

MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE—UPDATE #2



Dealing with a Susceptible Landscape

The current Mountain Pine Beetle population levels are not a natural occurrence within recorded time periods. Cold winter weather, which naturally curtailed beetle populations, has not occurred for a number of years now.

Fire suppression over the last 50 years has also created an older age class of susceptible pine forest across the landscape that needs to be dealt with.

Harvest plans being proposed by Spray Lake Sawmills are designed to do exactly that, reduce the continuity of susceptible pine in the path of the advancing beetle.

The areas currently being planned are within the company's Forest Management Agreement area and would have been planned for harvest at some point regardless of the beetle. The current beetle infestation has caused a re-sequencing of the high-risk stands and may require a modification to ground level harvest practices.

Volumes planned for harvest are within sustainable levels as projected through the areas Detailed Forest Management Plan, timber supply analysis.



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