

FOREST LANDOWNER CONCERNS FOR AFTER THE SMOKE CLEARS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Are my trees dead?

A number of pamphlets are available at Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) offices to help landowners make the call. In addition, the IDL has Private Forestry Specialists at their Craigmont, Kamiah, and Orofino offices who can perform onsite survival evaluations.

In Craigmont: Clark Christiansen @ 208 924-5571

In Kamiah: Dave Summers @ 208 935-2141

In Orofino: Chris Gerhart @ 208 476-4587

Will my logs be culled due to char?

If fire damage is not evident following debarking, you should not have a problem, but make sure your log purchaser is aware of burned timber. Manufacturing specifications and char tolerance will vary by purchaser.

Do I have to replant following fire losses?

Maybe. If fire-damaged wood is being harvested, minimum stocking standards of the Forest Practices Act apply. If natural regeneration does not occur, planting will be required of the landowner. (See the *Rules Pertaining to the Idaho Forest Practices Act Title 38, Chapter 13*. Specific exemptions exist under Rule 050.)

Can I avoid reforestation requirements by doing a “land use conversion”?

Yes. Land use conversions are described in the *Rules Pertaining to the Idaho Forest Practices Act Title 38, Chapter 13* under Rule 020.02. Adherence to the conversion rule will be determined by evidence of actual use of the land for the newly intended purpose.

What does it cost to replant?

Figure \$2 per tree to purchase, plant, tube, and chemically treat. Forest Practices Act Rules require a minimum stocking of 170 trees per acre. Thus, \$340 per acre is a conservative estimate to meet minimum stocking. (Be aware that most timber growers plant 300-400 trees per acre which would double the cost.)

Are costshares available for planting?

Yes. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) has funds available for Tree/Shrub Establishment. A management plan is required to participate. Contact your local District Conservationist at the Natural Resources Conservation Service:

In Clearwater and Lewis Counties: Amber Reeves @ 208 476-5313 ext. 102 or 208 937-2291 ext. 110

In Idaho County: Richard Spencer @ 208 983-1046 ext. 3

Is there any tax relief for burned timber?

Possibly. Idaho Code Title 63, Chapter 17, 1705(6) provides for a reduction in property tax value for trees destroyed by fire or other natural disaster. Contact your local County Assessor's Office for details:

Clearwater County Assessor: Susan Spencer @ 208 476-7042

Idaho County Assessor: James Zehner @ 208 983-2742

Lewis County Assessor: Shelley Brian @ 208 937-2320

What is my risk of beetle damage?

Significant. Blue stain fungi carried by bark beetles will quickly lessen the value of standing and decked pine. In addition, fire-damaged roots can increase the likelihood of a successful bark beetle attack in the year following the fire.

How do I protect myself from the next fire?

Firescaping. The proper use and arrangement of building materials and landscape features can increase the likelihood of structures and residents surviving a fire. Two publications are readily available at IDL offices:

Protecting and Landscaping Homes in the Wildland/Urban Interface 2005. Contribution Number 844 of the Idaho Forest, Wildlife and Range Experiment Station, College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844.

Living with Fire: A Guide for the Homeowner 1999. Great Basin Fire Prevention Organization

In addition, fire risk assessments can be scheduled with your local Forest Protective District:

Clearwater-Potlatch Timber Protective Association @ 208 476-5612

Craig Mountain Forest Protective District @ 208 924-5571

Maggie Creek Forest Protective District @ 208 935-2141.