

## Beetle Impacts



- There are a number of economic, environmental and social consequences expected from MPB infestation.
- Economic consequences:
  - A short-term (5-15 years) upsurge in forestry activities and revenue, as industry salvages beetle-killed timber before it loses economic value
  - Future reductions in Allowable Annual Cuts as the sustainability of forest resources in Alberta and Canada are threatened
  - Heavy potential impacts to employment in the forestry sector and to the recreation and tourism industries
  - Possible declines in property values
- Environmental consequences:
  - As trees die there will be changes to landscape aesthetics; to soil and water quality; and to slope stability
  - Damage to water quality and to fisheries;
  - Danger to wildlife habitat and species-at-risk
  - Potential for higher-intensity forest fires
  - Decrease in the forest's ability to conduct carbon sequestering.
  - As harvesting increases and large volumes of timber are removed, large clear-cut areas will emerge
  - More logging roads will be necessary to deal with short-term volume increase.
- Social consequences:
  - The long-term viability of forest-dependant industries, jobs and communities is less certain.
  - Few qualitative studies yet exist as to the complete social impacts the MPB could have upon communities' social sustainability.



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In Association with: