

# Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan 2006-2011



*September 2006*

## **ACTION PLAN SNAPSHOT: NEW KEY ACTIONS**

B.C.'s first Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan was released in 2001 to sustain forest values for First Nations and municipalities over the long term, while dealing with the infestation's short-term consequences.

The plan is reviewed regularly to ensure it's effectively reacting to the infestation and changing conditions, as well as addressing the social, cultural, environmental and economic priorities of British Columbians.

The 2006-2011 plan sets out a vision for what Interior forests, communities and industry could look like in the future as innovation and adaptation are encouraged.

Key additions to the updated plan include 21 new actions that support the plan's seven guiding objectives.

### **1. Encourage immediate and long-term sustainability for communities**

- Continue to support First Nations, the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition, Omineca Beetle Action Coalition, (similar coalitions if they develop), and local governments.
- Through the Northern Development Initiative Trust and the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust, begin to support locally developed economic strategies.
- Continue to encourage outdoor recreation and tourism businesses.
- Support joint initiatives with First Nations related to development of non-timber forest product enterprises.
- Assess the role of small woodlands in mitigating beetle-related impacts.

### **2. Maintain and protect public health and worker safety**

- Work with forest companies, contractors, and others to ensure continued high safety standards are applied on roads and forestry operations.
- Monitor air quality and minimize the public health effects of smoke from increased use of prescribed burning.
- Carry out assessments of the long-term safety needs of the transportation network.
- Address how the sustainability of cultural values are being impacted.
- Monitor changes in fire occurrence in the epidemic area, and address requirements for suppression resources.

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### **3. Recover the greatest value from dead timber before it burns or decays, while respecting other forest values**

- Consult with local governments, regional coalitions and First Nations in the ongoing development of salvage strategies.
- The Forest Practices Board will continue reporting to the public about compliance with the Forest and Range Practices Act and the achievement of its intent.
- Ensure road networks have sufficient capacity for timber transportation needs.
- Complete development and begin implementation of measures to encourage value-added wood processing.

### **4. Conserve long-term forest values identified in land-use plans**

- Work with First Nations to ensure beetle management and timber salvage activities are carried out in a manner that respects the values identified by First Nations.

### **5. Prevent or reduce damage to forests in areas that are susceptible but not yet experiencing epidemic infestations**

- Collaborate with neighbouring jurisdictions to contain outbreaks and reduce damage in border areas.
- Investigate silviculture regimes that are less susceptible to catastrophic loss.

### **6. Restore forest resources in areas affected by the epidemic**

- Establish strategies and priorities for restoring the most productive multiple-use lands (areas that provide forest values such as water, wildlife, culture, or recreation, in addition to timber).

### **7. Maintain a management structure that ensures effective and co-ordinated planning and implementation of mitigation measures**

- Work with First Nations to provide a path for a mutually beneficial relationship with respect to the response to the epidemic.
- Work with regional Beetle Action Coalitions to coordinate the efforts of local governments and stakeholders with provincial initiatives.
- Establish a MPB information network.