

Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan 2006-2011



September 2006

ACTION PLAN SNAPSHOT: FUNDING

B.C.'s Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan is mitigating impacts of the infestation, and ensuring sustainability for forest values, communities, and the provincial economy. The action plan, first introduced in 2001, is updated regularly and outlines seven objectives for strategic response to the mountain pine beetle epidemic.

Objective 1 – Economic Sustainability for Communities

- Established the \$185-million Northern Development Initiative Trust to help northern communities lessen impacts by diversifying their economies. \$30 million of the Northern Trust is specifically for mountain pine beetle mitigation.
- Provided \$1.6 million to the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition, \$800,000 to the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition, and \$640,000 to the BC First Nations Leadership Council to help develop their regional beetle strategies.

Objective 2 – Worker and Public Safety

- Provided \$90 million for the rehabilitation of Interior roads and highways affected by the increasing number of logging trucks carrying beetle-killed timber.
- Committed \$20.7 million over three years for maintaining and upgrading forest service roads impacted by increased logging truck traffic.
- Removed potentially hazardous beetle-attacked trees from provincial parks, including Lac le Jeune, Mount Robson and Manning, to protect the public against falling tree and wildfire risks. Directed \$2.7 million from the Canada-B.C. emergency response strategy to mitigating impacts in parks and protected areas.
- Provided \$1.2 million to the City of Prince George to assist with fuel management costs within the municipality.
- Directed \$6.3 million from the Canada-B.C. emergency response strategy to fuel management to protect communities and First Nations in interface areas from wildfires.
- Committed \$1 million to school boards to help offset the costs of removing beetle-attacked trees from school grounds.

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Objective 3 – Recovering Value

- Awarded four major licences to Talloil Canada for using beetle wood to manufacture industrial pellets for use as biofuels in European energy markets – meaning a potential investment of up to \$110 million and up to 640 jobs.
- Chief Forester increased the Allowable Annual Cut levels in the most severely affected areas to encourage harvesting of dead trees. To date, the AAC increases total nearly 15 million cubic metres.
- Continued research into how beetle-attacked timber can be used to its fullest potential by testing its viability in a variety of product applications. Directed \$6.3 million from the Canada-B.C. emergency response strategy to product development, including:
 - \$2.23 million to research and development into new wood products and marketing beetle-wood, and
 - \$1.4 million to Advanced Chair in Wood Processing at UBC.
- Began developing a bioenergy strategy that includes beetle-attacked timber as a potential source of fuel for energy production.

Objective 4 – Conserve Long-Term Forest Values

- Chief Forester issued a report providing guidance for variable retention on large-scale mountain pine beetle salvage operations.
- Developed a mountain pine beetle research strategy.
- Chief Forester launched the Future Forest Ecosystem initiative to look at possible changes to B.C.'s forest management framework.
- Directed \$6.7 million from the Canada-B.C. emergency response strategy to applied research to assist with resource planning and decision-making around issues such as reforestation and sustaining non-timber resources.
- Directed \$10.9 million from the Canada-B.C. emergency response strategy to providing up-to-date timber and non-timber inventory data for resource managers.

Objective 5 – Limit Further Damage

- Signed a memorandum of understanding with Alberta for spread control activities along the B.C.-Alberta border. Directed \$21.7 million from the Canada-B.C. emergency response strategy to spread control in the border zone.
 - Surveyed and mapped 4.1 million hectares and removed more than 45,000 infested trees.

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- Updated the Emergency Bark Beetle Management Area annually to enable aggressive action against the beetle in expanded outbreak areas.
- Conducted aerial overview surveys annually to monitoring infestation levels and assess the amount of damage caused by the beetle.

Objective 6 – Restoring Forest Resources

- Committed \$161 million to Forests for Tomorrow (to the end of 2008/09) to ensure long-term timber supply through reforestation activities like surveying, site preparation and planting.
- Directed \$7 million from the Canada-B.C. emergency response strategy to ecosystem restoration.
- Directed \$4.5 million from the Canada-B.C. emergency response strategy to arability studies and helping replace natural range barriers and range developments that may have been removed or damaged as a result of the beetle infestation.

Objective 7 – Coordinated Planning and Mitigation Measures

- Appointed an Assistant Deputy Minister to lead a Mountain Pine Beetle Emergency Response Team for mitigating the beetle's long-term impacts.
- Added members to the Mountain Pine Beetle Emergency Response Team to look after forests and range, economic development and community services, and created positions on the team for First Nations.
- Put together the Mountain Pine Beetle Emergency Response: Canada-B.C. Implementation Strategy – a three-year spending plan for the \$100 million in assistance provided by the federal government.

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