



NATURE AT HOME

We hope to inspire kids of all ages to learn about the natural world and discover new connections to nature.



The Power of Nature: Ice

View the video at DishmanHills.org/Nature-At-Home

In 1996 an early winter storm of cold rain fell. This continued for many hours until it had coated many trees with up to five inches of thick heavy ice. Some trees could not resist the enormous weight of the ice.

Unable to bend, many broke. Their lower trunks remained standing. Their branch and needle heavy tops were left lying on the forest floor.

The bare gray remains of those trees are still visible twenty-five years later.



Look closely at the picture below. Did you notice that the dead, decomposing trees are similar in diameter? Why is that?



Most coniferous trees don't drop their needles in the fall like deciduous trees. They keep the forest green all year round. Ponderosa pine is one of those trees.

Pine needs lots of sunlight shining on their long, pointy needles. Most of their needle filled branches are located in the treetops. Unable to bend, and not big enough to resist the weight of the ice, they broke.

Many of these trees began their lives as seedlings at the same time.

These decomposing logs are slowly being decomposed, recycled, to return as nutrients to the forest floor. Nothing is wasted in the natural world.

If you have any questions, e-mail: Education@DishmanHills.org