KEY FOREST LAWS & POLICIES OVER TIME

1876 Special Agent created in the U.S. Department of Agriculture to assess quality and condition of U.S. forests.

1881 "Division of Forestry" created.

1891 Forest Reserve Act placed western public lands into "Forest Reserves" under the U.S. Department of Interior.

1897 Organic Act established the purpose of Forest Reserves was to improve and protect forests and water flows, and to provide a continuous supply of timber for citizens.

1905 Lands renamed "National Forests" and transferred to the Department of Agriculture's newly created U.S. Forest Service.

1911 Weeks Law authorized purchasing and reforesting private lands to regulate water flow and produce timber.

1960-70s Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act, Wilderness Act, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), National Forest Management Act, Resources Planning Act (RPA), Archaeological Resource Protection Act

1994 Northwest Forest Plan

2001 Roadless Rule effectively prohibited road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvesting on 58.5 million acres of inventoried "roadless" areas on National Forests.

2008 Idaho Roadless Rule finalized–Established management direction for 9.3 million acres of designated "roadless" areas in Idaho including around 6.9 million forested acres.