



News release



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Albertans asked to leave pine logs at the border

Edmonton... To help protect Alberta's pine forests, the province is banning for the fifth year in a row the importation of pine logs, un-manufactured timber and forest products with bark attached.

"We're asking Albertans who camp or travel to certain areas not to bring back any pine logs," said Alberta Sustainable Resource Minister David Coutts. "The reason is simple: we want to prevent the spread of the mountain pine beetle in Alberta. Every bit helps."

This year's ban begins May 1 and covers all shipments that originate from areas that are populated or infested with the highly destructive mountain pine beetles. The areas include British Columbia, Banff National Park, Jasper National Park, the Cypress Hills area of the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan and the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

The mountain pine beetle is the most destructive insect pest to pine forests in North America. The current outbreak in B.C. covers over 7 million hectares. In Alberta, there are more than 2 million hectares of pine forest at risk along the eastern slopes, with an estimated commercial value of \$23 billion.

Alberta government officials will also be checking logging trucks at the borders for illegal movement of pine logs into and through Alberta. Any shipments of logs and forest products with bark attached will be stopped and either returned to their place of origin or destroyed. The government will continue to work closely with log builders, transportation companies and the forest sector to enforce log import restrictions.

The ban covers the period from May 1 to October 1, when the beetles emerge from infested trees to search for new trees to lay their eggs. Infested logs that are transported during this time period could lead to new outbreaks of mountain pine beetle along transportation corridors.

The mountain pine beetle is a major forest management issue in Alberta. If the beetle gets a foothold in the province, it could have adverse impact on wildlife corridors, biodiversity, tourism, recreational opportunities and watersheds and could increase wildfire hazards due to large areas of dead forest.

Further information on the mountain pine beetle is available on the following website at http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/forests/health/mpb_cond.html.

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