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**MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE POPULATION PREDICTIONS
IN
THE EAST KOOTENAY NELSON FOREST REGION
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Mountain pine beetle populations are continuing to increase in the northern part of the East Kootenay Region, with the most active infestations occurring in Kootenay National Park extending north into the Golden TSA, and in the Radium to Golden area. In the southern portion, beetle populations generally remain low, with the exception of active infestations continuing in the Moyie Lake area. Although overwintering mortality was light, some spring brood mortality was caused by extensive drought in 1994 which caused trees to dry out before progeny could mature.

The drought-stressed mature pine stands (FIDS PEST REPORT 95-2) especially in the southern trench, are highly susceptible to mountain pine beetle attack in 1995. Attacks by other less aggressive beetles such as Ips, lodgepole and turpentine beetle were already evident by mid-June on stressed trees examined at Elkford and Baker Mountain. Ambrosia beetle attack was common on the dead and dying trees.

Table 1: Overwintering survival and population status of mountain pine beetle, 1995

Location	"R"	Status	Location	"R"	Status
<u>Cranbrook District</u>			<u>Golden District</u>		
Moyie Lk	5.6	Increasing	Waitabit Cr	6.4	Increasing
Teepee Cr	2.5	Decreasing			
<u>Invermere District</u>			<u>National Parks</u>		
Pinnacle Cr		Increasing	Kootenay	6.2	Increasing
Parson	9.6	Increasing	Yoho	5.4	Increasing
	9.3				

"R" value = an average population trend, derived from the number of insects relative to the number of entrance holes in representative bark samples at DBH.

"R" values <2.5 = decreasing populations; 2.6-4.0 = static populations; >4.0 = increasing populations.
