



**Utilisation of Pine needles (*Pinus roxburghii*) to reduce the forest fire in  
Nowshera Forest Division, J& K**



**Neelima Shah, IFS**

Divisional Forest officer  
Nowshera Forest Division  
J&K Forest Department  
Email: [shahneelima29@gmail.com](mailto:shahneelima29@gmail.com)



**Rajiv Dhiman, IFS**

Conservator of Forests  
Shivalik Circle, Dehradun  
Uttarakhand Forest Department  
[rajivfri@gmail.com](mailto:rajivfri@gmail.com)



**Rakesh Verma**

Range Forest Officer  
Sunderbani Forest Range  
J&K Forest Department  
[rakeshforests@gmail.com](mailto:rakeshforests@gmail.com)

**ABSTRACT**

*In Jammu & Kashmir, subtropical Pine forest accounts for 16.40% of the total forest cover and are predominately distributed over the Shivalik range of Himalayas. During the Summer, shedding of dry needles forms a thick mat on ground which not only affects the growth of regeneration but due to slow rate of decomposition, it acts as combustible material during peak summer season. Pine needles have considerable amount of resin content which enhance fast combustion of*

*dry litter during summer making the forests vulnerable to fire. In order to utilize these chir needles and to reduce the forest fire, its sustainable management with new interventions in utilisation of these chir needles were explored in the Nowshera Forest Division, District Rajouri, J&K.*

**KEY WORDS**

*Jammu & Kashmir, Forest fire, Chir needles, Nowshera Forest Division, Control burning, livelihood options*