Mountain Pine Beetle Symposium: Challenges and Solutions
October 30-31, 2003
Kelowna, British Columbia

Edited by: T.L. Shore, J.E. Brooks and J.E. Stone
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Mountain Pine Beetle Symposium: Challenges and Solutions
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Sponsored by the Government of Canada through the Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative, a program administered by Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service.

Natural Resources Canada,
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Abstract

The “Mountain Pine Beetle Symposium: Challenges and Solutions” was held in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada on October 30-31, 2003. This meeting was organized by Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service, Pacific Forestry Centre and funded through the Government of Canada Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative. Approximately 250 people representing the forest industry, consultants, universities, provincial and federal government agencies, First Nations, and the general public, from both Canada and the United States attended the meeting. Thirty presentations were given describing the current mountain pine beetle situation (in British Columbia, Alberta and the western United States) and its management and economic implications. Researchers presented the latest information on remote sensing, decision support systems, impacts on stand dynamics and wildlife, phytosanitary risks, climate change effects and preventive management as they relate to mountain pine beetle.

Résumé

Foreword

The Mountain Pine Beetle Symposium: “Challenges and Solutions” was initiated by Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service in response to the massive epidemic of this insect in British Columbia. At the time of this symposium over four million hectares of forest was under attack in the province and there is no end in sight to the epidemic. Beetle populations have also been increasing in the western United States and are becoming established in western Alberta. The magnitude of this epidemic is unprecedented, and the implications on current and future timber supplies are enormous. Harvesting directed at controlling the beetle or salvaging beetle-killed trees affects a large number of non-timber forest values as well.

In organizing the symposium it was my intention to bring together forest managers and researchers in an environment where they could present and share their concerns and ideas. This was accomplished through 30 presentations and a poster session held over two days with additional opportunities for informal discussion and questions.

Approximately 250 people attended the two-day meeting, representing the forest industry, provincial, state and federal agencies, universities, consulting firms, First Nations communities, and the general public from both Canada and the United States.

Dr. Bill Wilson, Director, Industry, Trade and Economics Program at Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service in Victoria, opened the meeting by providing a brief background on the mountain pine beetle and the Canadian Government Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative. This was followed by an address from British Columbia’s Chief Forester, Larry Pedersen, who described the serious timber supply impacts the province will be facing from this mountain pine beetle epidemic.

The remainder of the meeting was divided into two sessions: “Scope of the Problem and Key Issues” and “State of the Art.” The former dealt with describing the problem and how it is being managed, and included talks from the Canadian Forest Service, British Columbia Ministry of Forests, the United States Forest Service, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, British Columbia Ministry of Land, Water and Air Pollution, Parks Canada, and the forest industry. The latter session dealt with research approaches to improve knowledge and management of the mountain pine beetle, and included talks on decision support tools including stand and landscape level models, atmospheric models, and remote sensing technologies. There were also presentations on phytosanitary risks associated with infested trees, studies on stand dynamics and historical frequency of infestations, climatic effects on population dynamics, silviculture, wildlife, and economics as they relate to mountain pine beetle infestations.

Funding for this event and this publication was provided through the Government of Canada Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative.

Terry L. Shore