

Hello Idaho trees. My name is Jakob. I attend Natural Connections Academy which is the best school ever because I get to appreciate you every day and learn all about you. I have been learning about the parts of trees. For example the heartwood, xylem, phloem, stomata, fascicle, sheath, and pinecones. On our hikes I have seen Idaho's coolest trees like Western Red Cedars, Ponderosa Pines, Rocky Mountain Maple, Grand Fir, and our state tree, the Western White Pine.

It is so cool that you slowly absorb and release particles of air. You and your friends take in carbon dioxide and use that for photosynthesis. This is really helpful because it provides us with oxygen and reduces carbon dioxide which helps with global warming. Your leaves have stomata which take in carbon dioxide for photosynthesis.

You also assist in the process of the water cycle. You use your roots to suck up water and transport that water to your leaves. Your leaves have stomata so they release water vapor. This is called Transpiration. You also help stop the soil from eroding.

We are so lucky to have you and your friends around. It really helps a lot because you give us so many things. Lumber is one of them. It helps because without lumber we would not have a lot of structures. Paper is another product. Without paper we would not have money or paper for blueprints. Yet another one is cork. Without cork we would not have cork flooring, no protection on the tree, or cork boards.

Trees help with health and that is important. You have chemicals that we use for medicine that help save peoples lives. You also help with mental health. Trees reduce stress, lowers blood pressure, and it improves mood. So it is healthy to be near you.

I have listed a lot of ways you help us. Now I will tell you about what I will do for you to preserve the forest of Idaho.

As a student who loves being outdoors I will help plant trees so I can always enjoy them. If a fire occurs then I will do my best to help stop it and to plant more trees where the fire occurs. If an area is logged and they don't replant trees then I will work with the land owner to plant more trees in the logged areas. I will always enjoy trees so I will do my best to help them stick around.

I will help the adults to remove dead and dying trees. If there is a forest fire I will talk to the owners to make a plan to remove the burnt and dead trees. If a tree has insect or animal damage I will assist in the removal of the tree. This will keep the tree from expelling its pheromone. If a tree has many conks I will tell somebody so they can take it down so it does not become a hazard.

I would reduce the competition so that you don't have to compete for materials. I would reduce competition so little trees can grow. I would thin the trees so that the others can have adequate resources. I would also remove trees so that you can become beautiful and majestic.

I will teach other kids about you and your friends. Some ideas I had are a hike, share books, and present information. A hike would teach others about trees in person. Books would help teach others by knowing that they can read it at any time. A presentation would help because peers could then see it in a picture, read about it, and learn about it.

I love trees because they are always doing stuff for us. I will ensure that you have a healthy place to grow if it is within my power. I will strive to instill in others the same love of trees. I really love trees so I will do my part in helping you to grow and stick around for future generations.