



A BIG list of facts about Pando

the world's largest organism

- Pando is a single tree that spans 106 acres
- Botanist Burton Barnes was the first to document the tree in 1976
- Michael Grant named the tree "Pando" which is Latin for "I Spread"
- Pando is the world's largest tree and largest organism
- Pando's estimated dry weight is 13.3 Million pounds. Three times larger than the next largest tree
- Pando lives in Fishlake National Forest in the Fish Lake Basin, home to Utah's largest freshwater lake
- Pando is a *quaking aspen* whose scientific name is *Populus tremuloides*
- The name "*tremuloides*" refers to the way aspen "tremble" when the wind blows
- Pando features and estimated 47,000 stems which appear as individual trees, but are part of one tree
- Pando's energy production, defense and regeneration involves each stem working to sustain the whole
- Pando is male and regenerated by sending up new stems from the roots - a process known as *suckering*
- Each stem of Pando is genetically identical to every other stem
- The individual characteristic of each stem is derived from its immediate environment
- Each stem can reach heights of 60 feet tall, 3 feet wide and spread up to 30 feet at the top
- Locals call aspen "*quakies*"
- The leaves of quaking aspen connect at right angles allowing them to deflect wind and conserve water
- When the wind blows, Pando's leaves send a magnificent song echoing throughout the valley
- The "eyes" of Pando are *branch scars*, the places where branches fall off as the stem grows up
- According to legend, the eyes aspen are said to watch over children
- Aspen trees contain chlorophyll in their bark allowing them to create energy in winter
- Pando shares its home with black bear, red fox, mountain lions, rocky mountain elk and mule deer
- There is no definitive way to tell Pando's age but scientists agree it can't be older than 12,000 years since the land it inhabits was covered by a glacier
- If left alone, each stem of Pando can live 120-150 years
- Aspen provide natural fire breaks as their bodies have high water content and do not burn readily
- The Pando is endangered by a triple threat; foraging by deer and elk and two diseases common to aspen trees
- Elk and deer love eating the sugar rich stems and leaves, but this behavior stymies an aspen clone's ability to regenerate and can kill the tree if not kept in check
- Fencing is used to protect aspen from deer and elk
- The US Forest Service and volunteers have helped install fencing around 56 acres of the tree
- Today, Pando does not enjoy formal protections as other famous trees like Redwoods do

Compliments of Friends of Pando working to educate the public about the world's largest tree, document the tree and inspire stewardship.

www.friendsofpando.org

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