

Summer 2020

Idaho Tree Farm Program

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Fall Field Day

ITFC Annual Meeting/Awards

Hammond Tree Farm, Spirit Lake

Greetings Idaho Tree Farmers and family forest landowners. I'm sure most of you are aware that due to Covid-19 health restrictions the Family Forest Landowners and Managers Conference was cancelled along with the Idaho Tree Farm awards ceremony. Because of this, folks from the Idaho Forest Owners Association and the Idaho Tree Farm Committee have been meeting to put together a combined field day and awards ceremony. We are planning to hold this event on Saturday, September 12th at the Hammond Tree Farm in southwestern Bonner County. Topics will include pre-commercial thinning and genetics, pruning, chainsaw maintenance, forest health (insect and disease updates), invasive weeds, using pesticides safely, commercial thinning and forest tools, and logging history. Due to the fact that this field day combines with the Idaho Tree Farm award ceremony, the educational events will be slightly condensed.

The ability to hold this event will depend on Covid-19 restrictions. Due to the current recommendations regarding masks, social distancing, and other Covid-19 related topics, we are asking folks who want to attend this event to pre-register. The event is free. However, it is important that folks pre-register so we know how much tent space to order, as well as other facility logistics required for proper social distancing and other Covid-19 health concerns. In addition, people who do not wish to bring their own sack lunch can chose to pre-order a catered sack lunch at \$15.00/ea. Of course, this requires pre-registration as well. More information about pre-registration will be sent out in the near future.

The Hammond Tree Farm is located just north of Spirit Lake, ID in southwestern Bonner County. Directions will be sent out with the pre-registration materials. We hope to see you there.

Sincerely,
Sean Hammond, Chair
Idaho Tree Farm Committee

Sonny Poirier / Al Farnsworth – In Memoriam

We must sadly report to you we have recently lost two of our most dedicated and long term members. Colonel Al W. Farnsworth, USAF, passed away quietly at his home in Bonners Ferry, ID on May 27, 2020. We also lost Fielden L. “Sonny” Poirier who died on July 4, 2020 at his home in Blanchard, ID. Both of these good gentlemen were tireless stewards of the land and both had been honored for their efforts as Idaho Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year.

Al was recognized as our Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year in 1984, and went on in 1985 to be one of only three Idaho Tree Farmers to receive the Western Regional Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award. Sonny was selected as our Idaho Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year in 1987. He also volunteered as a member of our Idaho Tree Farm Committee. Both of them led by example and were a tribute to all Tree Farming has come to represent.

As a pilot and 30 year veteran of the Air Force, Al Farnsworth served our nation during WWII, Korea, and Viet Nam. He always held a love for our northwest forests and over the years acquired several thousand acres of North Idaho timberland. From 1985 to 2002 he also served as a Director on the Idaho Forest Owners Association Board, and as Vice President of the organization 1988-1992. Always willing to share his land with others, his Benewah County ownership near St Maries has been a favorite destination for many years. Several generations of outdoor enthusiasts have been allowed to enjoy his Tree Farm there, as well as classroom and other educational outings. His willingness to share with others continued to his last day on earth as he was currently working to develop a system of public trails on his Enchanted Forest holdings near Bonners Ferry. Anyone wishing to do donate toward this goal of Al’s can contact IFOA at info@idahoforestowners.org for more information.

Sonny Poirier, grandson of the original settler of Blanchard, was born in Spokane in 1926. He had spent one semester at the University of Idaho before enlisting for two years in the navy during WWII. Other than this short span, he lived his entire life in Blanchard. After coming home from the navy, he took over management of the family farm. Tending to a variety of agricultural crops, as well as cattle and sheep herds, kept him and his family busy. As the years went by, he concentrated more heavily on growing timber on his land until eventually moving entirely from farming to forest management. Over the years he served on both the Idaho Tree Farm and Idaho Forest Owners Association boards, as well as volunteering with many other community and civic organizations. He was a fixture at every field tour and forest landowner gathering right up to his last days. Always ready with a smile and kind word, he was endlessly interested in the “next new thing” to come along relating to forestry and how he might put it to use. For those of us serving on the Tree Farm board, he was always supportive and encouraging.

Our greatest gratitude and thanks to these men for the things they accomplished and the time they spent with us.

IDL Forest Practices Rule Waiver Request Process

The Idaho Legislature passed Senate Bill 1283 into law, and as of July 1st this new statute (§67-5230 Idaho Code) is in effect, enabling a person to petition an agency requesting the adoption, amendment, or repeal of an administrative rule (<https://legislature.idaho.gov/statutesrules/idstat/Title67/T67CH52/SECT67-5230/>). This requires agencies, like IDL, to facilitate a process for these rule-waiver requests to be submitted and approved. For anyone who has participated in IDL’s recent Idaho Forest Practices Advisory Committee (FPAC) meetings, they know that there are several forestland-owning corporations and individuals wanting to request Forest Practices Act (FPA) rule waivers to 1) implement the “simplified” (shade rule) streamside inventory process, and 2) carry out steep-slope, cable-assisted logging operations without individual variances for each operation.



IDL Forest Practices Rule Waiver Request Process

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IDL has drafted guidance to help forestland owners submit waiver, or variance, requests to implement these two practices. In short, the **waiver** process can be requested to implement practices that vary from the rules across multiple like sites under the same ownership, while the conventional Forest Practices rule **variance** process will be used by family forest landowners who want to implement one of these two activities on a single operational area under a single ownership. For more information, or a copy of this IDL guidance document, contact IDL's Regulatory and Service Program Manager, Gary Hess, at ghess@idl.idaho.gov.

Project Learning Tree Update

Sandra Staff-Koetter

Here is a recap of what's been happening since our last newsletter and a look at some upcoming plans for PLT

2020 was off to a great start, with good enrollments in most PLT workshops.

- March 12 – canceled a March 13-14 workshop due to COVID. Then canceled workshops through May. Then canceled workshops and forest tour through June.
- Compiled resources (ours and others) for a “Learning at Home” web page. <https://idahoforests.org/content-item/learning-at-home/>
- Developed 1-credit Virtual PLT workshops – PLT for PreK-2nd Grades, PLT for K-8th grades, PLT for 6th-12th grades. All three are currently in progress.
- Worked with Idaho Ag in the Classroom and Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission to develop a 1-credit Virtual workshop: “Learn and Teach About Idaho Natural Resources.” The first session is currently in progress. A second session will be offered July 27-August 7. People can watch a short promo video and sign up for the class at www.idahonaturalresources.com. Please spread the word to teachers.
- I presented about PLT's new “Green Jobs: Exploring Forest Careers” unit at the P20 virtual conference today (7/14). <https://p2020csi.sched.com/>. At least 73 people attended this presentation. (I'm not sure of the actual number. It was hard to pay attention to how many people attended while I gave my presentation and managed the Zoom meeting.)
- We have two in-person workshops in Boise next week. Climate Literacy on July 20-21 and Hot Topics-Fire on July 22-23. We made several pandemic accommodations: Meeting totally outdoors. Changed the hours to 7:30 am – 12:30 pm each day + 5 hours of out-of-class instruction. Limited class sizes to allow for appropriate distancing. (Both are full at 15 people.) Require masks, sanitizer between activities, etc.
- We have canceled in-person workshops through 2020. We will likely offer some of our virtual workshops again in the fall.
- We are working on a robust section of our website to tell the Story of Sustainable Forestry. It will be a collection of videos and other resources that help tell the kinds of stories we tell on forest tours.
- We look forward to the days when we can gather with teachers in person in the woods. Virtual experiences are better than nothing, and are greatly improving over what they used to be, but they're no match for experiencing the real thing.

For more information on any of the programs offered by PLT, contact
plt@idahoforests.org



Forest Health Updates, Idaho Department of Lands

Tom Eckberg, Forest Health Program Manager Idaho Dept of Lands

Minor Larch Issues in 2020

Western larch is considered a fairly pest-free tree species when it is grown in the right places. There is no aggressive bark beetle species that attacks it in our area. Thankfully, the eastern larch beetle (*Dendroctonus simplex*), which is a pest of true tamarack in the Upper Midwest, does not occur here. Dwarf mistletoe is probably the most serious forest health issue of western larch, but it can be successfully managed with silviculture. We covered a new boring caterpillar in western larch in the October 2019 issue, and a fact sheet that can be found on the Idaho Department of Lands [Forest Health web page](#). Two minor issues that can affect larch are needle diseases and the larch casebearer, but they rarely cause mortality.

Needle Diseases of Western Larch

Two common needle diseases that occur in our area are larch needle cast (*Meria laricis*) and larch needle blight (*Hypodermella laricis*). These diseases are caused by fungi that thrive during wet spring weather. Since larch grows new needles every year, the effects are not long lasting, but they can cause growth loss if trees are infected in consecutive years. IDL has received reports of larch needle blight in northern Idaho this season. Both of these diseases cause the needles to die, but the symptoms are different. Larch needle cast starts with yellow spots on the needles, which turns them brown and they may eventually fall off the tree. Larch needle blight causes the needles on the spur to wilt and turn brown, but they remain on the tree. Infections tend to be worse in the lower crown. Seedlings can be killed, but larger trees usually do not show lasting damage, though there can be some growth loss. Larch are known to put on a second flush of needles later in the season. There is no management for these needle diseases in forest situations, it is mostly a function of spring and early summer weather.

Larch Case Bearer

Larch case bearer is an introduced moth that causes leaf mining damage on western larch. It was introduced to North America in the late 1800s and was first found in St. Maries in 1957. This insect is very small and hollows out a larch needle, lines it with silk and uses it for protection. These small, straw colored cigar shaped “cases” can be seen on the tree branches. Damaged needles wilt and turn brown and eventually fall from the tree. Damage from this insect varies from year to year, and IDL has received reports of increased damage this year. Early in the season the damage can be confused with needle diseases but tends to be more of a straw color, whereas the needle diseases are reddish or brown. Infested trees can be confirmed by the presence of the larvae inside the cases. Parasitic wasps from the casebearer’s native range were introduced in North America and do a pretty good job keeping populations under control. These nonstinging wasps are very small and are specific to casebearer larvae. Larch casebearer rarely causes lasting damage.

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Forest Health Updates, Idaho Department of Lands

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Figure 1. *Larch needle cast in late September. Note needles are half-red and not wilted.*



Figure 2. *Larch needle blight. Note wilted needles on the spur that can remain on the tree for several years.*

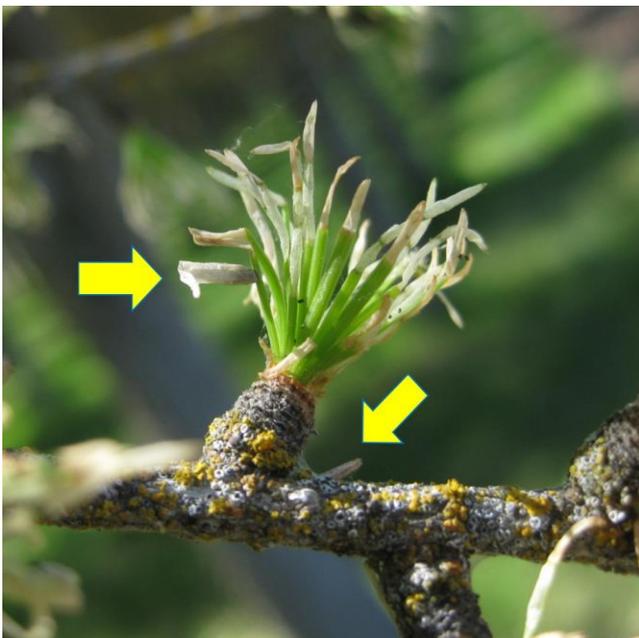


Figure 4. *Larch casebearer damage with larval "cases" (arrows).*



Figure 5. *Larch casebearer damage with adults (arrows).*



Events to Highlight

Sept 12, 2020 – Fall Tour – Hammond Tree Farm, Spirit Lake, ID

Oct 16, 2020 – Idaho Tree Farm Program quarterly meeting – CDA, ID

Jan 21, 2021 - Idaho Tree Farm Program annual meeting – TBA

Stay Informed....

In case you are ever wondering what is going on at the committee level, our Minutes are now being posted on the Idaho Tree Farm Program website. Just log onto our website for Minutes of previous sessions, contact information, upcoming events, and other news of note to help you in your Tree Farm endeavors.

We're on the Web!

Learn more at:
www.idahotreefarm.org

About Our Organization...

The purpose of the Idaho Tree Farm Program is to promote better forest management among family forest owners. The vehicle for achieving this aim is the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS), sponsored nationally by the American Forest Foundation (AFF), statewide by the Idaho SFI State Implementation Committee (SFI SIC), and administered by the Idaho Tree Farm Committee (State Committee).

Welcome New Members!

The Idaho Tree Farm Committee extends a special welcome to the 23 newest Idaho Tree Farm Program's certified members. Thank you to the District Chairs and Inspecting Foresters for promoting membership in the Idaho Tree Farm Program through the American Tree Farm System®.

As a current member, and a steward of the land, we appreciate your current support of the program and your management of the forestland for pride and pleasure. Thank you for your continued commitment to protecting watersheds and wildlife habitat, conserving soil and, at the same time, producing the wood America needs and uses.

Tree Farm Member	Acreage	County	Inspecting Forester
Richard and Susan Feichert	55	Boundary	Philip Dipofi
Robert and Janet Gasser	20	Bonner	Karen Robinson
Robert and Janet Gasser	10	Bonner	Karen Robinson
William and Sylvia Eisele	39	Bonner	Karen Robinson
Robert Lamoreaux	20	Bonner	Karen Robinson
Erwin and Louise Bronsch	23	Bonner	Karen Robinson
William and Leslie Wright	20	Bonner	Karen Robinson
Mary Leiser	102	Bonner	Remington Daniels
Chad Farrell	40	Latah	Robert Barkley
Dudley – 1, LLC Link Property	338	Latah	Robert Barkley
McGee – 1, LLC Cedar Springs Ranch	164	Kootenai	Steve Cuvala
Danny and Kerry Christmann	106	Kootenai	Dennis Parent
Tyler and Shari Eberle	140	Bonner	Remington Daniels
Jalin and Kayla Cassidy	16	Idaho	David Summers
Randall and Lynette Smith	17	Kootenai	Remington Daniels
Luke McDaniel, Cross Mtn Tree Farm	55	Bonner	Andrew Eckberg
Luke McDaniel, Flume Creek Tree Farm	10	Bonner	Andrew Eckberg
Maureen Shelman	21	Boundary	Andrew Eckberg
William Leach, Leach Family Tree Farm	15	Boundary	Andrew Eckberg
Andy Baldus	108	Lewis	John Lillehaug
Robert and Loretta Garrison	69	Bonner	Philip Tuma
Prichard Creek Tree Farm	1,695	Shoshone	Remington Daniels
Jeff and Megan Skibitsky	20	Bonner	Karen Robinson

We look forward to seeing you at the Fall Field Day and Idaho Tree Farm Program Awards Ceremony September 12 at the Hammond Tree Farm near Spirit Lake.

Be on the lookout for your invitation letter and remember to RSVP

Stay Healthy and Stay Safe Until Then!

