

Forest Disease Management Notes

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Pacific Northwest
Region



Animal Damage

Several higher animal species cause damage to trees. The most important include porcupines, bears, mountain beavers, pocket gophers, wood rats, sapsuckers, and deer. Animal feeding creates injuries that can result in tree death or infection by wood decay fungi.

Hosts: All trees.

Symptoms: Trunk scars with teeth or claw marks; clipped tops or branches on seedlings or saplings; holes in tree (woodpeckers and sapsuckers); pocket gopher burrows present in area.

Management: Retardants or protective structures can be placed on or over seedlings to discourage deer and rodents; poisonous baits can be used against pocket gophers; snares and hunting have been used against bears.

May be Confused With: Root diseases, comandra rust.



Bear Damage on
young Douglas-fir

Porcupine damage on
ponderosa pine



Sapsucker damage

