



Mountain Pine Beetle Forum

~~~~~ Sharing information about Montana's Challenge ~~~~~

## MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE & FIRE: THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE RISKS

Wednesday May 4, 2011

Colonial Red Lion Inn, Helena MT

Much has been debated about the after-effects of Montana's mountain pine beetle outbreak. Perhaps the largest area of debate centers around wildland fire risk during beetle attack, in the "red needle phase," the "gray phase," and the "down phase." Does the mountain pine beetle outbreak correlate to increase wildland fire risk? What type of fire behavior has been observed in the forest post outbreak? What are the long term implications related to fuel loading and future fire behavior? The Mountain Pine Beetle Forum is hosting this session, with experts from the scientific and local community whose research and experiences will provide insight on these topics.

Please join us for this informative one-day session geared toward a general public audience, to become more informed about the relationship between the mountain pine beetle outbreak and wildfire.

Two opportunities to attend will be provided: the first, 10:00am to 4:00pm is a longer slightly more technical presentation by four experts (30 min presentations, followed by discussion) and a local panel; the second, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm is general presentation for the public by the same experts and panel (15 min overviews, followed by question and answer session).

**Plans call for broadcast of this event in a webinar format –  
Check [www.beetles.mt.gov](http://www.beetles.mt.gov) after April 20, 2011 for details.**

Speakers:

- Dr. Jeff Hicke, (Bark Beetle & Fire Research, Univ of Idaho and WWETAC\*), will provide an introduction to mountain pine beetle, wildfire and fuels, present a MPB and wildfire literature review and discuss the state of the science on wildfire and mountain pine beetle.
- Dr. Matt Jolly (Fire Research, Missoula Fire Lab), will present new 2010 research results on needle moisture content and flammability in various stages of MPB attack.
- Chad Hoffman (Univ. of Idaho Wildland Fire Coordinator), will discuss the dynamics of ground fuels, probability of burn and spread, and fire behavior modeling considerations.
- Dana Hicks, (Fire Mgt. Specialist, British Columbia), will present on-the-ground observations of wildfire in MPB impacted stands in Western Canada.
- A panel of local experts will share their observations and experiences with wildfire in MPB stands. Sonny Stiger Fire Behavior Consultant, Greg Archie DNRC Fire, Brad McBratney USFS Fire Behavior Analyst

**Please RSVP for the event, whether attending in person or participating in the webinar. On-site participants will have the option of purchasing a sack lunch for \$5.00. Call (406) 542-4300 to confirm attendance/lunch, etc.**

Sponsors: Mountain Pine Beetle Forum, \*USFS Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Center

***The Mountain Pine Beetle Forum promotes:***

***Information sharing regarding beetle activity and mortality across ownerships.***

***Collaboration on public information products and activities.***

***Opportunities to learn about impacts from a variety of groups***

***Outreach to impacted and potentially impacted communities across Montana***

***Keeping MPB in front of decision makers and the public***

