

STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

March 19, 2024
Consent Agenda

Subject

Timber License Plate Fund Projects

Question Presented

Shall the Land Board direct the Department to proceed with the recommended educational projects developed with the Idaho Forest Products Commission?

Background

Idaho's timber license plate is established in Idaho Code § 49-417A and has been available since 1997. Twenty-five dollars of each initial fee and fifteen dollars of each renewal fee are deposited in the Idaho Department of Lands fund for reforestation activities or for education. Educational efforts must help build public understanding of reforestation or the management and conservation of forest resources on public and private lands in Idaho. Such funds are to be expended as agreed by the State Board of Land Commissioners (Land Board) upon recommendations developed jointly by the Idaho Department of Lands (Department) and the Idaho Forest Products Commission (IFPC).

Discussion

In calendar year 2023, there were 4,024 timber plates sold, transferred, or renewed, an increase of 10% over the prior year. As of February 28, 2024, there is \$95,283.15 of unobligated funds in this account. The Department and IFPC have jointly agreed on a plan to expend \$68,500 on educational efforts for calendar year 2024 (Attachment 1). Fees from new and renewal license plates continue to accrue monthly in the fund. The Department and Idaho Forest Products Commission will only expend money from the fund if available.

Recommendation

Direct the Department to proceed with the recommended educational projects developed jointly with the Idaho Forest Products Commission.

Board Action

Attachments

1. IFPC/Department Project Recommendations



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**IDAHO FOREST
PRODUCTS
COMMISSION**

TO: State Board of Land Commissioners
FROM: Jennifer Okerlund - Director, Idaho Forest Products Commission
Dustin Miller - Director, Idaho Department of Lands
RE: Timber License Plate Fee Recommendations

David Gabrielsen
District 1 - (208) 660-3701

Jack A. Buell
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Jennifer Okerlund
Director

Michelle Youngquist
Education Coordinator

Idaho's Timber License Plate has been available since 1997. In the year 2023, a total of 4,024 timber plates were sold, transferred, or renewed. Twenty-five dollars of each initial fee and fifteen dollars of each renewal fee are available for educational efforts or reforestation activities. As of March 4, 2024 there was \$95,283.15 of unobligated funds in this account.

The following list of educational projects is recommended by the Idaho Forest Products Commission and the Idaho Department of Lands to be supported by Timber License Plate fees as authorized in Section 49-417A, Idaho Code:

1. Arbor Day Billboard Campaign

Background: Arbor Day is a special holiday set aside to appreciate and plant trees. This project would provide an educational statewide billboard campaign in conjunction with the Arbor Day celebration. The billboards would target the general public with a positive message about Idaho forests. This campaign would be part of a statewide Arbor Day 2024 project.

Plate Fees: \$ 15,000
Total Project Estimated Costs: \$ 22,000

2. Seedlings

Background: This project would provide 20,000 seedlings for the Arbor Day 2024 celebration and educational expos. The seedlings are grown at the University of Idaho and packaged with information about reforestation and an educational brochure with information about Arbor Day and Idaho's forests will also accompany seedlings. The seedlings would be available throughout the state at various points of distribution.

Amount Requested from Timber Plate Fees: \$ 6,000
Total Project Estimated Costs: \$ 17,000

(Over)

3. Arbor Day 2024

Background: Each year the last Friday in April is designed as Arbor Day, a special holiday celebrating trees. The Arbor Day 2024 project includes promotional materials, brochures and posters with information about Idaho's forests and reforestation, a seedling give-away, digital and radio public service announcements, social media postings, a special Arbor Day t-shirt and event at the state historic museum on Arbor Day. There will also be programs for Idaho educators focusing on the many things renewable trees bring to our lives and need for good forest stewardship, management and reforestation.

Amount Requested from Timber Plate Fees: \$ 2,000
Total Project Estimated Costs: \$ 12,000

4. Arbor Day Photo Contest

Background: In 2011, IFPC began a statewide photo contest providing an opportunity for Idaho students to engage in Arbor Day and consider the role trees as a renewable resource play in their daily lives. The project has been a true success with hundreds of 5th to 12th grade students participating each year. The contest was developed with input from the Idaho Department of Education and asks students to show what they see when they "Look to the Forest" through a photograph and to describe their work in an artist statement. Cash prizes are awarded to the winners of three age categories. One grand prize is honored at the state Arbor Day Celebration where a tree is planted in their honor. Winning photos are used to promote Arbor Day and forest education in Idaho.

Amount Requested from Timber Plate Fees: \$ 500
Total Project Estimated Costs: \$ 1,000

5. Teachers= Sustainable Forest Tour

Background: This project provides dozens of educators with an exceptional hands-on opportunity to learn about sustainable forest management and the forest products industry during a forest tour. Its goal is to provide an opportunity for educators to talk directly with the people that grow, manage, harvest and process trees into useful wood products as well as the managers who care for the air, water, soil, fish and wildlife. The 2024 Sustainable Forest Tour is scheduled for the week of June 25-28.

Amount Requested from Timber Plate Fees: \$ 10,000
Total Project Estimated Costs: \$ 45,000

(Over)

6. Forest Tour

Background: This project provides an on-the-ground educational opportunity for Idaho leaders to learn about the forests of Idaho and gain a first-hand understanding of forest management. In the past, Miracle at Work Forest Tours have been conducted in central and north Idaho and feature private, state and federal forest managers and resource professionals.

Amount Requested from Timber Plate Fees:	<u>\$ 10,000</u>
Total Project Estimated Costs:	\$ 25,000

7. Project Learning Tree

Background: Project Learning Tree is a nationwide, award winning environmental education program. PLT is based on the principles of teaching youths how to think, not what to think and preparing students to make wise decisions about resource use and conservation. Since 1994, over 11,000 teachers have participated in PLT workshops and programs with the potential to reach thousands of Idaho students *each* year.

Amount Requested from Timber Plate Fees:	\$ 25,000
Total Project Estimated Costs:	\$ 180,000

Total License Fee Appropriation Request	<u>\$ 68,500</u>
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Memorandum

TO: Dustin T. Miller, Director, IDL
Jennifer Okerlund, Director, IFPC

FROM: Matthew Perkins, Urban & Community Forestry Program Manager

SUBJECT: Arbor Day Funding Request

DATE: February 13, 2024

CC: Craig Foss, State Forester/Forestry & Fire Division Administrator
Archie Gray, Chief, Forestry Assistance Bureau

I am writing to request \$2,000 from the Idaho Timber Special License Plates program to assist Idaho Department of Lands area offices in promoting tree planting on public and private lands in and around Idaho communities. This funding request is for FY2024, as Timber license plate funds are available.

The Department of Lands will use the \$2,000 to encourage IDL area field offices to help communities plan and conduct local Arbor Day celebrations. Similar projects conducted in past years received outstanding support from IDL field offices and the communities they assisted. Funds were used to purchase trees, Arbor Day T-shirts, and other educational materials for communities throughout Idaho.

The Arbor Day project provides many opportunities for partnerships between urban and rural forestry interests. IDL foresters work with local governments, schools, service clubs, businesses, USFS offices, and forest products companies to plan and conduct local celebrations.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I will be glad to provide additional information as needed, and look forward to your response.