



**NEWS
RELEASE**



United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Salmon - Challis National Forest
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WORKSHOPS EXPLORE FUTURE OF FOREST PRODUCTS ECONOMIES

SALMON, Idaho – The US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station and the Salmon-Challis National Forest will be hosting a 4-hour workshop about the economics of forest products. The workshop will be held twice – once in Salmon and once in Challis. The Salmon session will be at the Salmon Public Library from 1-5 p.m. on Thursday, June 28, and the Challis session will be at the Challis Senior Citizen Center from 4 – 8 p.m. on Friday, June 29.

Forest products have been and will continue to be an important part of the economy in this region. The purpose of this workshop is to share experiences, perspectives, and information related to the past, current, and future state of this industry, and to explore ideas for improving and expanding forest enterprise.

Dr. Nate Anderson, a research forester with the Rocky Mountain Research Station, is leading the workshops. Since 2009, he has been studying the forest industry in the Rocky Mountains, especially the intersection of traditional forest products like lumber, firewood and pulpwood, with new bioenergy and bio-products options, including biofuels, biochar and nanomaterials.

Salmon-Challis Forest Supervisor Chuck Mark said the forest is revising the 1980s era Salmon and Challis forest plans. He noted that much has changed in the timber industry and timber markets since those plans were developed. "We need to increase the pace and scale of restoration, and that is going to require some creative approaches," Mark said. "I believe that these workshops can help generate ideas from local people with the knowledge, experience, and entrepreneurial spirit needed to help us address this monumental challenge."

The agenda includes presentations, small group discussions, and active participation by attendees in group activities. The workshop is open to the public but an RSVP is required so enough facilitators and workshop materials can be available.

Please call Gina Knudson, 756-5551 or email gknudson@fs.fed.us for more information.

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