

Are Idaho Forests Renewable & Sustainable?

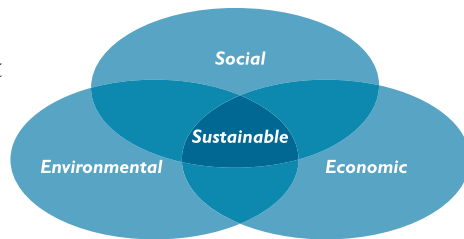


A **RENEWABLE** resource is one that can be regrown, remade or regenerated.

A **SUSTAINABLE** resource is one that can be managed to meet current environmental, economic and social needs while assuring future generations the opportunity to meet those same needs.

Because trees are a renewable resource that can be sustainably managed, Idaho's forests offer a sustainable future based on a renewable resource.

The idea of forest sustainability is that environmental, social and economic issues must be integrated into decision making and actions that affect forests, while taking into account both future *and* present needs.



Sustainable Forest Management is Ecologically Sound, Economically Viable and Socially Desirable.

It's the law!

Idaho's Forest Practices Act makes renewability and sustainability a legal responsibility on all private and state lands. Landowners are required to reforest following harvest and to comply with Best Management Practices (BMPs) in all management activities to assure sustainability of water quality, soils and wildlife habitat. On private forest lands, the Idaho Department of Lands assures compliance with the law through inspections of harvested areas. Over many years, those inspections have shown a 97% compliance with the Act's many rules. On federal lands, managers comply with an agreement to meet or exceed the Act's rules covering Best Management Practices. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality conducts periodic audits of all forest ownerships to ensure compliance and resource protection.

Forest Certification The Extra Step

In addition to meeting legal standards of the Idaho Forest Practices Act, many forest landowners and manufacturers choose to voluntarily meet additional standards, at their own expense, to gain recognition from forest sustainability certification systems. Forest certification programs recognize responsible forestry practices. These private programs apply independent, third-party standards and audits to forest management and wood product manufacturing. This level of transparency gives consumers, architects, engineers and builders credible evidence that these materials came from forests that are sustainably managed. Wood product certification includes the opportunity to display an "ecolabel" seal of approval. America's three largest forest certification programs are the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI).



Learn more at www.idahoforests.org