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Greetings from UI Extension by Bill Warren

Many of you are still recovering from the disastrous wildfires that visited our area in 2015. We hope that you are making good progress on recovering your property.

The Winter edition of our Newsletter is sent out to a direct-mail list of rural land owners (five acres and above) in the Clearwater Valley. Because of cost we only mail to all landowners once a year (last year we sent out an additional direct-mail Newsletter because of the fires) to provide an overview of our programming for the new year.

Because of last year’s fires we will be doing additional fire-related programming this year. This will include two programs on Reducing Fire Risk in the Wildland-Urban Interface, one in Kamiah and the other in Orofino, a Fire Recovery Conference planned for Kamiah that will report to the public the results of the multi-agency post-fire assessment focused on private lands, as well as presentations on “where do we go from here,” reducing fire risk at the landscape scale, and a discussion of the reasons for the increasingly severe wildfires that we are experiencing in Idaho and the rest of the western states in the last several years.

In addition, workshops are planned on creating fire-resistant landscapes, and a field day will be held near Kamiah touring fire-damaged timber and assessing forest insect and disease risk from the 2015 fires. Additional fire-related programming could be provided as we learn more about the public’s needs stemming from last year’s fires.

Other programming planned for this year includes our annual So You Want to Buy a Ranch?: Rural Land Purchasing 101, our Small Farms and Community Food Systems series, and a workshop on Variable...
Jalapeno Jelly Recipe
Makes about 5 half pints. Waterbath Canning

12 or Jalapeno Peppers (12)
2 cups cider vinegar, divided
6 cups sugar
2 oz. pouches liquid pectin Ball

RealFruit
Green food coloring, optional
5-1/2 pint jars, lids, rings


- Puree peppers in food processor or blender with 1 cup cider vinegar and sugar. Bring to a boil over high heat. Boil 10 minutes, stirring frequently.
- Add RealFruit Liquid Pectin, immediately squeezing entire contents from pouches. Continue to boil hard for 1 minute, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Add food coloring, if using, and skim foam if necessary.
- Ladle hot jalapeno jelly into hot jars leaving 1/4 inch headspace. Wipe rim. Center lid on jar. Apply band until fit is fingertip tight. Wipe rim. Center lid on jar. Apply band until fit is fingertip tight.
- Process in a boiling water canner 5 minutes, depending on altitude. Remove jars and cool. Check lids after 24 hours. Lids should not flex up and down when center is pressed.

Flecked with tiny bits of peppers, this zesty jalapeno jelly adds a jewel-like flair to cheese trays.

Ball Fresh Preserving
www.freshpreserving.com

Cont. from pg.1 (Greetings)

Density Thinning for Forest Landowners, Top Ten Weeds in the Clearwater Valley (and how to manage them), and Ventenata Field Day. In addition, we are developing programs on the forest ecology and policy history of the basin, Rural Land Ownership 101, and on non-timber forest products. Finally, the Idaho Forest Owners Association is planning their annual Forest Owners Field Day at the Reggear Tree Farm near Orofino this year.

Pesticide Clinic
March 9, 2016 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Orofino Community Church

March 10, 2016 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
 Lewiston: Idaho Fish & Game

Contact: Denny Williams
208-476-4918
No Cost, No Pre-registration
ID Pesticide Credits Requested

Idaho Pre-Licensing Training for Pesticide Applicators
Lewiston, ID
March 1 – 4, 2016
Brochures/registration forms may be obtained from your local Extension office.

Winter-fallen Trees and Bark Beetles (cont.)

- Winter fallen trees from some species are almost never a bark beetle hazard. There are bark beetles that breed in fallen cedar, and hemlock, but they do not emerge to attack standing green trees.
- Trees dead longer than one year are not a bark beetle hazard. Even if those trees were at one time infested with bark beetles, the offspring have already left. You will often find insects in them that are superficially similar to bark beetles, but they are not usually insects that kill trees. The same goes with large wood boring insects (commonly found working in dead trees or firewood). These insects rarely kill trees. In fact, they are beneficial to forests, to the extent they start tearing apart dead trees, making them less of a fire hazard and recycling their nutrients back to the forest. They also provide food for a variety of wildlife species.
- Beyond these types of winter-deposited materials, hazard from bark beetles also depends on the size and species of the trees in the immediate area that might be attacked. For example, you may have fallen Douglas-fir of appropriate size, species, and freshness, but if the standing green trees in the immediate area are all too small or of a different species (say ponderosa pine), you do not have a potential bark beetle problem.
- A final note: sometimes landowners cut green trees that have fallen in their forest into firewood sized pieces, and stack it up in the woods to cure. Cutting green stemwood into firewood-sized pieces often has little effect on its suitability as bark beetle habitat (particularly for pine engraver beetle). Bark beetles that breed in downed stem wood will still do this successfully in firewood-sized pieces. If it is a green enough to be a bark beetle hazard, remove it or de-bark it.

For more information on bark beetles and other forest insects, your local University of Idaho Extension office has a number of publications with more information. For on-site technical assistance regarding whether you are likely to have bark beetle problems as a result of trees that have fallen or broken during winter storms, contact your local Idaho Department of Lands Office. Thanks to Sandy Kegley, USFS and Tom Eckberg, IDL, for their review of this article.

Ready, Set, Grow Your Business
2200 Michigan Ave., Orofino, ID
FREE workshop series for business owners and those considering starting a small business.

February 5, 2016 9am – 11am
Managing Your Finances for Cash Flow

February 12, 2016 9am – 11am
Building Your Business

February 19, 2016 9am – 11am
Creating an Effective Elevator Pitch

February 26, 2016 1pm – 3pm
Using Social Media to Get the Job Done

Contact UI Extension, Nez Perce County at 208-799-3096 or by email nezperce@uidaho.edu for additional information or to pre-register.

Contact Us!

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Fax: (208) 476-4111
extension.uidaho.edu/clearwater

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Meladi Page
Extension Secretary
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Know someone who would enjoy a copy of our Newsletter? Let us know, we will be happy to send them a copy. Then they can decide for themselves and let us know if they would like to be on our regular mailing list. Email: clearwater@uidaho.edu or call 208-476-4434.

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Winter-fallen Trees and Bark Beetles

By Chris Schnepf, Area Extension Educator—Forestry, UI Extension

November 17, 2015 brought massive wind storms to the Inland Northwest. During high wind events such as this, it is very common to see trees falling over at the roots or breaking off mid-bistle, particularly if there is a deformity or fork in the bole. Downed and broken trees are more common on sites that have recently had timber harvest, are exposed to more wind, or have root disease issues. Many landowners correctly begin to ask questions about bark beetle hazards when they see downed trees. Given the date these trees fell down, they may well be green enough in the spring for bark beetles that breed in downed trees to successfully complete their development, emerge, and then attack nearby green trees. If enough trees have fallen to make a timber sale viable, that can solve the problem if the stemwood over three inches in diameter is removed before the next June. But what if the volume is too small to justify a timber sale? The downed trees may not have to be removed to prevent bark beetle problems, and downed trees do a lot of good in a forest, providing nutrients and adding to forest soil structure. They also provide food and habitat for insects and other organisms that further benefit soil fertility and structure. Downed trees must be of a specific species and size to breed beetles that present a hazard to standing trees. Three bark beetle species are most likely to breed on downed trees in Idaho’s family forests: pine engraver beetle, Douglas-fir beetle, and fir engraver beetle.

Pine Engraver Beetle
Pine engraver beetle (Ips pini) (also referred to by its genus name “Ips”) is responsible for most of the occasions in Idaho family forests where insects emerge from downed trees to attack and kill standing green trees. Pine engraver beetles and their larvae feed on lodgepole and ponderosa pines. They usually focus on sapling to pole sized trees or tops of larger trees. In late spring, pine engraver beetles will attack pines that have fallen in the winter, breed, and then emerge later in the summer to attack standing green pines. The key issue with Ips beetles is to remove or treat bole wood (larger than three inches in diameter) from winter fallen trees. Either debark it, burn it, or remove it from the site.

Douglas-fir Beetle
As the name implies, the Douglas-fir beetle (Dendroctonus pseudotsugae) is a bark beetle that feeds predominantly on large diameter, mature Douglas-fir (it rarely attacks larch). In the spring, Douglas-fir beetle attack and breed in trees that fell in the previous winter’s storms. A year later in the following spring and summer, they emerge from the fallen trees to attack standing green trees, individually, or in groups (which become larger during epidemics). They have one generation per year. Standing green trees do not usually fade until one year after attack. If you have winter-fallen Douglas-fir that are larger than 5 inches in diameter, remove, burn, or debark them. You can also monitor them for attack. If you see trees on the ground this size, with red-orange boring dust in bark crevices, and upon cutting away the bark find larval galleries, they have been attacked and should be removed, burned, or debarked.

Fir Engraver Beetle
The primary host for fir engraver beetles (Scolytus ventralis) are grand fir. While they are not as commonly a problem with downed stems as Ips or Douglas-fir beetles, fir engraver beetles sometimes breed in wind-thrown grand fir and tops of grand fir (over 4 inches in diameter), then emerge to attack new trees from June to September, most often during droughts. Not all of the attacks of standing trees are lethal - some simply kill patches of tissue, or kill tops. If you have winter-fallen green grand fir larger than four inches in diameter, and upon cutting away the bark from those trees in the early summer, find main galleries scoring the wood and running 2-4 inches perpendicular to wood grain, remove or debark them to prevent attacks to standing trees.

Generalizations about Bark Beetles and Winter-fallen Trees
• There are a few rules of thumb that can be deduced from the biology of the bark beetles that breed in winter fallen trees:
• Winter broken tops and trees smaller than 3 inches in diameter are never a bark beetle hazard. Occasionally Ips or other minor bark beetles will attack smaller diameter materials, but the material usually dries out, starving the larvae before they develop fully.

Fire Season 2016?
by Bill Warren
We don’t know yet what the 2016 fire season risk will be like for our area. Currently (Feb. 4), the NRCs lists the snowpack of the Clearwater Basin at 95% of the median in snow water equivalence, and precipitation in the basin since the beginning of the water year (Oct. 1) at 100% of average (1981-2010). Our region is still classified as being in drought, although the intensity of drought has improved from Extreme (last summer and fall) to Moderate. However, our current drought is predicted to persist through at least April.

The Wildland Fire Potential Outlook (National Interagency Fire Center) NIFC issued February 1 is predicting above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation for our region for the month of February and for the March through May time period. However, NIFC does indicate that wetter conditions could develop in the Northern Rockies beginning in late April, along with colder temperatures that could delay spring snow melt. If snow cover in the mountains is prolonged this could help to reduce fire risk based on past analysis by the National Weather Service on the extent of mountain snow pack in May and the subsequent severity of the wildfire season.

Currently, the National Weather Service’s Climate Prediction Center is calling for above normal temperatures for our area in the period July-September, with an equal chance of either below or above normal precipitation during this period. “Normal” for our area during this time is to have little precipitation (this is usually the driest part of our year).

Regardless of what the fire season shapes up to be this year, we urge you to take precautions to reduce fuels around your home and other property at risk. There are several publications on reducing fire risk that are available from the Extension office, in addition to the public programs we will be providing on this topic in the spring.

Idaho Hay Report
Idaho Hay and Forage Association
Alfalfa

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Friday, February 5, 2016

Idaho Forest Owners Association
“Got Trees”
Idaho Forest Owners Association can help you learn to keep them healthy and growing!
Consider joining Idaho Forest Owners Association
Email IFOA at: info@idahoforestowners.org
www.idahoforestowners.org

A Sampling of Current Log Prices from Local Mills—January 2016

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