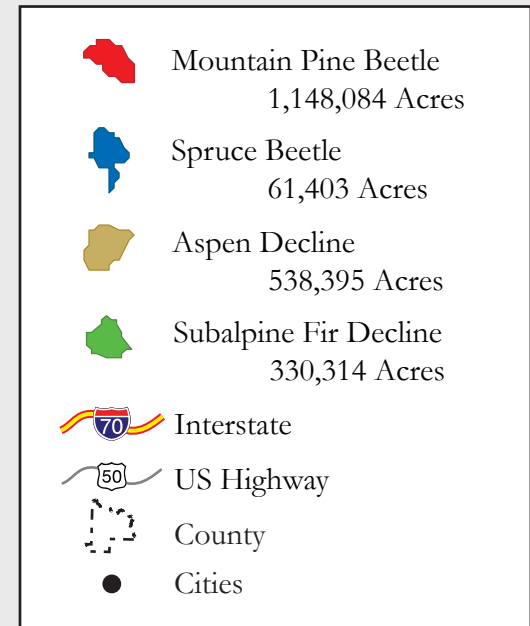


Colorado's Primary Forest Insect and Diseases in 2008



Mountain Pine Beetle
Tree mortality from the current mountain pine beetle infestation is unprecedented in Colorado's recorded history. Since the infestation began in 1996, approximately 1.5 million acres of lodgepole pine have been infested in Colorado.

Beetle epidemics are a natural part of forest ecosystems, but the old age of many of the state's lodgepole pine forests makes them susceptible to large-scale epidemics. Old forests, drought, and warm temperatures all have had a role in fueling this epidemic.

At current rates of spread and intensification, it is likely that MPB will kill the majority of Colorado's mature lodgepole pine forests by 2013. However, younger lodgepole pines will survive and seedlings will regenerate naturally.

Spruce Beetle
The spruce beetle epidemic is changing the face of Colorado's old spruce forests and may be the next large insect epidemic to transform our forests. Spruce beetle has the potential to impact resort economies because most of the upper reaches of the state's ski areas are in spruce forests.

Aspen Decline
Colorado has more aspen than any other western state. In recent years, several aspen landscapes have experienced rapid changes including the sudden death of aspen trees. Although only about 15 percent of Colorado's aspen forests are currently affected, aspen decline is troubling because Colorado's aspens bring millions of tourist dollars into the state and provide invaluable wildlife habitat.

Subalpine Fir Decline
Colorado's subalpine forests have experienced increased mortality during the past 10 - 15 years. Cumulative effects of subalpine fir decline has led to hillsides of standing dead trees in Colorado's high elevation forests.

Aerial Survey Data
Due to the nature of aerial surveys, the data on this map will only provide rough estimates of location, intensity and the resulting trend information for agents detectable from the air. The data presented on this map should only be used as a partial indicator of insect and disease activity, and should be validated on the ground for actual location and causal agent. Shaded areas show locations where tree mortality or defoliation were apparent from the air. Intensity of damage is variable and not all trees in shaded areas are dead or defoliated. Insect and disease data on this map is available digitally from the USDA Forest Service, Region Two Forest Health Management group.

