

Summer 2024

Idaho Tree Farm Program

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2023-2024

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2023-2024

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2024 Idaho Tree Farm Fall Tour

Groth Family Forest - Kingston, ID

Our Idaho Tree Farm Program Fall Tour will be held this year on **Saturday, September 14, 2024, in Kingston, ID**. If you are planning to attend (and we hope you are) remember to **RSVP to Colleen at admin@idahotreefarm.org by August 31st**, or call her cell at 208-691-5933 so we can get a good head count for the lunches.

The tour will be held at the Groth Family Tree Farm, our 2024 Idaho Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year, at **Kingston, ID 83839**. The driving directions are as follows: Take freeway out of Coeur d'Alene go East on 1-90, take exit 43 towards Kingston. Turn Right off the exit, then turn right on Silver Valley Road. The parking area at **42946 Silver Valley Road** is on the left just past the gas station at 42946 Silver Valley Road. From there we will shuttle people up to the tour site by vans. Plan to be at the parking area by 8:00 AM to allow time to arrive at the tour site.

Once shuttled to the Groth Family Tree Farm our day will consist of a coffee, muffin and doughnut social hour at 8:30 AM, then at 9:30 AM we will head to the woods. We will spend the morning on a walking tour of their Tree Farm and wrap up around 11:30 AM.

Planned stops on the walking tour include areas of fuel breaks, viewing and discussion of the various machines used in their management, areas of recent harvest and those planned for upcoming harvests, a couple recreational sites, and some examples of road work on the Tree Farm. Be sure to wear proper footwear and dress appropriately as we will continue with the tour rain or shine! Lunches and beverages will be provided by the Idaho Tree Farm Program. During lunch we will have a short presentation of current happenings with Tree Farm and should be done by 12:30 PM

The event is open to Tree Farmers and non-Tree Farmers alike. We look forward to seeing you there!

Forest Health Updates – Erika Eidson, Idaho Dept of Lands Entomologist

Western redcedar dieback

Information summarized from the western redcedar dieback storymap by Betsy Goodrich (USFS R6), Melissa Fischer (WADNR), Christine Buhl (ODF)

<https://arcg.is/ezSaf>

Western redcedar is an ecologically, economically, and culturally important species native to Canada, AK, WA, ID, OR, MT, and northern CA. In recent years, land managers have observed western redcedar dieback, especially from Oregon to Canada. Pockets of dieback have even been observed in areas where they would normally thrive, such as along streams and in shaded areas.

Sometimes 'dieback' symptoms on western redcedar are normal, such as fall leaf drop and the 'sunburn effect' (when cedar grow up in shaded conditions, but are suddenly exposed due to harvest or disturbance, the shock causes their crowns take on a discolored, thin appearance). It is also normal for western redcedar foliage to appear more purplish-brown during winter months, but return to green in summer. Symptoms concerning western redcedar dieback include thinning crowns, branch dieback, top kill, chlorosis (yellow foliage), heavy cone crops, and mortality in the absence of typical causal factors.

Novel insects or diseases have not been observed and are not considered the main causal agents of this epidemic. Native insects that infest western redcedar are typically secondary, meaning that they are not aggressive tree-killing species, but rather opportunistic pests that can only attack dead and dying redcedar. Western redcedar is susceptible to various root and butt rot pathogens, but pathogens have not been present at all sites with recorded western redcedar dieback. Given the range-wide dieback and lack of consistent biotic factors, the cause of western redcedar dieback may be abiotic.

The western U.S. has been seeing increased droughty periods, especially during the summer months, as well as an increase in temperature. In addition to chronic droughts, acute drought events can cause sudden pulses of damage and dieback. The 2021 heat dome event resulted in widespread reports of damage that was especially severe in drought-intolerant species such as western redcedar.

In 2020, Oregon Department of Forestry and Washington Department of Natural Resources developed an app using Survey 123 to research western redcedar dieback. The app can be used to record locations where western redcedar dieback is occurring and to take measurements at these sites. Forest health professionals in Idaho began using the app and installing western redcedar monitoring plots this year, and plan to continue research in coming years. Overall, hundreds of monitoring sites have been recorded in OR, WA, and ID so far. Permanently marked locations across the pacific northwest allow forest health professionals to follow western redcedar symptoms over time and investigate questions like:

- What symptoms are present and where do these occur?
- How quickly do symptoms develop?
- Do dying tops or thinning crowns result in dead trees?
- How quickly do trees die?

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Western Redcedar Dieback (continued from page 2)

Initial data analysis was performed last year on plot data from Washington and Oregon (Idaho data had not yet been added). It is important to note that the analyzed plots were only located in areas with symptomatic western redcedar. Healthy cedar were not initially included in the study, so comparisons with a control group were limited. Moving forward, forest health professionals in Idaho have decided to include both healthy and unhealthy cedar in Idaho monitoring efforts. Therefore, Idaho analyses and results may differ, but key findings from early Washington and Oregon data are summarized below:

1. The most common symptom of western redcedar dieback was thinning crowns, followed by branch dieback. Other symptoms were topkill, yellowing, browning, and stress cone crop.
2. No biotic damage agent (e.g., insect, disease, etc.) has been found associated with western redcedar dieback across the region so far.
3. More western redcedar dieback sites were observed at lower elevations compared to the full western redcedar distribution across the PNW.
4. Frequency of western redcedar dieback locations were highest in low elevation, urban corridors in western Washington and northwestern Oregon.
5. In central and eastern Washington, low summer climate moisture index was the first chosen climate predictor variable, but it was not a strong predictor variable separating sites with dieback from the entire western redcedar distribution.
6. Monitoring trees with larger diameter base height tended to be in stands with lower basal area of unhealthy western redcedar.

Interpretation: Larger diameter trees may be more vigorous and can better overcome site or climate stress.

7. Dense stands tended to also have a higher proportion of symptomatic western redcedar basal area as well as a slower diameter growth.

Interpretation: More competition may result in a larger proportion of unhealthy western redcedar that gain less diameter growth each year.

8. Intermediate crown classes exhibited faster diameter growth in more recent years than did trees in other crown classes.

Interpretation: trees growing at intermediate crown classes may benefit from more shading and have fewer water needs than larger trees

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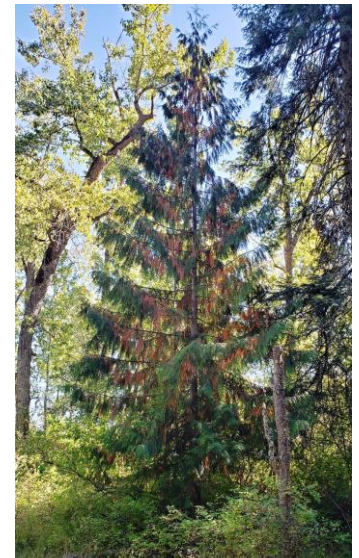
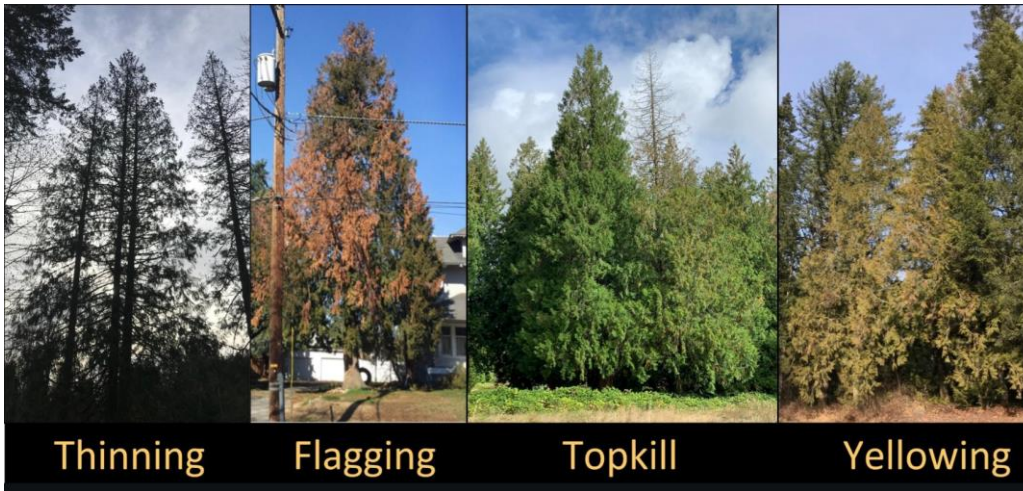


Western Redcedar Dieback (continued from page 3)

Sometimes healthy trees were located adjacent to unhealthy trees. The general observation was that the healthy trees were shaded out, often in the understory, sometimes by topography, whereas the unhealthy trees were overstory trees or open-grown trees; trees that had more exposure to sunlight and wind. Given the fact that many of these trees are located right along streams where they should be receiving plenty of water, trees exposed to more sunlight and wind may be respiring more than trees that are shaded-out, resulting in drought stress driven by microsite differences in addition to hotter and drier conditions. Site factors that affect microclimate such as sloped topography or soil water-retention capacity may be further compounding drought stress conditions.

If you have dying or symptomatic western redcedar at a site, current and future conditions may be too dry and warm for the species during intense or long periods of drought, but research on this topic is ongoing.

Typical Symptoms of Western Redcedar Dieback



Normal leaf drop in healthy Cedar

Project Learning Tree Update (Haven Davis-Martinez)

Greetings from Idaho Project Learning Tree and the Education office of the Idaho Forest Products Commission.

The summer kicked off with Haven Davis-Martinez starting as the new Education and Outreach Coordinator. Haven took the reins from Michelle Youngquist, who recently retired after 30 years in the position. Haven was born in Sandpoint, Idaho and has lived in Boise since 2020. She earned a Master of Natural Resources in Environmental Education and Science Communication, and a B.S. in Elementary Education from the University of Idaho. She has taught a variety of subjects including reading during her Peace Corp Service, first grade, math intervention, and enrichment at Future Public School, and field science at the McCall Outdoor Science School. She is excited to continue her career in environmental education with Project Learning Tree/IFPC and to work alongside

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Project Learning Tree Update (Continued from page 4)

people who are equally passionate about our environment, natural resources, education, and our statewide community.

Our annual *Sustainable Forestry Tour for Teachers & Counselors*, based out of Moscow, took place at the end of June. We spent the week with 24 outstanding educators and helped them explore the full circle of sustainable forestry. Below are a few quotes from participants about their experience.

"I liked seeing how every part of the forest industry is playing a role in the sustainability of our forests."

"I loved hearing about the passion that people in this industry have for the forests and their work in them."

"This was an amazing experience and would be a valuable week for anyone who loves Idaho and the abundant forests."

We are grateful for our generous sponsors, including Idaho Tree Farm Program. Here is a quick video about the week: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bl6zFnq-9DQ&t=13s>

Questions? Haven Davis-Martinez, plt@idahoforests.org, 208-863-1512

Idaho State Forestry Contest (Kurt Koetter, Forestry Contest Committee)

The 2024 Idaho State Forestry Contest was again a great success. Though student numbers were down somewhat this year to 198, contestants, volunteers, and career fair displayers all felt all went well. A big thank you goes out to all that donated to and volunteered for the contest.

Individual Winners:

Seniors

- 1st - Jonathan McComas
- 2nd- Samantha Guadagnini
- 3rd- Alanna Hinkle

Juniors

- 1st - Caitlyn Cramer
- 2nd- James Smith
- 3rd - Samuel Wenstrom

Rookies

- 1st - Elsie Turcotte
- 2nd - Lucy Cates
- 3rd - Solomon Mort

Team Winners:

Seniors

- 1st - Whistlestop 4-H
- 2nd - Careywood Eager Beavers 4-H
- 3rd - Orofino High School

Juniors

- 1st - Whistlestop 4-H
- 2nd - Selle Valley Carden School Team 2
- 3rd - Selle Valley Carden School Team 3

Rookies

- 1st - Selle Valley Carden School Team 5
- 2nd - Hidden Valley Academy
- 3rd - Whistlestop 4-H

Congratulations to all that participated this year and hope to see you in May 2025!



Events to Highlight

Sept 14, 2024 – Idaho Tree Farm Program Fall Tour, Groth Family Forest, Kingston, ID

Oct 17, 2024 – Idaho Tree Farm Committee Meeting, CDA, ID

Jan 16, 2024 – Idaho Tree Farm Committee Meeting, CDA, ID

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
Kelly & Duane Olson	311	Boundary	Kennon McClintock
Nancy Hadley & James Aiken	160	Bonner	Doug Bradetich



Have a safe rest of your summer.

Make plans to gather with us at the Fall Tour on the Groth Family Forest September 14 in Kingston

We hope to see you there!

