

USDA Forest Service Update
August 2011
Subject: Western Bark Beetles



Issue: Across the landscape from the West Coast through the Rocky Mountains, bark beetles have affected more than 41.7 million acres of conifer forests since 1997. The National Insect and Disease Risk Map indicate that **20 million acres are at risk of 25 percent or more mortality from western bark beetles between 2006 and 2021.**

Key Points:

- The western United States is experiencing the largest bark beetle outbreak in recorded history. A combination of drought, homogeneous stand conditions and warming winter temperatures has resulted in forests being susceptible to bark beetle outbreaks.
- The USFS cannot treat every acre affected by the bark beetle epidemic. The agency is **developing a strategy** to focus treatment efforts across the West.
- The strategy focuses agency resources towards **three goals: safety, recovery and resilience.** In the near term, funding will be focused on protecting public safety; however, treatments will also help forests recover and to increase the resilience of forests to epidemics.
- **The USFS is funding management actions to reduce forest susceptibility to beetle outbreaks** (such as reducing stand density and managing for greater diversity of age-class, size and species) and protecting high value trees (by application of registered pesticides, attractants or anti-attractants).

Background:

Region	FY 2011 (millions)	FY 2012 (millions)
Northern Region (R1)	\$ 24	\$ 24
Rocky Mountain Region (R2)	\$ 33	\$ 33
Southwestern Region (R3)	\$ 2.7	\$ 2.7
Intermountain Region (R4)	\$ 9	\$ 9
Pacific Southwest Region (R5)	\$ 18.4	\$ 18.4
Pacific Northwest Region (R6)	\$ 11.9	\$ 11.9
Research and Development	\$ 2.4	\$ 2.4
Total	\$ 101.4 million	\$ 101.4 million

Performance Measure	Unit	Accomplishments			
		R1	R2	R4	TOTAL
Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction	Acres	14,051	24,482	775	39,308
Recreation Site Hazard Mitigation	Number	242	290	0	532
Trail Hazard Mitigation	Miles	228	89	115	432
Road Hazard Mitigation	Miles	293	258	89	640
Noxious Weeds Treated	Acres	1,065	2,479	439	3,983
Landownership Boundary Line Marked/Maintained	Miles	25	87	0	112
Powerline Hazard Mitigation	Miles	50	0	0	50
Timber Volume Sold	CCF	102,000	162,663	1,251	265,914
Stewardship Contracts Awarded	Acres	0	10,500	0	10,500
Federal Acres Treated - Native Pests	Acres	0	0	5,622	5,622

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