

# STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

August 20, 2024

Regular Agenda

## Subject

Forest Asset Management Plan 2024

## Questions Presented

Shall the Land Board approve harvest levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2030 to average 329 million board feet?

## Discussion

The State Board of Land Commissioners (Land Board) approved the current Forest Asset management Plan (FAMP) for endowment lands in August 2019 with an annual timber sale volume of 328 million board feet (MMBF). Full implementation of the annual sale volume began in FY2024.

Since the 2019 FAMP was completed, the Idaho Department of Lands (Department) has focused on collecting inventory data, especially on younger trees. This data, combined with detailed tree information and environmental factors, has been used to fine-tune growth and yield projections for this harvest scheduling analysis. The Department collaborated with the Forest Biometrics Research Institute (FBRI) to develop growth and yield models for different site classes and to plan harvest schedules for each supervisory area.

The data indicates there are about 7.0 billion board feet of timber available. The Department's goal, both past and present, is to balance this inventory with growth and harvest rates. By reducing the amount of standing timber, the Department can maximize revenue for endowment beneficiaries, lower the risk of damage, increase growth per acre, and support the long-term health of the forest products industry. Management activities will prioritize even-aged management, leading to an increase in clearcut acres. This strategy will improve timber yields at rotation age by enhancing growth rates and stocking levels, thereby offering higher long-term returns for the beneficiaries.

Department leadership met with each supervisory area to discuss various options and set preferred volume targets. This led to an average of 329 MMBF per year for the next 5 years across the state. It is recommended to allow for an annual variance of plus or minus 5 percent of 329 MMBF to account for logistical sale layout and market conditions. The table below outlines the harvest level by supervisory area for fiscal year 2026 through fiscal year 2030.

|               | <b>Sale Volumes by Fiscal Year</b> |             |             |             |             |
|---------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Area</b>   | <b>2026</b>                        | <b>2027</b> | <b>2028</b> | <b>2029</b> | <b>2030</b> |
| Eastern       | 10                                 | 10          | 10          | 10          | 10          |
| Southwest     | 16                                 | 16          | 16          | 16          | 16          |
| Payette Lakes | 21                                 | 21          | 21          | 21          | 21          |
| Maggie Creek  | 30                                 | 30          | 30          | 30          | 30          |
| Clearwater    | 55                                 | 55          | 55          | 55          | 55          |
| Ponderosa     | 40                                 | 30          | 30          | 30          | 30          |
| St. Joe       | 80                                 | 80          | 80          | 80          | 80          |
| Mica          | 18                                 | 18          | 18          | 18          | 18          |
| Pend Oreille  | 35                                 | 35          | 35          | 35          | 35          |
| Priest Lake   | 28                                 | 31          | 33          | 33          | 33          |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>333</b>                         | <b>326</b>  | <b>328</b>  | <b>328</b>  | <b>328</b>  |

At the end of this 5-year period, the Department will perform another harvest schedule analysis to decide future harvest levels. According to current data, the Department can maintain the current harvest level for the next 10 years. After that, staff anticipate a reduction to approximately 230 MMBF. Please see the graph in Attachment 1 for a visual summary. The Department will keep the Land Board and industry representatives updated as more data is gathered, and models are refined.

The Department is not requesting additional resources for the implementation of the sale volume targets. Personnel and the necessary funds were secured during the last Forest Asset Management Plan and are sufficient to meet more intensive forest management.

## **Recommendation**

Adopt annual average harvest levels of 329 MMBF statewide with an annual allowance of plus or minus 5 percent for fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

## **Board Action**

## **Attachments**

1. Statewide Harvest Level 100-Year Graph
2. Annual Sales Plan Volume 20-Year Graph

Statewide Harvest Levels



