

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

What's up with the Trees in the Gorge? Wind, Fire, Ice, Drought, and Beetles

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Underwood Landowner calls in 2009







Bark Beetle Life Cycle





- Most bark beetles are host specific
- Different species attack different tree or branch sizes
- A bark beetle isn't just a bark beetle. There are many different kinds.



Tree defenses



• Bark

- Passive and induced pitch
- Terpene and phenolic compounds









- Fungi are carried in specially adapted pits behind the head called mycangia.
- Blue stain fungi blocks vascular tissue and may hasten tree death







Bark Beetles - general biology

- Focus initial attack on weak or injured trees
- Can switch to a coordinated mass-attack of nearby vigorous trees.
- The combination of weak trees and high populations are characteristic of outbreaks.









February 2010



"I've lived here all my life and I ain't never seen anything kill mature pine trees before. This has to be like them bugs in Colorado! You gotta come out here and kill'em all! I pay taxes dammit!"*

*Skamania County resident dramatization



Complaining Old Guy/Lady + Dead, but otherwise vigorously growing trees = Suspicious!





Underwood - Washington State - February 2010





California Fivespined Ips (*Ips paraconfusus*)





California Fivespined Ips (Ips paraconfusus)



 Native to California and W.
 Oregon

 Not known to occur East of the cascades or in WA

Figure 1—*The range of the California fivespined ips.*



Symptoms and Signs of damage









Life Cycle





Pest Significance

- Non-economic pest prior to 1940's
- Logging practices of second growth pines influenced pest problems



California Fivespined Ips (Ips paraconfusus)



- Can infest multiple species of pines, it likes ponderosa.
- Outbreaks follow fire or storm damage
- Any event that provides fresh slash during adult flight
- Can kill young trees or topkill older trees
- Normally outbreaks last for one year



What the California Fivespined Ips Loves to Eat





Willamette Valley Pines

- Pest damage first reported in 1999
- Outbreaks continued annually at different locations
- Highest populations found in older age classes; mortality in new orchards







Current Distribution





Mosier Tower Fire 2009





Catherine Creek and Mosier • Blow down events in 2011





How bad will it get?

What it might look like





What it won't look like







Localized, small outbreaks 2010-2014







Areas With Mortality Caused by California Fivespined Ips Mapped in Oregon and Washington Using Aerial Survey 2010 - 2016





Is this a big deal? Climate Change?

- •Range expansion or over due detection?
 - Remember preferred habitat age classes?





Climate factors

A.

Droughts – not all years during outbreaks









Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.99	31.74	0.00
Last Week 7/27/2015	0.00	100.00	100.00	98.61	0.00	0.00
3 Month's Ago 4292075	32.95	67.05	48.96	15.20	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12002014	51.87	48.13	36.15	14.83	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 5002014	34.22	65.78	40.27	20.17	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago	39.56	60.44	33.38	18.27	0.00	0.00

Intensity;

D3ExtremeDrought D0 Abnom ally Dry D1 Moderate Drought D4 Exceptional Drought D2 Severe Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author: Richard Heim NCE/NOAA



http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

Climate factors

Mild winter temperatures?





Range Expansion of CFI?





Areas Affected





Don't Feed the Beetles!

- Avoid creating slash and tree wounds during times of adult beetle activity
 - During outbreaks, wait to do tree work in the fall after mid-October until December
 - This includes tree thinning, pruning and tree removal











Don't Feed the Beetles!

- Remove non-infested slash (over 3") or otherwise dry it promptly before June
 - Chipping
 - Burning (check with Local FD)
- Can I cut it into firewood?
 - Yes, don't stack it next to a pine tree
 - Solarization?



Remove Reddening Trees Timely IF POSSIBLE



- If pile and burn start work
 October and burn material before
 April
- Outside of this time:
 - Debark or otherwise remove completely, including slash



Green-chaining or house-sized slash piles

 Consult a professional forester!





Pheromone Disruption



 Pine beetle anti-aggregant "Verbenone" is unlikely effective



Insecticides

- Preventative yes
- Save a tree that's already infested – no
- Hire a professional for trees over 10'
- Cannot use insecticides on slash







Focus on Tree Stand Health

- Summary
 - Don't do work in pine trees until October and finish by January (THIS IS OPTIMAL)
 - Work with a forester if you are working outside of these recommendations



- Pheromones
 (Verbenone) are
 ineffective
- Consult your forester or extension agent before considering an insecticide



Landowner Assistance & Outreach

- WDNR and ODF recently obtained the "Gorge Partnership" grant from the Western Competitive Resource Allocation program to address emerging forest health issues with CFI education, outreach, and technical assistance as the primary focus
- Since 2010, 22 workshops, field days and demonstrations for over 1,200 landowners/land managers have been completed
- Since 2014, 77 landowners have received assistance to treat over 600 acres and 39 hazard trees have been removed from highpriority areas



California Fivespined Ips-A Pine Engraver Beetle w to Washington State

