

Mountain Pine Beetle Management

Three Steps to Managing Mountain Pine Beetle

Step 1

Short-Term Management

- Identify the ponderosa, lodgepole, and limber pines on your property. These trees are prone to beetle attacks.
- Protect five to ten of your high-value, non-infested but susceptible trees by applying a preventative spray. You may hire a contractor or contact a forester for approved chemicals.
- Timing is everything! Preventative spraying should occur between March and mid-July before the beetles fly in August.



These high-value trees would benefit from preventive spraying.



High-value trees should be protected with early-summer preventive spraying.

Step 2

Treatment of Infested Trees

- Trees that have been successfully attacked first must be identified. Contact a forester for assistance.
- After infested trees have been cut and limbed, intense solar radiation can be used to kill larvae. This can be done with or without plastic and requires six to eight weeks of warm weather.
- Haul logs to “safe sites” at least one mile from susceptible tree hosts.
- Infested logs may be burned in a fireplace or buried in the ground to kill larvae.



Cut an infested tree for treatment.



Stack infested wood for solar treatment with or without plastic. Uncovered logs should be turned 1/3 of a rotation every two weeks. Remember to stack wood only one or two logs high.

Cut limbs off infested tree trunk prior to treatment.

Step 3

Long-Term Management

- A thinned, healthy forest will help prevent outbreaks of the mountain pine beetle, improve mountain views, and reduce wildfire hazard.
- By creating an environment that promotes healthy trees, you are providing the best defense against beetle attacks.



Old, slow-growing forests like this are prone to mountain pine beetle attacks and forest fires.



Wider growth rings (to the right), show how a tree responds to thinning. Vigorous trees are more likely to resist beetle attacks.



Thinned forests, as shown above, are much more resistant to mountain pine beetle attacks.



For more information about the management of mountain pine beetle, contact your nearest office of the Colorado State Forest Service or USDA Forest Service.

