

Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic/Treatment For Tunkwa Provincial Park

The forest in Tunkwa Provincial Park has been under attack from Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) for several years. In the late 1990's the BC Forest Service assisted BC Parks with a program designed to reduce the spread of MPB in the park. The program was initially successful, however, due to high regional MPB populations, control actions were eventually overwhelmed.

In recognition of potential public safety and forest fuel hazards associated with the beetle killed trees in the park, BC Parks contracted a registered professional forester to assess safety issues in the park in 2004. His recommendations called for the removal of trees in high use areas of the park, including campgrounds, along private properties and roadways. Removal of dead and dying beetle killed pine trees will reduce risks from deadfall and windthrow, ensure safe access for locals and park visitors and reduce potentially hazardous forest fuels. It was determined that the best time to do the tree removals would be in the winter months on frozen ground to prevent damage to the adjacent grasslands and smaller trees and shrubs in treatment areas.

In the fall of 2004 BC Parks consulted with local First Nations, the residents in the vicinity of the park, the community of Logan Lake and several other stakeholder groups. A contractor was selected to do the work, but due to an unseasonable winter thaw, acceptable conditions for conducting the work were not available and the treatment had to be postponed.

In the fall of 2005 the project was reinitiated and plans are now in place to do conduct the treatment this winter. Tunkwa Provincial Park is 5,100 hectares in size and the project area size is 22.7 hectares.

If you intend to visit Tunkwa Provincial Park this winter, please watch for equipment and obey all warning signs.

Please watch this website for further updates.

More information about pine beetles is provided at the following website::

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/conservation/pine_beetle/pine_beetle.html

Tunkwa Provincial Park Mountain Pine Beetle Attack



- *June 2005*
- **West end of Tunkwa Lake and Corral Lake**
- **Red trees are fully attacked and will die**



- *June 2005*
- **East end of Tunkwa Lake and Leighton Lake**
- **Tunkwa Campground in foreground between lakes**



- *June 2005*
- **South west corner of Tunkwa Provincial Park**
- **Note the trees that have gone grey, 3 to 4 years after initial attack**

