



Newsletter of the Idaho Native Plant Society • Promoting Interest in Idaho's Native Flora

2022 INPS Annual Meeting: Plants and History of Clearwater Forest Communities

Article and Photos by Penny Morgan

When: June 23-27, 2022

What: Join your White Pine Chapter hosts to explore the fascinating flora with the natural and human history in the Clearwater River drainage! We will camp along the Wild and Scenic Lochsa River, adjacent to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area. Lewis and Clark traveled through here, as did many Native Americans before and since. The area is home to many coastal disjunct species and has a long history of fires, human use for recreation, timber production, fishing, and other delights. We welcome INPS members and non-member guests.

Our field trips will be fascinating! At Packer Meadows, see wet meadows where the Nez Perce, early trappers, and the Lewis and Clark expeditions camped. These meadows are home to more than 150 different plant species, including camas and sundews. Learn about the many native plants growing in the groves and the recent declining health of many western redcedar trees in this area. We will also explore habitats for many coastal disjunct species. Snow and weather permitting, attendees will experience the subalpine forest habitats to learn about whitebark pine ecology and restoration efforts while our field trip leaders highlight local history and scenery.

Where: We will gather at the Wilderness Gateway Campground on the Lochsa River along US 12, 122 miles east of Lewiston. We have reserved the Pavilion and all 26 campsites in Loop A for our meeting. If



Lush undergrowth found during the 2021 Annual Meeting.



An alpine meadow full of camas.

you wish us to hold one of these reserved campsites in Loop A, send us an email. We will include the cost for 4 nights in your registration; each site holds up to 8 people in 2 vehicles. If you prefer to reserve a campsite on one of the other loops or in another campground, you can visit recreation.gov or call (877) 444-6777. There are other campgrounds and some hotels, though none are nearby. We advise getting your campground reservations soon!

Info: Please visit the INPS webpage (<https://idahonativeplants.org/statewide-annual-meeting/>) to find more information. As we finalize details, we will post updates about the tentative schedule of field trips, costs, and other details. For more information, please get in touch with us at whitepine.treasurer@gmail.com.

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Letter from the President

Greetings to all INPS members. Somehow, I slipped past the security guards at the INPS Annual Meeting this past June to be elected the new INPS president. My first order of business is to offer a sincere thank you to my predecessor Steve Love for his 6 years of dedicated service. Under Steve's leadership INPS worked hard to meet its mission of advancing the understanding and appreciation of our native flora and preserving this rich heritage for future generations. Fortunately, Steve remains on the INPS Board as vice-president, where I am certain he will continue to be a voice for native plants and a source of ideas and thoughtfulness.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize the other INPS Board members—Janet Bala, Karen Getsky, Vicki Henderson, Mel Nichols, and LaMar Orton. I look forward to working with them on helping INPS meet its commitments to Idaho's native plants and to the organization's membership. Without mentioning all the names, I want to say thank you to all officers, board members, and other contributors for the seven INPS Chapters. In many ways you are the glue that holds INPS together and allows the organization to prosper.

Peak wildflower season has come and gone now that the fall season is upon us. Still, it is a grand time to be in the hills and valleys enjoying the changing colors and late-season bloomers of our flora. Getting to know some of favorite plants during different seasons means you will never be alone on a hike, no matter the time of year. I hope everyone had at least a few opportunities to get out this past spring/summer for time in their favorite places and native plant habitats. With no shortage of sad and discouraging news in the world, time spent with and appreciating Idaho's native flora can be a source of delight, refuge, and both physical and mental restoration.

Please feel free to contact me if you have ideas to improve the programs and roles INPS plays to advance its mission and serve its members. You can also contact me if you have any concerns or would like to be more involved with INPS. Happy fall season!

Michael Mancuso,
INPS President

Citizen Science

Community Scientists Needed for Redcedar Research

Article and Photos by Joey Hulbert

Community science

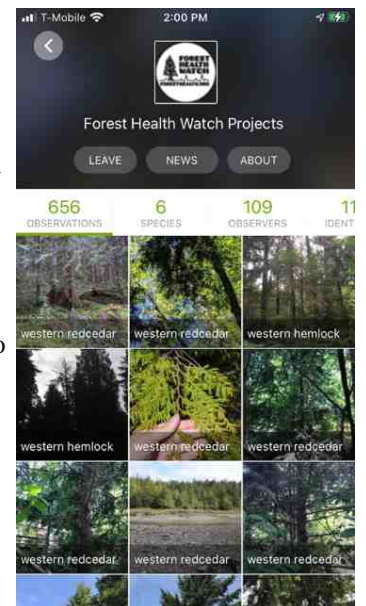
Members of the INPS are encouraged to participate in the Forest Health Watch program to accelerate research and promote understanding of the drivers and consequences of forest health issues. The pilot project invites community scientists to share observations of healthy and unhealthy redcedar trees to better understand the factors driving the dieback of this important tree species. Observations from the Inland Northwest are particularly needed to better understand the status of redcedar populations and the breadth of the dieback issue. *Sage Notes* readers can visit the Forest Health Watch webpage to sign-up as community scientists, learn more about the concerns for western redcedar, or find instructions for contributing to research.

Western redcedar

Western redcedar is a charismatic and important tree species in the northwest. Growing from California to western Montana, and north through most of British Columbia into to southeast Alaska, the tree species has an enormous footprint in the region.

Ecologically, redcedar is critical for services such as providing habitat, stabilizing shallow and floodplain soils, and regulating stream temperatures for species such as salmon. Redcedar usually grows in mixed stands, but pure redcedar groves can still be found and some of the stands with the highest density of redcedar are present in Northern Idaho.

Western redcedar has also played a critical role in the cultural and industrial heritage of the Northwest. It is often referred as the 'tree of life' because of the generous diversity of gifts it has provided to many indigenous communities since time immemorial. Redcedar was also



Screenshot of Forest Health Watch community science program on iNaturalist app.

a key component of the industrial development of many Northwest settlements, with many mills and wood product manufacturers at the center of most modern-day municipalities. Still today, Idaho towns such as Troy are thriving because of the specialty products created from western redcedar trees growing in the region.

Redcedar dieback

Many reports of increased levels of tree dieback (the slow death of woody plants) have been shared in recent years, particularly since 2015 when the Pacific Northwest experienced an unprecedented drought. The dieback is often characterized by ‘spike tops’ where the top has completely died, or by yellowing or thinning tree crowns characterized by their off-color tops and sparse foliage. Yellowing or thinning tree crowns are more frequently observed on the east side of the Cascades where spike tops are becoming more commonly observed throughout the west side.

Recent longer and hotter droughts in the region are generally recognized as the driver of the increased levels of dieback, but many questions remain. For example, researchers are eager to determine the best predictors of whether a tree will become unhealthy at local levels, but more observations are needed to confidently identify the most important parameters and site conditions for making decisions and recommendations. Knowing this information will help determine where to plant or protect redcedar and inform research about the factors to screen other redcedar populations for to find long-term solutions.



Western redcedar exhibiting a yellowing tree crown



Western redcedar exhibiting signs of ‘spike top’.

How to contribute

You can help accelerate the research by sharing observations of healthy and unhealthy redcedar trees in the Western Redcedar Dieback Map project on iNaturalist. Observations can be shared using the iNaturalist mobile application or by uploading photos online through your internet browser.

1. Start by creating an account on [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org) on your computer. Optional—download the mobile app onto your smart device and log in.
2. After logging in to your account, browse to the Western Redcedar Dieback Map project.
3. Join the project. From your computer, click ‘Join this project’ on the top right of the project page. From your mobile device, click the ‘More’ (three dots) button, then click ‘Projects’ and search for ‘Western Redcedar Dieback Map’, then click ‘Join’.
4. Add an observation of a redcedar tree. Try to include three photos so others can confirm the tree is western redcedar: whole tree, the cones (if present) or the butterfly shaped bloom on the underside of the needles, and the stem/trunk and bark.
5. Tag the ‘Western Redcedar Dieback Map’ project in the observation settings. Tag the project when adding descriptive details to the observation. From your computer, type in the name of the project in the ‘Projects’ section. From your mobile device, click on ‘Projects’ button to see the projects you’ve joined, then toggle the project.
6. Once the project is tagged, you will need to answer a few questions about the health and location of tree. Answer the questions then press ‘Add’ (on your computer) or the back arrow (in the mobile app).
7. Share the observation!

The Forest Health Watch program also hosts monthly office hours to answer questions and help community scientists with using iNaturalist. It also offers monthly ‘research updates’ and quarterly biosecurity training presentations. To see and register for upcoming events please visit: <https://foresthealth.org/events>. INPS members are also welcome to contact Joey Hulbert at hulbe@wsu.edu with any questions or to schedule additional presentations within your communities. •



IDAHO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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Chapter News

CALYPSO CHAPTER

When: Chapter meetings will remain suspended until the COVID-19 outbreak subsides. Meetings are normally held first Wednesday of March, April, May, and October at 7:00 pm.

Where: Meeting are held in the Wildlife Building, North Idaho Fairgrounds, Coeur d'Alene.

Contact: Derek Antonelli, ds.ca.antonelli@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

We need to plan events for all of 2022. Please submit your suggestions to Derek.

LOASA CHAPTER

Contact: Bill Bridges, bridgesbill34@yahoo.com

PAHOVE CHAPTER

When: Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month from September–April at 7:00 pm. Times, dates, and topics are tentative. Current information will be sent to members via email. Events are also posted on the Pahove Chapter page of the INPS website: <https://idahonativeplants.org/pahove/>

Where: Meetings are usually held in the MK Nature Center Auditorium, 600 S. Walnut St, Boise. For the safety of our community, meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice

Contact: For more information about Pahove Chapter activities visit the website: www.idahonativeplants.org or email Karie Pappani at pahove.chapter.president@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

The Pahove Board is currently putting together an exciting lineup of speakers for the 2021-22 season. Details will be posted online and announced via email once they are confirmed. Invitations to monthly Zoom presentations will be sent via email. Stay tuned and stay healthy.

SAWABI CHAPTER

When: Meetings through the winter will be taking place on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm.

Where: Meetings are held in the North Fork Room of the ISU Student Union Building.

Contact: Geoff Hogander, ghogande@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events

The December and April meetings will be the Christmas Party and the Annual Chapter Meeting respectively. After a short presentation on the "Plant Family of the Month," the guest speakers that we have lined up are:

October 4: Alissa Salmore on "Xeriscaping"

November 1: Bob McCoy on "Desert Wildflowers"

January 3: TBA

February 7: Robert Pitman on "Trees for Landscaping"

March 7: Dr. Bruce Finney on "Climate Change"

May 2: Chapter members Show and Tell

UPPER SNAKE CHAPTER

Contact: Kristin Kaser, kaser.kristin@gmail.com

WHITE PINE CHAPTER

Contact: INPS, White Pine Chapter, PO Box 8481, Moscow, ID 83843 or whitepine.chapter@gmail.com. Visit the chapter website for upcoming event information: <https://www.whitepineinps.org/>.

WOOD RIVER CHAPTER

Contact: Subscribe to the newsletter by emailing Lisa Horton at 1gypsy2016@gmail.com. Address questions about programs to Kristin Fletcher at naturewalker7@gmail.com. •