

Attached photo: You may want to recognize these folks that helped make the tour a success by speaking to the group about their area of expertise:  
ALC – Mike Reynolds Logging, Shawn Keough  
SAF – Jay O’Laughlin (and many more)  
IFOA – Steve and Janet Funk, Kirk and Madeline David, Kennon McClintock and Paul Buckland  
Northwest Forest Management – Greg Bassler

### **Sustainable Forestry Tour Teaches Educators With Hands-On Look at Forest Industry**

Forty-two educators recently invested a week of their time learning about sustainable forestry. The group included elementary through high school and A/P level teachers and counselors that participated in the Idaho Forest Products Commission’s annual “Sustainable Forestry Tour.” During the week-long tour, educators were immersed in all aspects of the forest products industry from nurseries and plantations to logging and wood and paper manufacturing. Along the way, presentations were made from forest professionals, landowners, business owners and representatives from state and federal agencies. “This is a once in a lifetime experience for educators,” according to Michelle Youngquist, IFPC Education Coordinator. “There really is nothing like seeing the entire forest cycle and meeting the real people who make it happen.” Through a variety of activities, materials and aids, educators learned how to take their experience back to the classroom and their students. The tour is made possible by over 60 sponsors including and the Idaho Forest Products Commission. Learn more about the tour online at [www.idahoforests.org/tour.htm](http://www.idahoforests.org/tour.htm). For more information contact Michelle at [plt@idahoforests.org](mailto:plt@idahoforests.org) or 208/334-4061.

Here are a few comments from this year’s participants:

*I have been forever changed! This tour taught me things I didn't even realize I didn't know! I enjoyed learning, touring, listening, and getting my hands dirty!*

*If you get an opportunity to attend do it. An opportunity of a life time. I can't wait to share what I've learned.*

*What an incredible experience and I can't wait to share with my students what I have learned!*

*It felt like we were being given the straight goods from honest people, and not being “sold” something with obvious quality.*

*I’ve always enjoyed the forests and knew they were an important resource, but I truly didn’t appreciate the social, economic, and environmental relationships. I did not understand sustainable forest practices and how hard everyone involved in forestry works to ensure the greatest good with the least harm to our most valuable resource.*

*I see the whole picture and understand the process. I really understand the “whys” of logging (especially the why of clear cutting).*

*Amazing technology. This industry has really advanced technologically - from logging in the field to the mill and on to the paper mill. Also – the stakeholders have a real passion for sustainable forests.*

*I was always taught that logging was bad, but the information learned here will be helpful in my personal ideas.*

*My perception was that sustainable forestry was a buzzword rather than a reality. I think that the changes in attitudes and technology in the profession have made sustainability a true possibility that almost everyone in the profession is working toward.*

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