

Alberta's Strategy

Mountain Pine Beetle



Alberta's Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) Action Plan was developed to minimize the potential of significant environmental, social and economic impacts. The goals are:

- Contain infestations and minimize the spread in all areas along the Eastern Slopes
- Prevent further eastward spread into the boreal forest that stretches across the prairies and into central Canada

To meet these goals, the province has been divided into three management zones.

- **Leading Edge Zone** – This zone is the area of highest priority because of the risk of spread into the Eastern Slopes and boreal forest. The goal is to reduce beetle populations. Infestations in this area will be scattered.
- **Active Holding Zone** – This zone has a significantly higher level of infestation spread over the landscape. The goal is to reduce or hold population growth from year to year.
- **Inactive Holding Zone** – This zone is where infestation levels have grown to a point where population management will no longer be effective. The main goal is to manage for other forest values.

The Alberta government has implemented both a long-term and short-term strategy to manage the infestation and protect the health of our forests.

Short-term strategies are those that detect, assess and treat current MPB infested trees. Tools used include single tree fall and burn, whole tree chipping and harvesting infested stands.

Long-term strategies focus on the forest as a whole. Diversifying age class structure and breaking up large continuous pine stands over time can mitigate impacts of wildfire and potential future infestations by MPB and other forest pests.

It is unlikely that MPB populations will disappear in Alberta's pine forests. In some areas of the province MPB will be an issue that needs to be managed now, and further into the future. Management will continue to be adaptive to respond to current situations.

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