



News Release

Discoloration of ponderosa pine needles observed in northern Idaho

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(COEUR D'ALENE) - Yellow discoloration of ponderosa pine foliage has been observed in parts of north central and northern Idaho. The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) says landowners should not assume the trees are dead from bark beetle attack, and encourages them to wait until June to see if new needles grow before deciding whether to cut down the trees.



Above: Photo of ponderosa pine showing signs of observed condition.

Specific areas where the pine damage has been observed include much of the mid-elevations (1,500 to 2,800 feet) in the Clearwater Valley, Cavendish, and the Deary-Moscow area, as well as Coeur d'Alene, Hauser, and Rathdrum. It also has been observed in the Spokane and Deer Park areas.

IDL forest health specialists are investigating the cause of the tree damage. The damage resembles symptoms of common pine needle diseases, but winter injury is a possible cause.

The observed condition should not affect the long-term health of the trees because needle buds appear healthy and new needles should grow this spring.

From a distance trees that are heavily affected by this condition may appear to be attacked by bark beetles. Trees should be inspected closely to determine if bark beetles are also present in the trees. **There is a difference between the observed condition and bark beetle attack, which kills trees.**

Landowners are advised to wait until June to see if new needles develop on ponderosa pine trees that show yellow needle discoloration, then decide how to manage the trees.

Detailed information on how to recognize the damage and differentiate it from bark beetle attack is available [here](#).

IDL Private Forestry Specialists also are available in offices across the region to assist forest land owners. A list of IDL office locations and contact information is available [here](#).

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