

Insight Into Government March 30, 2007

## **FORESTRY**

### **Measuring the pine beetle's bite ...**

● A report from the University of Alberta school of business warned the province won't have enough sawmills to keep up with fallen trees if the mountain pine beetle keeps spreading.

A few days earlier, about 14 communities in west-central Alberta formed what they call the Grande Alberta Economic Region to help prepare for the beetle's spread.

They already have the obligatory web page. The group aims to "help its member communities prepare for the potential impacts of beetle invasion. This initiative will assess the social and economic risk of the beetle to GAER communities, and will develop a plan of action to help communities prepare and adapt for the future."

Inevitably, local communities will look to the province for help. The government would step in anyway.

The key here is that the communities get in on the ground floor of the planning. Instead of just taking what the province has to offer, they can suggest what the province should offer, and see what they can do on their own.