Active Holding Zone

Mountain Pine Beetle



The Active Holding Zone has higher levels of mountain pine beetle (MPB) with larger and more continuous patches of infested trees making elimination of populations difficult, if not impossible without the influence of cold temperatures.

Management in this area is critical to reduce spread into the Leading Edge Zone, and support the Government of Alberta's goals to reduce spread along the Eastern Slopes and into the boreal forest.

The main goal in this zone is to treat 50 - 80 per cent of priority sites with surviving beetle brood to reduce or hold population growth from year to year.

The Government of Alberta and the forest industry develop coordinated management plans. Industry focuses on Level 2 treatment while the government conducts Level 1 treatment where harvesting cannot be completed due to time, planning or environmental constaints.





Level 1 treatments are those where treated trees are removed and not processed by the forest industry. Most often, only individual infested trees are treated; however, uninfested trees may also be destroyed. Treatments include fall and burn, whole tree peeling and whole tree chipping.

Level 2 treatment involves harvesting infested stands. Not all trees within the stand may be infested; however, infested and non-infested trees are removed.

Management zones are developed annually in the fall once extent and intensity of beetle infestations across the province have been determined through aerial and ground surveys.

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