

# MPB Activities – Fall & Winter of 2010-2011

The current mountain pine beetle outbreak has been building for over a decade. The State of South Dakota has continued to provide its program of locating and marking trees infested with mountain pine beetle (MPB) on private lands free of charge. Landowners that have received this service in the past treated or removed the infested trees at their own expense. Numbers of infested trees per landowner were manageable.

Given the expanse of the current outbreak, the Black Hills National Forest awarded the State of South Dakota a grant of \$170,000 in the fall of 2010 to aid private landowners in the control of MPB. With this grant the State of South Dakota was able to offer a cost share program for the removal and disposal of infested trees identified by State forestry personnel, private forestry consultants on contract, and State certified markers from local county weed and pest departments. The service of locating and marking infested trees was provided free of charge to the landowner.



Cut and chunk treatment

An effort was made by the State to promote this program through the media and at various public meetings and workshops. There was an overwhelming interest in the program. The number of landowners and acreage to complete was increasing on a weekly basis. This presented challenges as the information of the program spread. A signup deadline of February 7, 2011 was announced to the public and calls were received up to 5:00pm on that day.

Landowners were provided a letter containing treatment options, a map of infested tree locations, and a voucher with instructions and deadlines for the cost share program. Salvage was encouraged whenever it was feasible. Many landowners were able to treat the trees on site themselves or hire a contractor for the work. Landowners began to send in vouchers and State personnel did a check on the property before the landowner could receive payment.

Even though there is much more work to be done, the program was well received and utilized by the public. This project could not have been successful without the effort and cooperation from within the State and the cooperating agencies. A summary of the program follows.

<b>Landowners participating in the mountain pine beetle program</b>			
<b>Fall and winter 2010-2011</b>			
	<b># of landowners</b>	<b># of acres</b>	<b>Percentage of landowners</b>
Landowners with MPB	295	17,460	57%
Landowners without MPB	219	6,389	43%
<b>Total</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>23,849</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Landowners with MPB that could be contacted to determine if they treated their infested trees</b>			
	<b># of landowners</b>	<b># of acres</b>	<b>Percentage of landowners</b>
Landowners that recieved cost share	112	6,389	53%
Landowners that treated trees w/o cost share	70	3,446	33%
Landowners that did not treat trees	28	1,905	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>210 *</b>	<b>11,740</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* We were able to contact 83% of landowners participating in the program