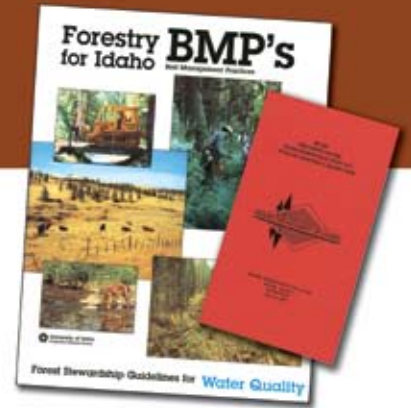


Are There Laws That Protect Our Forests?

In 1974, Idaho enacted a comprehensive law governing forest practices and safeguarding our forest resources including water, fish, wildlife, soil and air. The Idaho Forest Practices Act is updated periodically to keep pace with the most current scientific research.



The Idaho Forest Practices Act Requires*:

- **Reforestation**

Harvested areas must have viable trees growing within five years after harvest. Reforestation may be accomplished by natural regeneration or by planting seedlings, but must be done in a way that insures successful seedling growth.



- **Protection of Water and Soil Resources**

Timber harvesting, road building and the use of chemicals are restricted close to streams to protect fish and drinking water. Rules require that some trees must remain near streams for resource protection. Care must also be taken to avoid compacting or disturbing the soil.



- **Protection of Wildlife Habitat**

Live trees, snags and fallen logs must be left after harvest to provide structure for wildlife habitat.



- **Protection of the Air**

Limbs and other burnable materials remaining after harvest known as “slash” must be spread across the landscape or piled and burned to reduce the possibility of a wildfire.



*For complete requirements, see the Idaho Forest Practices Act at www.idl.idaho.gov.

Idaho enacted comprehensive forest protection laws in 1974.



Photo: Hal Korber



Learn more at www.idahoforests.org