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Saving Our Forests

By: Nichole Gallagher

How would you manage Idaho's forests for the future? If I could manage Idaho's forests for the future, I would care for the vegetation, get rid of bark beetles, replace the roads, and make the forests more productive.

Initially, I would care for the vegetation, which would include planting new trees and fertilizing existing trees. In addition, I would make sure that they get plenty of water when needed. Drought often affects trees negatively and can lead to forest fires, which are especially devastating to our forests.

Secondly, I would get rid of the bark beetles. To get rid of the bark beetles I would spray a bug killer, or I would breed some spiders. Then, I would let them into the forest to eat the bark beetles. If this was not successful, I would introduce a type of rodent to cut down on bark beetles.

Subsequently, I would replace the roads. This is a necessity because people drive through the forest and pollute it. To do this, I would block them off. In that case, over time, the plants and trees will re-grow where the road is.

Next, I would help make the forest productive. To make it productive I would clean up the litter. I would also post signs around to tell people not to litter. Another way to stop it would be to recycle all that can be recycled and put all other garbage in the proper containers. Committees could be organized to place recycling receptacles in and around their communities. Or I could join one of the many groups who run clean-ups of their local areas.

As you can see, keeping a forest healthy is not an easy job. But it certainly is important! To keep a fine, healthy forest, you need to care for the vegetation, get rid of bark beetles, replace the roads, and make it productive. After all, people need forests, and so do other living things.