



### Exercise: 1

**Instructions:** Forests are very important for a number of reasons, which include supporting wildlife, preventing erosion, production of oxygen, and many other human needs. Fortunately, Idaho has many forested areas that give us the materials and recreational materials we desire. Unfortunately, we have not always been wise stewards of these resources and human over harvest and misuse have taken their toll. This activity will give students a brief overview of the history and status of Idaho forests.

---

1. Why are forests so important? How do they benefit our environment?
2. Which species of tree in Idaho is of the most economic value? What is this species used for? Why has it declined so dramatically?
3. How has lumbering influenced the landscape? Why is clear-cutting so harmful?
4. What was the worst forest fire in the history of North America?
5. Are forest fires always bad for forests? Why or why not?
6. What is selective cutting? How can it help protect our forests?
7. Why should we protect our forests?