS National Geomatics Center for Wildlife and Fish; Natural Resource Conservation System; MT Forest Collaboration Network; Pyramid Mountain Lumber; Lewis & Clark National Forest; Missoula County Weed District; MT State Extension Service. We are reminded that the annual landowner conference is only able to continue and flourish thanks to the outstanding support provided by speakers and groups such as these.



*Ashley Juran with MT DNRC, speaking on Montana’s Forest Action Plan.*



To enliven the mid-day lunch break, Mr. Chris Fisk, a long-time Butte High School history teacher, provided an entertaining presentation on “Butte History”. For those not familiar with Mr. Fisk, he quickly assured his audience of his life-long compassion for “all things Butte” and gave authentic accounts of Butte’s lively past and strategic mining contributions though out America’s history. He brings the same command of Butte history and entertainment to his summer trolley car tours

*Mr. Chris Fisk, Butte High School History Teacher, provided the luncheon presentation on Butte history.*



*Dr. Peter Kolb (right), MSU Extension Forestry, and weed management session attendees.*

provided through the Butte Area Chamber of Commerce, so be sure to stop back through Butte sometime in the future to take in one of those uptown tours if you haven't already.

What has definitely become an enjoyable and anticipated aspect of the landowner conference is the casual time between sessions and during the lunch break for the opportunity to rekindle old friendships or make new acquaintances, and share stories of successes and sometimes failures associated with each other's own stewardship and management objectives. We always appreciate seeing the vendor displays provided in the break area as well and become familiar with the opportunities they provide to forest landowners either through forestry technical services offered or the equipment innovations they

represent. Also, once again this year, Tom and Alvira Jones so graciously donated their time to coordinate ahead of time and set-up a wonderful array of silent auction items for conference attendees to browse during breaks and the lunch periods. The silent auction also serves as an important fund-raiser to help offset the expense of hosting the annual landowner conference. This year, The Montana Society of American Foresters also had a nice selection of silent auction items to bid on as well so anyone wanting to take home a "souvenir" of the conference certainly had the opportunity to do so!

In summary of this year's event, we need to once again acknowledge the generous support and interest of the many sponsors that the conference coordinators sincerely appreciate and have come to rely on to ensure a quality experience for attendees. The sponsors this year included Northwest Management, Inc.; MT DNRC; Sun Mountain Lumber Co.; MT Women in Timber; MT Wood Products Association; MT Forest Owners Association; MT SAF; F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co.; Idaho Forest Group; Stimson Lumber Co.; Weyerhaeuser Co.; Lincoln Conservation District; Pyramid Mountain Lumber Inc.; RY Lumber Co.; Marks-Miller Post & Pole; USFS; MT Timber Legacy Fdn; Marks Lumber Co.; David Sheets Jr. Trucking, Inc.; Ottman Forestry Consultants, LLC; Monture Creek Land Management; Small Wood Lot Tools, LLC.



*Tom and Alvira Jones, coordinators of the FSF silent auction, scan down the row of auction items hoping to squeeze in another item or two.*

With the return of the Montana Forest Landowner Conference to Helena, Montana in the spring of 2020, it is not too early to begin anticipating next year's event and to strongly consider joining us for what has come to be known as a must-attend event for those wishing to extend their forest landownership knowledge and management objectives. Hope to see you next year!

## Timber Harvest Contracts

*By: Lorrie Woods*



You are the proud owner of some forested lands which may be one acre or 1,000. You may have taken a Forest Stewardship Class, had a Tree Farm Inspector visit, or hired a Forest Consultant to help you write a forest plan that includes harvesting timber. This harvesting may provide benefits to forest health, tree growth, forage, fire, aesthetics or a mixture of all the above. To accomplish this harvest, you need to have a contract in place! Yes, a written contract that will protect you and the logging professional you may hire.

A contract is a written, legally binding agreement that details the responsibilities of each party. The contract will outline the work you want done, the outcome you are seeking and create a great avenue for communication between you and the party who will be doing your work. This is your property and you want to

have good communication to reach your goals successfully. To ensure a document fulfills specific requirements of a contract it is advisable to have your attorney review it to ensure your interests are protected.

If you search the internet for timber sale contracts, you will find a great deal of information. Check out the following website (specifically page 16) for a great summary of items to include in a timber sale contract.

Timber Sale Planning and Forest Product Marketing:

[http://forestry.msuextension.org/resources/pdf/MT\\_TSP\\_and\\_FPM.pdf](http://forestry.msuextension.org/resources/pdf/MT_TSP_and_FPM.pdf).

In addition, there are sample contracts available through the internet, your local DNRC foresters, a timber company representative, or your extension agency. MSU Extension forestry has a sample contract : <http://gallatin.msuextension.org/documents/naturalresourcesdocuments/SampleTimberSaleAgreement.pdf>. These generic samples provide more detail than will be discussed here and are a great template for you. Just note that your property will be unique, and you may have special items to address.

What should you be looking for in that document? Length is not important. A contract containing clear wording in plain and simple terms is the goal. The terms should be understandable by all parties and should be executable and enforceable. If you discuss items prior to signing the contract, make sure the contract reflects those discussions. You may never cover everything that is needed in this document, but it sets clear expectations for both the landowner and the harvester.

As you start putting your contract together, there are some pieces of information that must be included.

The contract should clearly state names and addresses of both legal landowner (seller) and harvester (buyer, purchaser, contractor, logger), as well as their signatures. The beginning and end date for the contract is also necessary, and to provide flexibility, include the ability to extend the contract if both parties agree in writing.

The Contract should state the legal description of the land you will have harvested. This may or may not be the same as your mailing address. This description will include the forty or lot, and Section, Township, Range, as well as a map showing the contract area. If you don't know your legal description, you can find this information, as well as maps, on the MONTANA CADASTRAL website.

Legal access is another item that needs attention prior to harvest. If your driveway doesn't take you directly to a city, county or state road, an easement may be in place to allow crossing your neighbor's property. This information may be found in the title report associated with the purchase of the property or a separate

document. Determining if you have access rights and exactly what those rights include is essential prior to a harvest. If you have no access rights, but cross your neighbor's property, you should work with your neighbors to obtain an easement or long-term permit to accomplish your harvest.

Permits/ Agreements/Notifications: Montana doesn't have many requirements for timber harvest but there are a few. A **Hazard Reduction Agreement (HRA)** must be created with DNRC prior to you having a harvest on your property. Either you or your logging professional can obtain this at your local DNRC office. If your harvest involves crossing a stream, a **310 permit** is required. This permit can be obtained from your local Conservation District and I recommend applying for this permit at least 3 months prior to your harvest activity. If you are selling your wood to a mill, you will need a **written Mill contract** BEFORE you take any wood to that mill site. No matter who obtains these permits/notifications and contracts, include this information in your contract so it is clear who is responsible for obtaining the completed documents. Once any permit is obtained it should be shared with the other party. Special Note: State requirements do change so check with your local Forestry Professionals as you are creating a contract.

Where is the harvest? The property to be harvested should be clearly marked on the ground, and the contract will indicate who is responsible for establishing corners, line, harvest boundaries and Streamside Management Zones.

Payments! Your contract will account for the amount and type of products you are selling, who will receive payments and when that payment will occur. The type of payment may be lump sum, by the ton, or by the Thousand Board Feet (MBF). When your contract is signed, payments other than a lump sum are an estimate and may vary based on actual products being sold. Your local mill or consulting forester can help you with this.

Prescription of harvest: This prescription will help your Harvest professional understand what is expected. Your prescription paints the best picture possible of what you want your property to look like when your harvest is complete.

Slash: If slash will be generated in your harvest, your contract should state who will be responsible for meeting the requirements of the HRA, as well as your individual needs, including burning.

What if they don't take all the trees you asked to have removed? What if they take trees that you wanted left? A process should be in your contract to address these items. Clear communication in your contract will help avoid issues and set out a path for resolving any differences.

Utilization of trees once they are cut needs to be outlined to achieve their highest agreed upon value. Log buyers and markets will help with determining the utilization specs.

To protect your water, soils and roads, the contract should require the Harvester to meet **Montana Best Management Practices (MT BMP's), Streamside Management Zone Law, Air Quality**, and all other **State laws** including **fire restrictions** and **road restrictions**.

Insurance! Your harvesting professional must have insurance to protect you, your property, and the harvester. Request insurance that is standard for the industry, including workers compensation. Insurance companies can help you with this.

Other items to consider in your contact include leave road/bridge in as good of condition as you have found it, identify any buried power lines, water lines, septic systems and special sites such as graves, nests, burrows, etc.! Check out Montana Natural Heritage Program at <http://mtnhp.org/>! If you have fences, note the condition and a process to address any damage that may occur during harvest. What about gates? Hunting? Firewood? if weeds are a concern you may require the equipment to be washed before coming on your site.

Much of what is discussed above comes directly from your knowledge--What is on your property and your desired future condition. The information provided here certainly doesn't include all the items needed in your contract, but it is a starting point. Combine your knowledge with items found in Sample Contracts, obtain a review by your local Professional Forester and Attorney and you will have a contract that will accomplish your goals!

## More than Mountain Pine Beetle

By: Amy Gannon, MT DNRC Forest Pest Management Program



*Pine engraver beetle “IPS” mortality WHI. Photo courtesy of Amy Gannon, DNRC.*

in the bark which makes them more available to woodpeckers. Woodpeckers will flake away at the bark of an infested ponderosa pine, creating a large scattering of bark at the base of the tree and oftentimes expose galleries in the upper stem of the tree. Interestingly, western pine beetle are only known to attack ponderosa west of the Continental Divide.

Western pine beetle populations can build to outbreak levels but more commonly just create small pockets of mortality or attack individual trees that are mature, stressed, fire-scorched or otherwise damaged. Trees that are successfully mass-attacked will die and bark beetle offspring will eventually emerge as adults and attack surrounding trees. Thus, removing, debarking or chipping infested trees is essential prior to adult emergence. Western pine beetle can have overlapping life stages so adults may emerge any time throughout the growing season. Furthermore, they can develop two generations in a single year.

Forest management activities that enhance tree vigor are the most effective way to prevent western pine beetle activity. Insecticides can be useful in protecting high value trees against attack but please note that insecticides are only preventive and do not kill beetles already infesting a trees. Some insecticide guidelines differ according to whether they are applied in a forest or ornamental/yard setting. Verbenone does NOT deter western pine beetle.

Red turpentine beetles also create pitch tubes in ponderosa pine but they are confined to the lower portion of the main stem and do not usually kill the tree they inhabit. The larvae feed together under the bark and create a chamber (versus linear, individual galleries). Red turpentine beetles are attracted to damaged, stressed or fire-scorched trees. Although they do not typically kill trees, it is worthwhile to protect high value pines from injury during harvest, construction or other potentially damaging activities.

Most forest owners in Montana are well aware of mountain pine beetle by now and while we are beyond the recent outbreak, it is important to recognize that various other bark beetles can cause damage in ponderosa pine. Western pine beetle, red turpentine beetle and pine engraver beetle are all currently active, particularly in western Montana. These beetles are commonly confused with mountain pine beetle so it's worthwhile to recognize their different characteristics and even have a few management options on hand.

Western pine beetle can be initially difficult to discern from mountain pine beetle because they both can create the pitchy masses that look like popcorn on the main stem of the tree. However, the galleries they create under the bark are quite different. Western pine beetle galleries are circuitous (versus a vertical line with side larval galleries). Their larvae feed a little farther out



*Western Pine Beetle, old galleries taken at Pattee Canyon. Photo Courtesy of Amy Gannon, DNRC.*

Pine engraver beetles, also known by their Latin name as “ips”, will also infest ponderosa pine. Pine engravers do not create distinct pitch masses but can be detected by reddish brown boring dust accumulating in bark crevices or under logs and slash. They create H- or Y-shaped galleries under the bark that are free from boring dust. Pine engraver beetles often infest freshly created pine slash which, in itself, is not problematic. The damage occurs when their offspring emerge later in the year and seek fresh slash and, if that is not available, they attack small trees or the tops of large diameter trees.



*Pine engraver beetles “IPS” in slash. Photo courtesy of Amy Gannon, DNRC.*

Managing this second generation is the key to mitigating pine engraver activity. Pine engraver beetles need a certain amount of moisture to produce offspring. Slash created between August and December will usually dry out before beetles seek slash in the spring so this is the best time for harvest activities. Because pine engraver beetles prefer slash, it is possible to lure the second generation of beetles from one slash pile to another by creating fresh slash piles alongside the older, infested slash piles. Large slash piles created during commercial operations generally do not promote damage in the surrounding stand because the exterior of the pile dries out while the interior retains its moisture and draws the second generation inward. If timing and conditions allow, infested slash piles can be burned before the offspring emerge. In limited circumstances where slash management is not an option, pheromone-baited traps can lure beetles from infested slash piles. Traps must be placed before the second generation of beetles fly in June, depending on exact weather conditions. It is recommended that trapping be done with the guidance of an experienced forester or entomologist.

Although we can enjoy this reprieve from mountain pine beetle, it’s an important time to manage your forest to make it resilient for the next outbreak. Yes, there will be another outbreak of mountain pine beetle someday, and now is a good time to diversify species and age classes to minimize impacts when mountain pine beetle returns. And in the meantime, vigorous trees will be resilient to the array of bark beetles in Montana forests.

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## Website Advertising Policy

In keeping with the Foundation’s mission to “inform and educate,” we are providing advertising space for business entities whose products and services can be of benefit to forest landowners. The Foundation Board will screen and approve each advertisement. The Foundation will be responsible for the appropriateness of the ads but not the content or accuracy. The Foundation does not advocate or endorse any of the advertisers. Cost to advertise is annual dues of \$100 as a Supporting Member of the Foundation.

For further information, email [forsteweducation@gmail.com](mailto:forsteweducation@gmail.com).

## Idaho Forest Group--St. Regis Mill

*By Skyler Hoefler, Forester St. Regis Montana*



In December 2017 Idaho Forest Group finalized the acquisition of the St. Regis Mill Location, formally Tricon Timber LLC. Tricon Timber LLC was constructed in 1988 and has served as the primary source of employment in Mineral County. At times employment ranged from 100 to 220+employees. Tricon Timber LLC was originally constructed to target lodgepole pine regrowth from the 1910 fires. The smaller uniform growth was desirable to produce 9 foot stud material. Over the years various saw lines were added to utilize all sizes and species of material. After the purchase of Tricon Timber LLC in 2017, IFG made numerous safety and operation upgrades to the facility. They also started to build and grow a culture of safety to

enhance and protect their employees. Additionally, IFG has upgraded log yard equipment and improved the log yard to handle more material to supply the mill.

Marc Brinkmeyer is the owner and chairman of Idaho Forest Group. IFG operates 6 mills and a finger joint facility across Idaho and Montana (St. Regis). Mr. Brinkmeyer purchased his first sawmill: Laclede from Brand S in 1981. In 2003 Riley Creek Lumber Co. was formed and purchased Chilco and Moyie Springs from Louisiana-Pacific Corp. In 2008 Riley Creek Lumber Co. and Bennett Forest Industries merged together to form Idaho Forest Group. Other mill acquisitions included Grangeville and Lewiston following the merger. IFG has the milling capacity to produce over 1 billion board feet annually. IFG produces a variety of dimensional, 1x's, and stud length lumber. A large portion of IFG's lumber is sold at box stores like Lowes and Home Depo. IFG employs over 1000 people and has a contractor base that employs over 2000 people. IFG currently ranks as the 8<sup>th</sup> largest lumber producer in the U.S.

In the fall of 2018 IFG sent 71 loads of saw logs from Montana down to the Lewiston Mill to be biologically scanned and analyzed. The CT scanner in Lewiston can scan an entire log segment and then produce a 3D image that can then be viewed to determine grade, value, defect and determine different ways to saw lumber out of that log segment. The CT scanner produces incredible information that can be used to determine almost anything. The tests IFG conducted looked at the diameters, species, grade, defect, and various kinds of lumber that could be yielded from the test logs. Overall, western Montana produces some good quality fiber with uniform growth rings.

Currently, IFG plans to run just the CNS or Chip-N-Saw at the St. Regis Mill. The Head-Rig and VC saw lines have been shut down and removed. The CNS line is currently being modified and having some improvements done to run more efficient and safely. Many ideas and thoughts are kicking around and no final decisions have been made on what kind of new mill might be built. IFG is carefully considering different milling configurations, log supply and milling technologies before it makes a commitment to begin building a new mill. If a new mill is built, it will have the latest technology and efficiencies required to produce quality lumber.

IFG is certified under Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) as a certified lumber supplier. Annually, IFG has a third party come in to perform a chain of custody and fiber sourcing audit. Most of IFG's certified fiber comes from either certified industrial lands or from private owned and managed tree farms. IFG is a huge supporter of Tree Farm, Forest Stewardship Foundation and various other organizations in Idaho, Montana, Washington, and Oregon. IFG offers free consultation site visits for landowners. A site visits can evaluate commercial timber harvest options, insect and disease evaluations, management questions and ideas, and establish a person of contact for any forestry assistance. If a landowner is interested in timber harvest, they can reach a forester for current log prices and arrange a site visit. IFG can write management plans, tree farm and stewardship plans, act as logging supervisor and coordinate various commercial and non-commercial activities. Lastly, IFG does purchase timber lands, and can pay advanced stumpage money to a landowner. More information can be found at: <https://idfg.com> contact a Forester or contact the Mill closest to your property location.

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## Should you join the Forest Stewardship Foundation?



By joining us you become a part of a small but energetic organization that gets things done. We are all volunteers, but since 2011 we have been able to co-sponsor the Helena Landowner Conference and several "Ties to the Land" workshops. We have also contributed, as funding is available, to MSU Extension Forestry to help fund stewardship workshops. Plus, twice a year we publish and distribute over 1,300 Forest Steward's Journals.

We know money is tight, but our dues are still only \$25. We currently have 100+members so you can do the math and see that we don't have much of an operating budget once we publish and mail the Journal. Your membership means a great deal to our continuing success. Please consider joining the foundation by completing the membership application form/envelope found in each winter's edition of the Journal.

We invite you to visit our website and welcome your comments and suggestions.

**<https://www.ForestStewardshipFoundation.org>**

Thank you sincerely for your help.  
Ed Levert, Chair