Flora Fauna

Ponderosa Pine
(Pinus ponderosa)

> Deer and elk commonly use Ponderosa Pine forests for food and shelter.

Explore Idaho with Scout the Fox!

Scout

How to Identify:

- It is a three-needled pine meaning that its needles are found in bundles, or "fascicles," of three.
- Mature trees have orange-brown bark with distinctive large plates.
- Cones are oval and prickly.
- Some Ponderosa Pines can grow to be over 200 feet tall!

Habitat:

- Found across the western United States and even into southern Canada and northern Mexico
- Typically found at elevations between 3,000-9,000 feet in both moist and dry mountain sites
- In Ponderosa State Park, they are found with Douglas Firs, Western Larches, and huckleberries.

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Fun Facts!

- Ponderosa Pines can survive low intensity wildfires. One reason is because they have thick bark!
- Other wildlife you might find in Ponderosa Pine habitat include: black bears, red foxes, bald eagles, bobcats, moose, and snowshoe hares!

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Conservation Issues

- The Western Pine Beetle is a pest that damages and kills Ponderosa Pines. Older trees and dense stands are most at risk. The first indication of an attack is boring dust in bark crevices or at the base of a tree in spring/summer months.

- Other indications that a Ponderosa Pine has been attacked by the Western Pine Beetle are maze-like egg galleries below the bark or outer layers of bark that have been flaked off by woodpeckers that are feeding on the beetle larvae.

- We work to keep our forests healthy to prevent beetle kills! We do this by removing infested trees and thinning the forest when necessary to keep the trees from overcrowding and to keep the beetles out.

ACTIVITY TIME

1. Can you find a Ponderosa Pine near you? Smell its bark. Some people think the bark smells like vanilla, some people think it smells like butterscotch. Which does it smell like to you?

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