

Mountain Pine Beetle

An Industry Perspective on Current Actions and Future Needs

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Pros

- **Current actions are encouraging:**
 - Surveys
 - Level 1 Control
 - Level 2 Control
- **Timely turnarounds on approvals**
- **Policy development process has been expedited through government/industry efforts:**
 - Transportation Policy
 - Log Storage
 - Sunk Planning Costs
 - FRIAA

Challenges

- **As infestation spreads to the East, North and South, beetle control efforts required on more fronts.**
- **Timelines for beetle surveys, planning and operations are short, so the approval process must be flexible and timely.**
- **Communication with public and small operators is crucial to control large scale movements across the landscape.**

Go Forward Needs

- **Government of Alberta must maintain their commitment of funds and manpower.**
- **Healthy Pine Strategy to continue indefinitely.**
- **Vigilance in monitoring National Parks corridor.**
- **Federal Government to be committed to action in the parks and on federal lands.**
- **The streamlined approval processes must be maintained.**

Go Forward Needs

- **Prepare for enhanced actions:**
 - **Effects on sensitive landscapes**
 - Eastern Slopes
 - Swan Hills
 - **Effects on Municipal Water Supplies**
 - Slave Lake area
 - **Effects on Wildlife Species (shifts in range)**
 - Caribou
 - Grizzly Bear
 - **Water Quality in creeks and river systems**

Go Forward Needs

- **Prepare recreational forest users for shifts in land use due to:**
 - Blow down trees (may affect trail access)
 - Restricted access to sensitive areas
 - Restricted access to operational areas
 - Restricted movement of wood with bark on (firewood)
- **The Federal and Provincial Governments must continue working with communities to ensure the adaptability and sustainability of our forests without over-reacting.**

Take Home Message

- The industry is optimistic that the beetle infestation can be controlled.
 - A long-term commitment of Government, industry, and the public of Alberta is required.
- Good communication is critical to inform Albertans of the potential negative effects of a large scale infestation.
- Collaboration, not confrontation, is required between resource partners.