

The Research and Development Program

The Research and Development Program is part of the Government of Canada's Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative – a six-year, \$40 million investment to respond to the mountain pine beetle epidemic in Western Canada.

The program delivers research and also focuses on the deployment and transfer of knowledge gained.

The research agenda is intended to be strategic, scientifically sound and complement operational needs.

Program Objectives

The program's objectives are to:

- reduce the impact of the current mountain pine beetle epidemic, and to
- reduce the risk of future mountain pine beetle epidemics.



Research projects study the impact of pine beetles on western Canadian forests.

Expected Outcomes:

- First-rate strategic planning for forest health.
- Optimal collaboration between forest sector stakeholders.
- Customized market knowledge, and
- Focused, effective transfer of information to forest managers and policy-makers.

Key Processes

The mountain pine beetle epidemic impacts ecological, economic, and social processes, as well as efforts to reduce the risk of future infestations. MPBI research objectives for these key processes are:

- Ecological – to improve the ecology of forests impacted by infestation.
- Economic – to provide information on how to best market wood from infested forests.
- Social – to provide information that helps forest communities cope with the impact of infestation.
- Risk Reduction – to reduce risk of future epidemics by greater understanding of infestations.



Researchers study mountain pine beetle-killed wood to learn more about the infestation.



Practical information assists foresters to develop and implement effective beetle management strategies.

Initiatives

Within each key process, research projects will support strategic initiatives.

Ecological Strategic Initiatives will:

- Identify ways to assess the effectiveness of proposed mountain pine beetle management plans.
- Determine any environmental risks that may occur from either the ecological impact of the beetles or from efforts to regenerate the landscape.
- Find the best ways to regenerate stands of trees in infested forests.



Research can improve our ability to reduce the risk of future epidemics.

Economic Strategic Initiatives will:

- Evaluate the marketability of wood harvested from beetle-infested trees.
- Provide information for manufacturers about physical qualities of beetle-impacted wood.
- Provide information about chemical properties of beetle-impacted wood.

Social Strategic Initiatives will:

- Provide information on specific impacts the epidemic will have on British Columbia's forest communities.

Risk Reduction Initiatives will:

- Study the relationship between beetles and forest ecology, silviculture and climate change.
- Develop models to improve understanding of beetle population.
- Improve ways to monitor beetles and understand how they respond to control measures.

Research Funding is Available

Individuals, organizations or institutions interested in research funding should apply to the program.

All MPBI research is subject to a peer-review process and public reporting via the MPBI website. As described above, all research is assessed against the objective established for the program.

Applicants are required to submit a letter of interest according to established submission guidelines and review criteria.

Applicants should note that because this is publicly funded research, results will be kept in the public domain.

To find out more...

Additional information, along with funding application forms, is available on the MPBI website www.mpb.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca

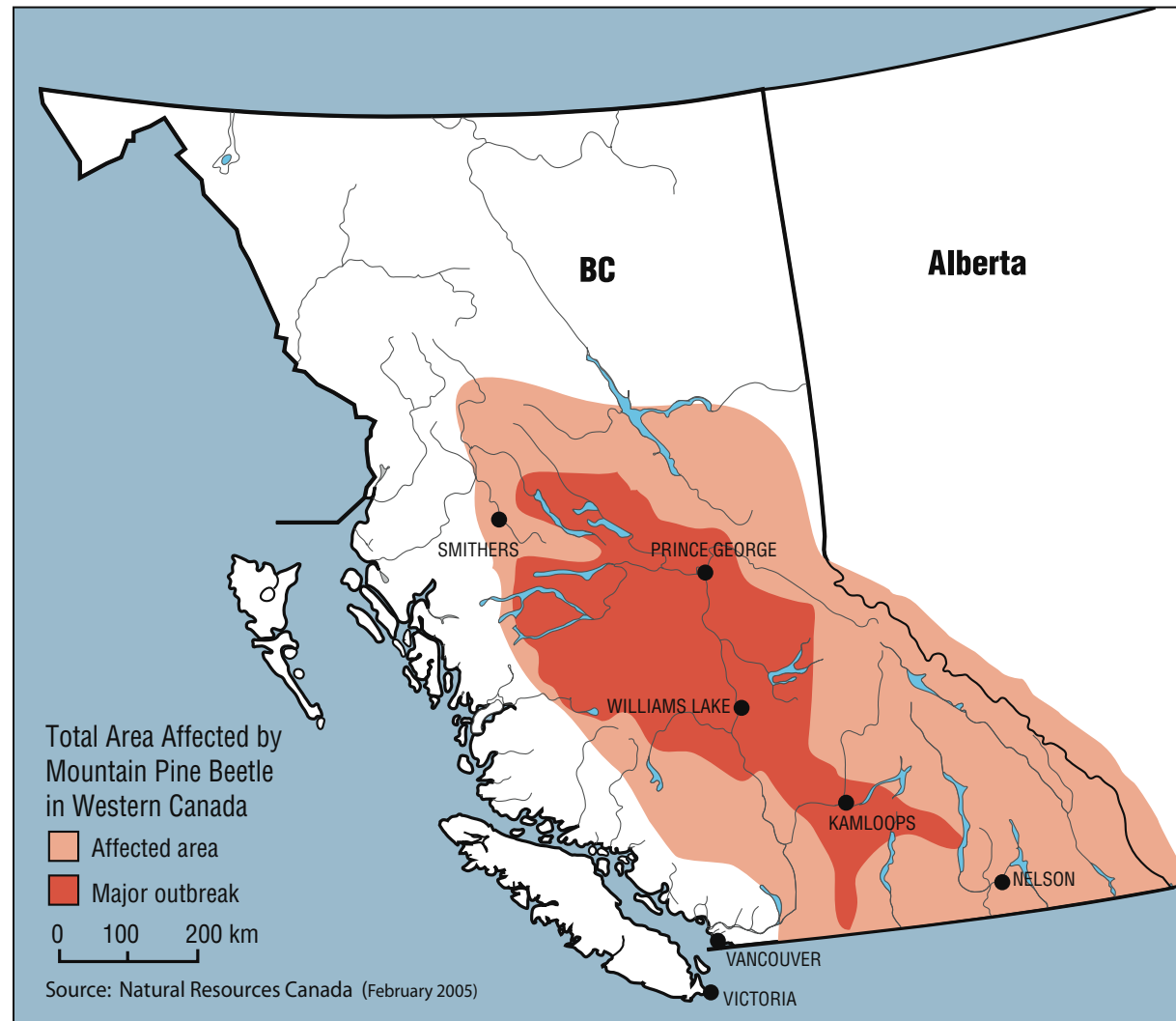
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Research increases the knowledge needed to protect future forests.

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The total area affected by mountain pine beetle has grown in recent years.

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