

- Thank you for the opportunity to discuss The Community Forest Trust solution for managing our public lands
- Early 1900's National Forests replaced the Forest Reserves
- Gifford Pinchot the 1st Chief of the Forest Service asserted that counties would not suffer from the loss of property taxes when the National Forests were created. Counties would receive a portion of the receipts generated by timber, grazing and other uses, generally amounting to 25%. These Timber Receipts were to be returned to counties for funding roads and schools. Pinchot stated "Thus a county which is covered by a National Forest is better off than one which is not."
- Today, counties with public timberlands are penalized by lack of utilization of this valuable commodity.
- In 2000 Congress passed "The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act" or SRS for short. This legislation was to provide a safety net for the counties until the Forest Service returned to harvesting timber. To date this has not happened.
- Funding of the SRS program has been reauthorized for the past 13 years. The SRS is being reduced each year, with the possibility of funding being completely eliminated. Valley County used to

receive 3.5 million annually and today receives (*less than half of that amount*) only 1.5 million in SRS funding.

- How do you prepare a county budget when the SRS funding or timber receipts are unreliable?
- Unemployment in Idaho counties with large public land tracts is higher than ever before
- Seasonal wages do not sustain a community
- I am one of four County Commissioners that say it is time to manage public lands here in Idaho
- To provide this management strategy we crafted the Community Forest Trust (CFT) Pilot project. This is to demonstrate Idaho can harvest timber responsibly and efficiently, providing a reliable income stream to rural Idaho counties. This is the first step to returning a sustainable economy.
- The CFT partners with the Idaho Department of Lands to manage the program. 200,000 acres of the National Forest is targeted to help offset/supplement the SRS funding. The Idaho Land Board approved the CFT and authorized the IDL to work on management options.

- To give you an example, when Boise Cascade Corp managed timberlands in Valley and Adams Counties, a sustainable harvest of 30 million board feet was realized each year on 194,000 acres.
- In today's dollars this would net approximately 3 million dollars.
- There are approximately 20 million acres of public timberlands in Idaho. The CFT projects that properly managed and with time to reestablish the industry and forest stands, the utilization of 2-2.5 million acres will offset SRS funding received by Idaho last year.
- The CFT does not ask for Wilderness, Wild and Scenic River corridors or Roadless areas to be included.
- Additionally the CFT is not asking for Idaho to take on the responsibility of Wildfire on public lands. Federal Agencies allowed the public lands to reach the condition we see today, and we believe they need to continue to manage the problem.
- Congressman Raul Labrador has utilized this CFT concept to introduce local state management to the House of Representatives for the past two years and now concept is in Congressman Hastings HR 1526 bill that has passed the House and is now headed to the Senate for their review.
- Rural communities, Idaho Counties, the National Association of Counties and the timber industry support the CFT.

- The CFT Concept. Local Control, IDL has proven track record, Responsible Management, Supports Roads and Schools, Provides needed jobs, Helps sustain the Habitat for Clean Air, Clean Water, Fish and Wildlife
- I would ask all of you to ask yourselves, are we better off today than when we had a timber industry providing communities with a sustainable economy? I think the answer is clear, we are definitely not better off today.
- Questions??