Purpose: This conference will help people connect global-scale issues regarding climate change, renewable energy, and carbon emissions to potential effects on forests in Idaho and Montana. Discussions will center on strategies for sustaining our forests and the services people expect from them.

The sustainability premise: The current and future condition of our forests determines their ability to contribute to our society’s energy security, climate change mitigation and resilience goals. Current conditions in the forested areas of Idaho and Montana put forests at risk of stand-replacing wildfire as well as insect and disease outbreaks. Management actions could improve forest conditions and help meet renewable energy and carbon sequestration goals. Forest management actions must be ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially desirable to be sustainable.

Towards a “social license”: Forest managers can take action to meet these three sustainability conditions only after attaining a “social license” for implementation. Several efforts are underway in this region to create such “licenses.” The stories behind these efforts are encouraging and perhaps could be applied more widely, if more people knew about them. We need to consider what is needed to build additional social license or cooperative capacity to move more rapidly in a practical, common sense ways.

Previous related conference: This is the second in a series of conferences and working group sessions planned by the SAF with various partners. The Plum Creek Conference on Forests and Energy was held in Missoula at the University of Montana on September 22-24, 2009. Conference PowerPoint presentations are available and were videotaped, as was a discussion forum panel – see www.cfc.umt.edu/plumcreekconf/.

Online registration: The conference agenda, speaker biographies, suggested readings, and online registration ($65) are at the conference website hosted by the University of Idaho: http://www.uidaho.edu/cnr/forestsbioenergyconference.aspx
Conference Agenda
“Sustainable forestry is ecologically sound, economically feasible, and socially desirable.”*

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Conference Opening
8:00 – 8:05 Welcome & Logistics – Rick Tholen, Conference Team Leader
8:05 – 8:20 Conference Opening – Idaho Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter (invited)
8:20 – 8:40 Keynote – Dale Bosworth, Chief Emeritus, U.S. Forest Service

Ecologically Sound – Identifying and Restoring Desired Conditions in Idaho and Montana Forests
Moderator – John McCarthy
8:40 – 9:10 Climate Change Will Affect Forests in the Northern Rockies
   – Steven W. Running, University of Montana
9:10 – 9:40 Break
9:40 – 10:10 Potential Impact of Climate Change on Wildfires in the Northern Rockies
   – Peter Kolb, University of Montana
10:10 – 10:40 Effects of Climate Change on Forest Insects
   – Steve Cook, University of Idaho
10:40 – 11:10 Mitigation & Adaptation Strategies for Northwestern Forests
   – Bruce Lippke, University of Washington
11:15 – 12:15 Breakout Sessions
12:15 - 1:00 Buffet Luncheon (provided at conference site)

Economically Feasible – Role of Industry Infrastructure to Accomplish Forest Restoration Goals
 Moderator – Jay O’Laughlin, University of Idaho
1:00 – 1:30 Importance of Forest Products Industry Infrastructure in Meeting Restoration & Sustainability Goals – Dennis Becker, University of Minnesota
1:30 – 2:00 Wood Bioenergy Build-out Options – David Naccarato, McKinstry Corp.
2:00 – 2:30 Break
2:30 – 3:00 Constraints on Biomass Supply & Utilization (Ecological & Economic)
   – Joe Kerkvliet & Travis Belote, The Wilderness Society
3:00 – 3:30 Inland West Biomass Supply: Challenges & Opportunities
   – Jay O’Laughlin, University of Idaho & Dave Groeschl, Idaho Dept. of Lands
3:35 – 4:35 Breakout Sessions
5:00 – 6:30 Sponsored Social Hour (snacks and cash bar)

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Socially Desirable – The “Social License” for Making Federal Forest Land Management a Reality
Moderator – George Bacon, Idaho State Forester and Director, Idaho Department of Lands
8:00 – 8:30 Developing Principles for Forest Restoration and Collaboration
   – Ethan Aumack, Grand Canyon Trust
8:30 – 10:00 Panel – Ongoing Collaborative Efforts: What’s Worked Well? Not So Well?
   ➢ Clearwater Basin Collaborative – Bill Higgins, Idaho Forest Group
   ➢ Montana Forest Restoration Committee – Scott Brennan, The Wilderness Society
   ➢ Lemhi County Forest Restoration Group – John Robison, Idaho Conservation League
   ➢ Payette Forest Coalition – Dave Torell, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
10:00 – 10:30 Break
10:30 – 12:00 Breakout Sessions
12:00 – 1:00 Buffet Luncheon (provided at conference site)

Moving Forward Towards Sustainability (Who? Where? How?)
Moderator – Dave Atkins, U.S. Forest Service
1:00 – 1:40 National Forest System Lands Perspective
   – Harv Forsgren, Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service Intermountain Region (Region 4)
   – Jane Cottrell, Deputy Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service Northern Region (Region 1)
1:40 – 2:10 Plum Creek Conference on Forests and Energy (September 2008) Take Home Messages
   – Jim Burchfield, Interim Dean, College of Forestry and Conservation, University of Montana
2:10 – 2:40 Conference Wrap-up
   – Dave Atkins, U.S. Forest Service and Jay O’Laughlin, University of Idaho