

Summer 2023

Idaho Tree Farm Program

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2023 Tree Farm Program Fall Tour

Saturday, Sept 16, 2023

Rainbow's End Tree Farm - Clark Fork, ID

With summer quickly slipping away, it's time once again to mark your calendars and make plans to attend our annual **Fall Tour on Saturday, September 16**. We will be meeting this year just east of Clark Fork, ID on the Rainbow's End Tree Farm, owned by our 2023 Idaho Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year, the Gabrielsen Family. Ample on-site parking is available and Tree Farmers, friends & guests are all welcome to join us for an enjoyable and informative day in the woods.

Directions to the Site:

From the junction of Idaho State Highway 200 and Main Street in Clark Fork, Idaho, travel eastward (toward Montana) on Highway 200 for 3.4 miles. Turn left (north) onto Bear Hill Road (just past Mile Marker 58). Proceed on Bear Hill Road 3/10th mile to Cougar Loop. Turn right onto Cougar Loop and go approximately 1 mile north and up the hill to Taos Road. Turn right and go 1/10th mile to the junction and gate on the right. You have arrived at the Clark Fork parcel of the Rainbows End Tree Farm. Welcome!

Fall Tour Agenda:

The event will begin at 8:00 AM with a social hour of coffee, doughnuts and muffins provided by the Idaho Tree Farm Program. At 9:00 AM we will begin the field tour. Topics to be discussed will include examples of pre-commercial thinning, commercial thinning, blowdown salvaging, reforestation, culvert installation, road rocking and maintenance, vegetation reseeding, light trail construction, and the pluses and minuses of all these forest stewardship activities. Comments and ideas among Tree Farmer peers is encouraged!

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Fall Tour (continued from page 1)

An after-tour lunch is planned for 12:00 noon. Tables & chairs under a “big top” tent, toilets and a wash station will be provided. For those attendees who **RSVP by Monday, September 11th** to Idaho Tree Farm Program Administrator Colleen Meek at (208) 437-4820 or email to admin@idahotreefarm.org, a free picnic lunch will be served. You can bring your own lunch if you prefer. Introductions and news about the Idaho Tree Farm Program and other announcements will be presented at the lunch tent until 1:30PM.

This well-managed forest cared for by an especially knowledgeable Idaho Tree Farm family truly demonstrates why they are Idaho’s 2023 Outstanding Tree Farmers of The Year! Come and enjoy a great day in the woods with us.

2023 Idaho Tree Farm Assessment/Audit

The recent 3rd party assessment/audit of our Idaho Tree Farm Program is officially over. A great big thanks to our District Chairs and Inspectors for their diligence and hard work in getting everything ready for the field audits. Also, an especially big thank you to the 19 Tree Farmers that took part in the field tours. The auditors were very impressed with the quality of the management on our Idaho Tree Farms and the many programs we are involved in. The auditors indicated on several of the stops seeing activities here in Idaho they had not been introduced to in any of the other states.

At our informal state-level meeting following the assessment only a few minor nonconformities or areas for improvement were indicated and no major nonconformities were noted for our Idaho program. The final closing meeting with the official 3rd party results for all the states involved in the 2023 assessment is scheduled in the near future, but at this point it appears we did well overall.

The most common item noted was having our management plans properly address current certification standards. This is a constant housekeeping chore for all the state programs and something we simply need to be proactive in keeping things updated.

Another item new to the 2021 certification standards is documentation of pesticide use commensurate to the level of application (i.e. a simple note of spot spraying along an access road, as opposed to a more detailed record from a commercial application).

Again, thanks to all those involved for helping make this assessment a big success!



Forest Health Updates – Isabella Valdez, Idaho Dept of Lands Entomologist**Woodboring Insects Killing Trees**

The process of wood breakdown and decomposition is one of many natural processes that occur in our forests. This process is often accelerated by woodboring insects. Though these insects are most commonly found chewing through the wood of dead and dying trees, there have been many recent reports of wood borers infesting green trees in Idaho. They have recently been killing trees all on their own.

Woodborers are a diverse group of insects whose lives are mostly spent in the wood tissue of trees and logs. Though there are many kinds of woodboring insects, woodboring beetles are the insects currently observed contributing to tree mortality in Idaho. These beetles are nutrient recyclers, meaning they usually only infest trees that are killed or stressed by something else (i.e. bark beetles, root disease, fire, drought). When they infest trees, the larvae chew their way into the wood of the trees leaving behind tunnels and frass. The effects of these beetles are normally only a management concern to landowners that harvest timber for forest products

However, recent drought conditions in combination with other stress factors have predisposed many live trees to woodborer attacks. All areas in Idaho have been experiencing drought conditions over the last few years, and our trees have been affected, especially those on rocky, south facing slopes. Highly stressed trees emit compounds into the air that are attractive to wood borers, and the adult beetles will fly to those trees to lay their eggs. Once the eggs hatch, the larva will bore into the bark, and begin feeding on the phloem and wood tissue of the trees.



Figure 1. Douglas-fir killed by woodborers with bark chipped off by woodpeckers. (C. Gerhart photo)

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Forest Health Updates (Continued from previous page)

There are two commonly observed families of woodboring beetles: Buprestidae and Cerambycidae. Adult Buprestid beetles are also known as metallic woodborers and the larvae are known as flatheaded woodborers. They are typically almond shaped and often metallic as adults, and the larvae are shaped like a horseshoe nail (Fig. 2 & Fig. 3). They create sawdust-like frass beneath the bark and inside the wood (Fig 4.). The last few years Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) has been getting reports and have observed Douglas-fir and western larch that were infested with flatheaded borers, and woodpeckers had removed the bark (Fig. 1)



Figure 2. Metallic woodborer adult.



Figure 3. Metallic woodborer larva.



Figure 4. Sawdust-like frass

Cerambycid beetles are also known as longhorned beetles or roundheaded woodborers. The adults typically have very long antennae, and the larvae have a rounded head similar in width to the body (Fig. 5 & Fig. 6) They create frass similar to pencil shavings (Fig. 7)



Figure 5. Longhorned beetle



Figure 6. Longhorned beetle larva

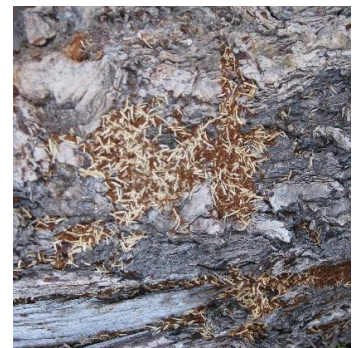


Figure 7. Longhorned beetle frass

Woodboring beetles are not typically very aggressive, and although they are currently contributing to some cases of tree mortality, they are not expected to cause spatially extensive damage. Minimizing tree stress during drought conditions may help prevent tree loss due to woodborer infestation. Maintaining a healthy forest can help to reduce forest health issues, including woodborer infestations.



Forestry for Southern Idaho – Field Day Recap

The Forestry Tour for Southern Idaho was held Wednesday June 14, 2023, and hosted by the Adams County Soil District. Approximately 40 participants started the day at the New Meadows Community Center. The Idaho Tree Farm Committee provided the morning refreshments while John Lillehaug, District 3 Chair gave a short talk on what is a Tree Farm and the value a landowner may receive from being involved. IDL Entomologist Tom Eckberg and staff led the discussion on “Bugs and Crud” which included a very good PowerPoint presentation. Then the topic turned to discussion of the Shared Stewardship Program in which the New Meadows area is one of the main focal points within southern Idaho. After a great lunch provided by the Adams Soil District everyone headed for the field. At the first stop Randy Brooks, U of I Extension Forester, gave a demonstration of tree planting and how to measure trees to determine the volume. The next stop was at the Circle C Development where Charlie Munden, Adams County Soil District Board Supervisor, explained the 3 demo sites they contracted to show the benefits of mastication to reduce risk of wildfire. At the next stop IDL Forester Sam Wittell and John Lillehaug discussed the IDL contract that was being used to masticate several landowner’s properties under the Shared Stewardship Program. This work on private property dovetails with the work the Payette National Forest is doing under the “No Boundaries Forestry” concept to reduce wildfire risk. One of the landowners gave his impression of the work and future benefits. Lots of good discussion and many questions answered during the tour.

Idaho State Forestry Contest Updates

The Idaho State Forestry Contest celebrated its 40th anniversary last year. For many students, this is a chance to come and showcase their forestry skills & exchange the four walls of a classroom for a day emersed in nature. For the past two years the Idaho State Forestry Contest has called Farragut State Park home. It doesn’t appear that the site will be changing anytime soon. The Idaho Parks and Recreation Department has been working with the Idaho Department of Lands to conduct some management for permanent stations for the Forestry Contest, as well as an interpretive loop for the public to enjoy. This project will consist of numerous phases with the first phase to hopefully be completed by the next Forestry Contest in May of 2024. The first phase will consist of a direct sale being set up and administered using the Idaho Department of lands to treat an estimated 20 acres. The goal is to continue the great work that has been done in the park with the Scott Group Area. Logging on the sale is set to occur between Labor Day and Spring Break Up. The next phase would include a fuels treatment on the area. Following that some interpretive signs could be placed along the areas where management has occurred.



Events to Highlight

Sept 16, 2023 – 2023 Idaho Tree Farm Program Fall Tour. Rainbow's End Tree Farm, Clark Fork, ID

October 19, 2023 – Idaho Tree Farm Committee Meeting, IDL Mica office, CDA

January 18, 2024 – Idaho Tree Farm Committee Meeting, IDL Mica office, CDA

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 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
Mike and Janet Moyle	95	Clearwater	Frank Luther
Johnny and Jacqueline Wilson	10	Idaho	Parker Wilson

We look forward to seeing everyone September 16 at the Fall Tour in Clark Fork

Be sure to RSVP to Colleen Meek at admin@idahotreefarm.org by September 11

Have a safe rest of your summer, and we will see you in the Fall

