

State of Idaho  
Department of Administration  
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**News Release**

Contact: Pat Wynn, [pat.wynn@adm.idaho.gov](mailto:pat.wynn@adm.idaho.gov)  
208.332.1827

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## Windstorm Topples Historic Roosevelt Presidential Tree on Idaho Statehouse Grounds

BOISE, ID – The severe thunderstorm and accompanying high winds that swept through the Treasure Valley this past Saturday toppled one of the three Presidential Trees located on the grounds of the Idaho Statehouse.

The Roosevelt Tree, a Rock Sugar Maple planted by President Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt in 1903, was split at the base of its trunk by the strong wind gusts. At one point in its history, the tree probably reached a height of 60 feet, but was estimated at around 25 feet at the time of its fall. Although the tree was partially protected by its location near the southeast corner of the Statehouse, Department of Administration Facilities Management personnel discovered the tree’s center core had greatly weakened over the years.

The two other Presidential Trees, a Water Oak planted by President Benjamin Harrison in 1891; and an Ohio Buckeye, planted by President William Howard Taft in 1911, were not seriously damaged.

President Roosevelt planted the tree during a special two-hour visit to Boise on May 29, 1903 before departing on his Presidential Train for points east. The Idaho Daily Statesman described the tree-planting ceremony following his address on the Capitol grounds this way:

“He received the gifts of the state officers and the Boise Jockey Club with a cheery response and hastened to the spot in front of the capitol building where he planted a tree with a few lusty strokes of the gaily decorated spade placed at his disposal. Striding away with springy step the president passed out of the grounds and into his waiting carriage. Those who followed found the pace trying.”

While President, Roosevelt established the US Forest Service, and signed the 1906 Antiquities Act under which he proclaimed 18 national monuments. He also established 5 national parks, 51 wildlife refuges and 150 national forests.

State officials will be reviewing replacement options.

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