

Spring 2022

# Idaho Tree Farm Program

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## 2022 Idaho Tree Farm Program

### Outstanding Award Winners!

After a couple difficult years due to Covid, we were back to an in-person Family Forest Landowners and Managers Conference again this past March. It was a very well attended, informational, and enjoyable time for all. The annual meeting of our Idaho Tree Farm Program was held the first night of the conference, the highlight of which was the announcement of our Outstanding Idaho Tree Farmers, Inspector, and Logger of the year.

The 2022 Idaho Outstanding Tree Farmers award went to Al and Daryl Kyle of Cedar Mountain Farm near Athol, ID. The Kyles are long time members of Tree Farm and familiar faces at the various land stewardship functions throughout each year.

Their journey as Tree Farmers began with Daryl's parents, Wes and Meg Hatch. They had purchased 480 acres of ag and timber land east of Athol in 1950 and began operating a commercial dairy there.



Pictured L-R – Daryl Kyle, nominating Inspector Kirk David, Al Kyle, Tree Farm Interim Vice-President Doug Bradetich

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## 2022 Idaho Tree Farm Annual Meeting Awards (Continued from Page 1)

After completing his service in the U.S. Air Force and earning a master’s degree from Colorado State, Al and Daryl returned in 1974 to make their home on the family farm in Idaho. By then the dairy had ceased operation and the timbered portion of the tract was in need of attention. The pair went to work, beginning with clearing out the crowded lodgepole in the lower elevations of the stand. Several years of sweat and countless cords of firewood, post & pole, and a few sawlogs later, the stand today is a healthy and productive mix of fir and pine sawlogs. The Kyles did as much of the work as their farm equipment allowed, then hired loggers as needed to access and treat the remainder of the parcel. In addition to the harvesting, they also have performed mastication on 150 acres, worked with NRCS on several pond projects, and reforested as needed throughout. In 2001 they started a bed & breakfast business and offer “woods walks” as an activity for their guests. This has allowed many opportunities to introduce folks to our story of Tree Farming and land stewardship. In 1962 the Hatch family signed up for Tree Farm so this year marks 60 years in the program. Hats’ off to Al and Daryl for their care and dedication!

Our Outstanding Inspector for 2022 is Tim Kennedy. Nominating Inspector John Lillehaug said, “Tim started with IDL in 1992 working at the Eastern Idaho Area in Idaho Falls. He built up the private forestry program including being the District 4 Chair for the Idaho Tree Farm Program. In 2005 he transferred to the Southwest Idaho Area in Boise where he continued working with private landowners. About that time District 3 and 4 were combined. Tim retired from IDL about 3 years ago but has continued working part time to cover the private forestry program in southwest Idaho. Last year Tim completed 7 re-inspections including 2 required inspections as he continues to be a big advocate of the Tree Farm program.”



L-R – John Lillehaug, Tim Kennedy, ITFP President Erin Roos



Erin Roos, Sherman Rucker, and Doug Bradetich

Our Idaho Outstanding Logger of the Year is Sherman Rucker of Sandpoint, ID. Sherman’s family moved to Sandpoint in 1940 on a tract he and his siblings still call home. He started in the woods at an early age working with his father, then eventually branching out on his own. He tends to work mostly on smaller to medium sized jobs and often gets neighbor to neighbor referrals due to the fine quality of his work. When asked his philosophy on working on these parcels he said simply “I just treat it like it’s my own”.

Our program couldn’t exist without the hard work of our Inspectors, and all were recognized for their efforts this past year. They were provided with gift cards of various amounts based on the number of inspections completed, and all of them received a winter cap with Tree Farm logo along with our continued thanks.



## Looking for a Few Good Tree Farmers...(for our State Committee)

Our search continues for people willing to serve on our Idaho Tree Farm Committee. The bylaws allow for an unlimited number of Tree Farmers on the committee. It is a great way to take a more active part in our activities and give back a little to the program. You could choose to devote time as a member at large; serve on one of the subcommittees such as bylaws, budget, newsletter, review of candidates for Outstanding Tree Farmer, Logger & Inspector of the year; or volunteer as a committee officer.

A wise man once said, "The world is run by those that show up". If you are interested in stepping up a notch and investing some of your time to our program, contact our State Administrator, Colleen Meek, at [admin@idahotreefarm.org](mailto:admin@idahotreefarm.org) or call her cell at 208-691-5933 to let us know and answer any questions you might have.

## Forestry for Southern Idaho Tour - Wednesday, June 8, 2022

The Squaw Creek Soil District is hosting the tour which will be located in High Valley, an area between Smiths Ferry and Sweet, Idaho. Registration is \$10 and lunch will be provided by the Soil District. The morning session will have coffee and donuts provided by the Idaho Tree Farm program. Topics to be covered include Bugs and Crud by Tom Eckberg, IDL Entomologist; Leave Tree Selection by Randy Brooks U of I Forestry Extension; discussion on the EQIP program by the NRCS, a landowner, and contractor; and an update on the new FPA rules. After lunch we will visit several private landowner timber stands, including a Tree Farm, to observe management treatments and further discuss the morning presentations.

For more information or register for the event, contact IDL Forester Scott Sievers at [ssievers@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:ssievers@idl.idaho.gov) (cell phone 208-634-7125), or District 3 Chair John Lillehaug at [john@allaboutforestry.com](mailto:john@allaboutforestry.com)

## Idaho Tree Farm Program Assessment - Planned for 2023

As part of a "certified" Tree Farm program, Idaho undergoes a third-party assessment every 3-5 years. Our next assessment is slated for 2023. What does this mean to you as a Tree Farmer? The assessment is based on a statistical sample of all the Idaho Tree Farms, segregated into small, medium, and large sized tracts. Parcels are chosen at random by PricewaterhouseCoopers and then either visited on the ground, or as Covid has required the past couple years, the owners contacted by phone interview. Your management plan will be reviewed, and the interviewer will ask some basic questions about your Tree Farm activities. Keep in mind this is an assessment of our program, not of your management. They want to determine if the plans are being kept up to date, inspections happening as requested or required, and more about the basic operation of our committee rather than your Tree Farm. As a part of this your Inspector may be getting in touch over the remainder of this year to dust off your plan and identify any areas needing updates or additions. If you have any questions contact your Inspector, District Chair, or our administrator Colleen at [admin@idahotreefarm.org](mailto:admin@idahotreefarm.org).



## **Bark Beetle and Root Disease Field Day – Friday June 10, 2022, Coeur d'Alene**

University of Idaho Forestry Extension

The last year has brought some very active bark beetle activity to the Idaho panhandle. Root diseases are killing trees here all year long every year. So, this summer UI Forestry Extension is holding a field program focused just on bark beetles and root disease. The field day will provide opportunities to examine bark beetles and root diseases, evaluate stand conditions, and discuss silvicultural practices that increase or reduce tree mortality from bark beetles and root disease. Registration is due by Friday, June 3, 2022. For registration questions, contact the University of Idaho Extension office in Kootenai County at (208) 292-2525.

The Bark Beetle & Root Disease Field Day will be held on Friday, June 10, 2022, in Coeur d'Alene. The program will depart from the North Idaho College (NIC) Parking Lot "A", on Hubbard Street across from the Coeur d'Alene Wastewater Treatment Plant. NIC parking permits are not required on that day.

## **Project Learning Tree Update** Michelle Youngquist

Greetings from Idaho Project Learning Tree and the Education office of the Idaho Forest Products Commission. Here are some highlights of our year so far.

National Project Learning Tree/SFI released *Trees & Me*, a new activity guide for families and teachers of kids ages 1-6: <https://www.plt.org/news/plt-releases-trees-and-me-activity-guide-explore-nature-young-children/>. We look forward to incorporating it into Idaho PLT workshops later this year.

This spring, in addition to our self-guided *PLT Explorations* classes, Idaho PLT worked with our partners in Project WILD, Project WET, Idaho Ag in the Classroom and Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission to provide virtual workshops for teachers. Even though the trainings are virtual, we make sure that people are engaged in hands-on indoor and outdoor experiences that they can use with students and other young people. In-person classes this spring included a semester-long training for Collister Elementary teachers in Boise, and pre-service (future teachers) at University of Idaho. For summer, we're offering in-person classes on schoolyard science, fire, and the new K-8 Explore Your Environment PLT Activity guide. We will also be busy exhibiting and presenting at educator conferences.

In its 12<sup>th</sup> year, the Arbor Day Photo Contest debuted a new theme this year: *Healthy Tree, Healthy Me*. Idaho youth in grades 5-12 submitted photos and statements connecting their photos to the theme. You will be moved by their images and words. Access the winners gallery at <https://contest.idahoforests.org/winners/>.

By the time you're reading this newsletter, winners will have been selected in the *Thru the Trees* Video Contest for high school students in Idaho, Montana, Washington and Oregon. The students highlight forest-related careers in their creative 90-second videos. Learn more and see the winning videos at [www.thruthetrees.org](http://www.thruthetrees.org).

Remember to visit <https://idahoforests.org/education> to access digital and print resources to help you spread the good news about Idaho trees, forests and the rest of the environment.

Questions? Michelle Youngquist, [plt@idahoforests.org](mailto:plt@idahoforests.org), 208-334-4061

## 2022 Idaho State Forestry Contest

The annual state contest will be held at Farragut State Park for the first time since the event began back in 1983. We thank the Ray Delay family for hosting it for all these years. This year's contest will be held Thursday May 12 in the Scott Group Area.

Students grades 7-12 will compete on the Junior/Senior course and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will use the Rookie course. Cash prizes will be awarded the top 3 individuals in both junior and senior divisions as well as top teams taking home the traveling crosscut saw trophies.

There are about 180 students registered to compete accompanied by 76 chaperones, while nearly 200 volunteers are coming to help make the event a success. No barbeque this year, but a sack lunch from Super 1 Foods will be provided for all. Registration begins at 7:30, announcements and the group photo will take place at 8:15, and competition begins soon after. After lunch, the awards will be presented by the Honorary Co-chairman, Sean Hammond and Clay Young.

Sean and Clay were selected for their experience and volunteer work at the contest spanning their junior high and senior high years, then volunteering to help train students, and for the last few years sponsoring the Whistle Stop 4-H team. These individuals are examples that demonstrate the value of the contest for both young and old and the importance of the forest industry to our state.

A big thanks for all of you that contribute both time and donations to keep this 40-year tradition going.

## Idaho Forest Owners Association – Forest Owners Field Day

**June 18, 2022 at Pine Street Woods, Sandpoint, ID**

The Forest Owners Field Day is one of the best opportunities available to forest landowners for in person education of management activities on your land. The field sessions this year include:

**Noxious Weeds and How to Spray 'Em!** - Taylor Bradish, IDL Lands Resource Specialist

**Conservation Easements** - Regan Plumb, Kaniksu Land Trust

& Chris DeForest, Inland Northwest Land Conservancy

**Rodent Control** - Robbie Easley, IDL Lands Resource Specialist

**Wildlife Friendly Forests** - Ken Bevis, Washington DNR Wildlife Biologist

**Forest Health** - Tom Eckberg, IDL Forest Health Program Manager,

Erika Eidson, IDL Forest Health Specialist, & Dan Miller, Forest Pathology

**Planting Forest Seedlings** - Phil Anderson, Washington DNR Intensive Management Forester

**Forest Mushrooms** - Kelly Chadwick, professional arborist & mycology expert

**Idaho Forest Practices Act Shade Rule** - Adrienne Morrow, IDL (Acting) Forest Practices Program Manager

**Small Woodlot Tools** - Tom Repko, Small Woodlot Tools, LLC

**Forestland Pollinators** - Kara Carleton, Idaho Master Gardener Program Coordinator, UI Extension

**Pruning Forest Trees** - Paul Buckland, Chief Forester, Inland Empire Paper Co.

**Aerial Firefighting 101** - Aero Flight, Spokane, WA

Hard to believe you could pack this much good information into one enjoyable day, but it's true!

For more information, contact Idaho Forest Owners Association at: [evpifoa@gmail.com](mailto:evpifoa@gmail.com)

Or register and pay online at: [www.idahoforestowners.org/event-registration](http://www.idahoforestowners.org/event-registration)



## Forest Health Updates – Tom Eckberg, Idaho Dept of Lands

### Pine engraver, drought and winter damage

April, 2022

Pine engraver (*Ips pini*) is a very common native bark beetle that occurs throughout northern North America, and is very abundant in Idaho. This species usually causes problems after wind events or management activity in pines, and during droughts. Pine engraver is most troublesome in ponderosa pine and lodgepole pine in northern Idaho, though in southern Idaho is mostly a problem in ponderosa pine.

Pine engraver is most aggressive when large numbers of trees are windthrown, or green slash is available in the spring. It overwinters as an adult either in trees killed the previous summer or in the duff layer on the forest floor. As soon as temperatures consistently reach about 60° F, the beetles emerge to look for green slash >3" diameter or down trees. This species rarely infests live trees in April or May, preferring slash. Pine engraver has at least two generations per year in Idaho. It may have a third generation in warmer parts of Idaho, and partial third generations have occurred in the Coeur d'Alene area during hot, dry summers.

Adult emergence in the spring typically occurs in mid-late April and continues through May. This year we have had several weeks of cool, wet weather in April in northern Idaho which has slowed them down. Rest assured though, once the weather warms up, they will infest available green, down material. After eggs are laid, the beetles tunnel into the bark and piles of reddish boring dust will appear on the bark. Six weeks after the eggs are laid, adult beetles will emerge in June to look for trees to infest. Slash is preferred, but this generation will attack standing trees if no slash is available. Dense stands of small diameter pines, or the tops of larger trees are attacked. This generation of beetles develops in about another six weeks (late July). This generation usually overwinters as adults to emerge the following spring. In warmer areas of Idaho such as the Clearwater Valley or southern Idaho, During hot, dry summers, a third or partial third generation can occur.

The key to managing pine engraver is to manage the availability of green pine slash.

The best way to avoid problems with this beetle is to avoid having green pine slash available in the winter or spring. If there was some wind or storm damage, clean it up by late April or early May. Overwintering pine engraver rarely attacks standing trees first thing in the spring; problems almost always start with slash piles or down trees. Delaying harvest of pines until mid-July and wrapping up by December will allow most pine slash to dry out by the following spring. If you do decide to harvest or thin pines during the winter or spring, you should take precautions to treat any green slash. Some ways of minimizing (but eliminating) risk include:

- 1). Removing as much of the tree as possible from the site (harvesting posts and poles to a 2" top is a good way to accomplish this).
- 2). Chipping, burning or masticating green topwood or cull logs before spring.
- 3). When whole tree skidding, put unutilized tops and culls >3" diameter at the bottom of the landing pile. During "normal" weather, the green material in the bottom of large landing piles often stays green throughout the flight period of the beetle. When the pile is infested in April or May, the

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**Forest Health Updates** (continued from page 4)

later emerging beetles will often go deeper into the piles and attempt to overwinter there. (Note: we have seen this tactic fail during droughts when the trees are dry when cut, and the weather is hot during the summer).

4). When using cut-to-length equipment, making a slash mat with branches and topwood will protect the soil, and it will also knock the bark off the larger wood and make it unsuitable for beetles.

5). Lop and scatter suitable topwood, but cutting into smaller pieces and moving it into sunny areas to increase drying.



Pine slash with reddish brown boring dust in early May 2019



Pine engraver damaged stand near Worley, October 2021



Pine engraver damage near a log deck at the Kootenai County transfer station in Coeur d'Alene, October 2021



**Events to Highlight**

**May 12, 2022** – Idaho State Forestry Contest, Farragut State Park, Bayview, ID

**June 18, 2022** – 2022 Idaho Forest Owners Field Day, Pine Street Woods, 11915 West Pine Street, Sandpoint, ID

**July 21, 2022** – Idaho Tree Farm Committee Meeting. CDA, ID

**September 10, 2022** – Idaho Tree Farm Program Fall Tour at Cedar Mountain Farm, Athol, ID

**October 15, 2022** - Idaho Tree Farm Committee Meeting. TBD

**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](http://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 2 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
Chris Wheeler	166	Boundary	Kennon McClintock
Dennis Anderson	17	Bonner	Karen Robinson

Have a great spring and we look forward to seeing you at the **Fall Tour at Cedar Mountain Farm near Athol**

Congratulations Al, Daryl and all the Kyle family!!

