



NATURE AT HOME

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



Exploring the Fire Resistance of the Ponderosa Pine

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

Have you ever wondered why some species of tree survive a fire better than another? What protects a Ponderosa Pine from a wildfire? Protection starts on the forest floor.



GROUND COVER:

Large ponderosa often have a thick layer of dry needles on the ground around their base. These dry needles burn very quickly. Once they are consumed there is little fuel to keep the fire burning on the ground around the trees' base.



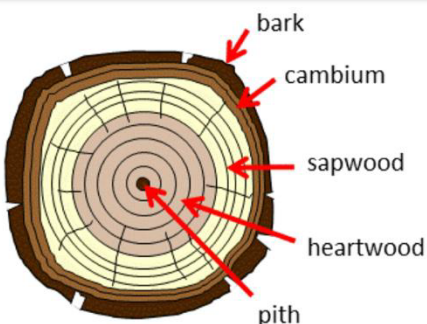
THICK BARK: Ponderosa pine have very thick bark made of many layers.

Each layer is made up of many smaller pieces. Their shapes remind some people of pieces of a huge puzzle. As one layer is burned, it often falls off to reveal a fresh layer.



BARE TRUNKS:

Ponderosa is a sun loving species. Its needles and branches need to be in direct sunlight to do their job. As the lower branches are shaded out, they die and fall off. All these **adaptations** help keep fire from burning through the bark to the layer of living cell called the cambium (see diagram) and away from the living tops of the ponderosa pines.



As you walk along the trails through the forest, look for evidence of previous fires on the bark of living trees, or on the ground.



If you have a question you can contact us at Education@DishmanHills.org