



IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

Date: January 29, 2025

Agenda Item No. 17

Agenda Item: Forest Legacy Program Overview

Bureau Chief Approval: SR

Prepared by: Casey Pozzanghera & Jennifer Barker

Position/Title: CP - Natural Resources Program Coordinator, JB - Forest Legacy Program Manager, Idaho Department of Lands

Background:

The Forest Legacy Program is a federal program funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund that enables privately held forest lands to be protected for perpetual timber production. This voluntary initiative allows landowners to retain ownership and management of their lands, while benefitting financially by selling the development rights on that property through a conservation easement that is ultimately held and stewarded by the State. Forest Legacy projects not only keep working forests working, but also protect valuable wildlife habitat and often provide public access opportunities on the protected private lands. In Idaho, the Forest Legacy Program is managed by the Idaho Department of Lands. Since 2003, Idaho's Forest Legacy Program has helped protect over 110,000 acres across the State and IDL expects to add approximately 90,000 more acres over the next 5 years, nearly doubling the program.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission administers state wildlife policy through the Department including land acquisition and management for the purposes of game, bird, fish, or fur-bearing animal restoration, propagation, or protection; and for public hunting, fishing, or trapping areas to provide places where the public may fish, hunt, or trap (Idaho Code 36-104 (b) 7 (A&B)).

Public Involvement Process:

Public can comment on this agenda item at the Commission public meeting.

Justification:

This agenda item is to inform the Commission on the Forest Legacy Program and its impact on wildlife and sportsmen in Idaho.

Staff Recommendation:

N/A. This agenda item is for Commission information only.