

WHERE HAVE THE TREES GONE?

As you walk through the campground you may notice stumps and tree branches.

Trees that were infested with mountain pine beetle last year have been removed to try and prevent the spread of mountain pine beetle within the campgrounds.

Mountain Pine Beetles

What are mountain pine beetles and what do they do?

Top view of adult MPB
(actual size, 1/8 to 1/3 inch).



"Pitch tubes" indicating trunk attacks by MPB.

Mountain pine beetle (MPB) is native to the forests of western North America. Mountain pine beetles develop in pines, particularly ponderosa, lodgepole, Scotch and limber pine.

MPB larvae spend the winter under the bark. They continue to feed in the spring and transform into pupae in June and July. Emergence of new adults can begin in early July and continue through September. However, the great majority of beetles exit trees during late July (lodgepole pine) and mid-August (ponderosa pine). A key part of this cycle is the ability of MPB (and other bark beetles) to transmit bluestain fungi. Spores of these fungi contaminate the bodies of adult beetles and are introduced into the tree during attack. Fungi grow within the tree and, together with bark beetle feeding, weaken it. This mutual network of beetle galleries and bluestain fungi disrupts defenses within the tree and rapidly kills it. The fungi give a blue-gray appearance to the sapwood.

Once MPB infests a tree, nothing practical can be done to save that tree.

(Information on mountain pine beetle is from the Colorado State Forest Service web site <http://csfs.colostate.edu/library/pdfs/iandd/insects/MPB.pdf>)

What are we doing to save trees in the campgrounds?

Throughout the campground you will see trees with **orange** dots on them. These trees were sprayed in May with an insecticide to prevent attacks by mountain pine beetles.

Starting in the spring of 2008, we will also be planting small spruce and Douglas-fir trees. This will be the next generation of trees.

For additional information, please contact the Leadville Ranger District at 719-486-0749.