

Mallory Lincoln

The Natural Choice

“Ouch!” I screeched as I fell down in the forest, tripping over a tree stump. Wood isn’t just for the paper you use day after day; it’s also in bandages, ice cream, and tooth paste. Wood is a great source of air, beauty, and shade. Since forests cover over 40% of Idaho, most people have been in a forest at least once. Using wood is a good choice environmentally and economically because they are readily available, environmentally friendly, it provides jobs, and it’s fairly affordable.

Building houses is easier today because wood is affordable and readily available. The forest products industry uses the entire tree to produce lumber and other materials in a renewable way. Wood is often cheaper than steel or brick. In the state of Idaho alone, there is over 21.5 acres of forests. With so many trees out there, it’s OK when we use a few.

Trees are a renewable resource and they oxygenate the air. It’s wonderful to know that the air we breathe-in day after day comes from trees. The Idaho forest industry uses parts of the entire tree when it is cut down, which is more efficient than other building products. Not only can wood be recyclable, it is renewable, and environmentally friendly. According to Idahoforests.org, for every one tree cut down seven more are planted. If forests are cared for properly, we will have wood products forever.

Using wood products, provides thousands of jobs for Idahoans. In Idaho, the forest industry provides over 29,000 jobs. 14% percent of the state’s forests are privately owned, and the other 86% percent belongs to state or federal government. Forest jobs are important to many

communities around the state. According to IdahoForests.org, “Over \$20 billion in gross sales related to the forest industry occurred in 2017.”

As you can see, Forests are very important to the earth. The Forests of Idaho are great providers of jobs, building materials, and environmental benefits. Well-managed forests are great for Idaho’s economy and provide everything from toothpaste to shade. Keep Idaho’s forests green.