

**BARK BEETLE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP**  
**A Brief History by Ken Gibson & Iral Ragenovich**  
**1988-2009**

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/nr/fid/pubsweb/bbtwg.shtml>

**1988:** Meeting held in January, in Lakewood, CO. Titled “Western Bark Beetle Semiochemical Workshop.” Chaired by Dennis Hamel, WO. Held in response to widespread use of mostly MPB attractants, beginning in 1984. Use and effects not well monitored in 1984 and 1985. In 1986, EPA ruled they required registration, so a moratorium was placed on their use. Some use in 1987, but by then, just about everyone realized we needed to get together to “compare notes!” Thirty-seven attendees comprised of US Forest Service (FHP & Research), BC Ministry of Forests, several western US states, universities, and Phero Tech.

**1988:** September, Boise, ID. “Bark Beetle Suppression Working Group”—set up by Jim Space, WO. Nine folks (Jed Dewey, Bob Averill, Dave Holland, Gene Amman, Gary Daterman, Tom Hofacker, Ken Knauer, Ralph Thier and Iral Ragenovich) met to develop guidelines for funding bark beetle suppression projects in FY89. “Real” forerunner of our august group?

**1988:** Meeting held in October, Las Vegas, NV. Called “Bark Beetle Pheromone Working Group.” Chaired by Dave Holland. Nine in attendance (all except Iral and I now retired!) Discussed 1988 pheromone projects—mostly MCH and verbenone, some MPB “bait and cut” work being done.

**1989:** Held in February, Seattle, WA. Twelve of us survived “blizzard” conditions to make it to the meeting! Chaired by Dave Holland. Verbenone, MCH, lethal trap trees, that sort of thing. Plans for field season, 1989 discussed.

**1989:** October, Boise/Ketchum, ID. Now the “Bark Beetle Working Group,” chaired by Dave Holland. Discussed work done in '89 and that proposed for 1990. Nineteen in attendance.

**1990:** December, Vancouver, B.C; hosted by Phero Tech. Mostly a discussion of PT’s products and services; but also discussed US projects. Thirty-three in attendance.

**1991:** February, San Bernardino, CA. Now calling ourselves the “Western Bark Beetle Semiochemical Working Group.” Chaired by Tom Hofacker, WO; 21 in attendance. Started taking on present format of reviewing past projects and discussing upcoming ones.

**1991:** October, Portland, OR. Now called “Bark Beetle Steering Committee” and once again chaired by Dave Holland. Charged with “prioritizing” upcoming bark beetle and pheromone projects—28 of us there.

**1991:** December, Reno, NV. Another meeting pretty much devoted to bark beetle pheromones. Chaired by Dave Holland, only 12 there. Lot of discussion on MCH registration and verbenone use/testing.

**1992:** October, Portland, OR. Chaired by Dave Holland. Reviewed past projects, prioritized ones for '93; started talking about a “strategic plan” for bark beetles; 28 of us in attendance.

**1993:** February, Salt Lake City. Mostly concentrated on Bark Beetle 5-Year Plan. Chaired by Iral in Dave’s absence. Held retirement get-together for Gene Amman. No attendance figures located.

**1993:** October, Albuquerque, NM. Chaired by Iral. Calling ourselves “National Bark Beetle Task Force and Steering Committee” then. Completed “Five Year Plan” (Issued in May 1994); reviewed past and future projects. Attendance not known—but well represented.

**1994:** October, Whitefish, MT. Chaired by Iral—28 in attendance. Reviewed past and future projects; set priorities for future ones. Called “Bark Beetle Steering Committee” once again. First meeting with a “field trip.”

**1995:** October, Stateline (Lake Tahoe), NV. Chaired by Iral. Attendance not known. Prioritized '96 projects after reviewing '95 ones.

**1996:** September, Kenai, AK. Chaired by Iral and Ed Holsten. Still reviewing projects and setting TDP priorities. About 25 in attendance.

**1997:** September, Brian Head, UT. Iral/Steve Munson, Chairs. New “TDP” process, now called “STDP” and we lost our status as a “Steering Committee!” No longer reviewed new proposals. Now reviewing past projects and discussing upcoming ones.

**1998:** September, Vail, CO. Steve Munson/Ed Holsten, Chairs; 27 in attendance. Regional status reports and upcoming projects—opportunities for cooperation and coordination.

**1999:** October, Reno, NV. Tom Eager, Chair (Started current system of previous-year host becoming current-year chair). Once again a review of bark beetle conditions, past and future projects. Found no attendance figures.

**2000:** October, Coeur d’Alene, ID. Chaired by Sheri Smith; 27 in attendance. Regional reports (major DFB outbreak at the time in northern ID); project summaries for 2000 and plans for 2001.

**2001:** October, Taos, NM. Chaired by Carol Randall; 32 folks in attendance. Pretty much the same format. Discussion of need to review the bark beetle “strategic plan,” first issued in 1994.

**2002:** December, Reno, NV (a last-minute replacement for Homer, AK!). Chaired by Joel McMillin. Thirty-eight disappointed folks in attendance—but we still had a good time! Same format. Developed a “statement of purpose” for “Bark Beetle Technical Working Group.”

**2003:** November, Durango, CO. Chaired by Joel again (not sure why!). Thirty-six in attendance. In addition to regular format, given the assignment to discuss how we would allocate special “western bark beetle” funds. Set up at committee to review proposals.

**2004:** October, Homer, AK. Tom Eager/Ed Holsten, Chairs. About 50 in attendance—no wonder! In addition to regular format, reviewed specially funded projects and discussed format for reviewing new ones. Also talked more about renewing the “strategic plan.”

**2005:** October, Midway, UT. Brytten Steed, Chair; 47 folks there—big crowd (one of which was Rob Mangold!). Normal format—reviewed specially funded projects; discussed the updating of the 2002 Western Bark Beetle Report (seems to have replaced our “strategic plan”). Began working on our “Research Priorities List.”

**2006:** October, Fairmont Hot Springs, MT. Brytten, Chair. Forty-one in attendance. Same reporting format—conditions by Region and on-going or completed projects. Refined “Research Priorities List.”

**2007:** November, Portland, OR. Chair, Ken Gibson—42 folks in attendance. Similar format for reporting projects. Completed our “Research Priorities List” (attached to this year’s agenda).

**2008:** October, South Lake Tahoe, CA. Sheri Smith, Chair. Attendance not known—about 45 or so? Similar agenda; in addition report on FIDL and WFI updates by Iral. Those are coming along—sort of...

**2009:** October, Tucson, AZ. Joel McMillin/Rich Hofstetter, Chairs.