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MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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(BOISE) – The Idaho Capitol Commission is asking interested woodworkers to participate in the restoration and expansion of the state Capitol building. Woodworkers with the skills and equipment to convert wood from Statehouse trees into memorial woodwork are asked to donate the majority of their finished product back to the state for use in and around the state Capitol in Boise.

When the state Capitol reopens in 2010, desks, bookcases, benches, small carvings, and mementos will adorn the completely restored historic main Capitol as well as its new legislative areas. They will connect the old Capitol with the new, using wood harvested from trees removed from the Capitol grounds. The maples, cherries, spruce, oaks, redwoods and pine have either lost their homes to make way for expansion or were in declining health.

“These trees were too large or too old to survive the transplant process,” said Keith Johnson, Director, Idaho Department of Administration. “Three quarters of the trees on the Capitol grounds were successfully moved to new homes on the state Capitol Mall,” he said. Some of the wood is historic and of great value to the Capitol’s history. The original Roosevelt tree was planted on the Capitol grounds by Theodore Roosevelt himself on a visit of western states in 1903.

The Capitol Commission asked the Department of Administration to supervise the lumber harvest and select highly skilled woodworkers. The chosen craftsmen must reside in or have a significant connection to Idaho. They must be willing to propose designs of their final products to the state this summer with the understanding that most of the wood must return to the state for permanent Statehouse display.

Any wood hobbyist or professional interested in participating should ask for more information via a ‘Request for Proposal’ that will explain the types and amounts of wood available. The RFP will spell-out how to propose use of the wood, and terms for donating the finished product back to the State of Idaho, where a committee will make the final selections from the proposals. Please contact Diane Blume at (208) 332-1826 or at diane.blume@adm.idaho.gov

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