

MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE—UPDATE #4



Harvesting for mountain pine beetle susceptibility together with landscape aesthetics.

The susceptibility of pine stands to attack by the advancing mountain pine beetle is the primary driver in determining where harvesting should occur. Harvesting will still occur with due regard for other resource values. Of key concern in this part of the province is the visual quality of the landscape for recreational purposes.

Efforts will be made to work with spruce, fir and aspen components of the stands to incorporate aesthetic objectives. Retention of beetle susceptible lodgepole pine would be counterproductive to meeting beetle management objectives.

Natural features such as rock outcrops, steep slopes, gullies and riparian buffers will break up the larger openings. Trees on these sites will remain due to inoperability of the features, thereby contributing to the visual landscape. Ridges and hummocks that typically dominate the topography of the area will aid in reducing opening visibility.

Block size will be governed by the extent of the susceptible pine stands.



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