the US Forest Service. We know they value the work our member companies do, and we know that without us, there is no way to effectively manage the national forests. We hope Chief Tidwell will continue his commitment to management in a more public fashion in the future.

Bill Imbergamo
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Moving Toward a Restoration Economy

The discussion article by Tidwell and Brown in the October/November issue seemed too global and may have missed the intended mark. Taking Idaho as an example, the US Forest Service owns 23% of the timberland. The total growing stock volume is 36.7 billion ft³, growth is 994 million ft³, mortality is 383 million ft³, and removals are 246 million ft³. This leaves an annual wood increment (growth–removals) of 748 million ft³. This overaccumulation of vegetation has led to an increasing number of large, intense, catastrophically destructive, and expensive fires. I believe the acres burned in 2011 will approach 9 million ac at a taxpayer-funded cost of attempted suppression in excess of $1.5 billion. So the bottom line is that we need management, harvest, and a healthy installed operating infrastructure to capitalize on this federal asset much like state and private interests are. A sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing carbon stocks while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, pulp products, and energy from public lands is long overdue. Restoration is part of the program, but the US Forest Service should promptly move to active management of a selected suitable base and increase its timber outputs from 3 billion bd ft in 2012 to 6 billion bd ft by 2015 and beyond. This is less than 30% of the annual net growth on national forestlands and will provide lots of jobs as well as protect the other valued multiple uses the US Forest Service is responsible for.

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