

Mountain Pine Beetle Spring Population Forecast Survey

BACKGROUND

- Spring population forecast survey operations take place between mid-May and mid-June. Surveys were conducted at sites within Alberta's forested area.
- The r-values measure the proportion of live larvae and adults that survived the winter compared to the number of mountain pine beetle (MPB) that attacked the tree in July and August of the previous calendar year.
- Very cold winter ambient temperatures of -40°C and below, at the right stage in the life cycle, can cause significant levels of MPB mortality. Staff assess the survival success rates of MPB populations in the spring once mortality-causing weather events have passed.
- This forecast indicates how successful MPB populations will be this year. The population forecast survey does not account for population changes caused by long-range immigration of MPB from British Columbia, federal mountain parks, or heavily-infested areas of Alberta.

NEXT STEPS

- The results of r-value surveys along with aerial surveys and ground assessments completed during the fall will help prioritize areas for Level 1 (single tree treatment) and timber harvest control tactics over the winter.
- Continued aggressive Level 1 control action in targeted areas will be required to reduce the impact of MPB.