

## BEETLE FACTS

- MPB is a native pest to the Black Hills and is always present in the forest in low numbers. The beetles eat the inner bark of the tree, interrupting the transport of water and nutrients which kills the tree.

- Beetle epidemics are cyclic and have been occurring in forests for eons. The current MPB epidemic was triggered by an overgrown forest and other environmental conditions. This allows beetles to successfully attack and kill large numbers of trees, and multiply rapidly across the Western United States, including the Black Hills.

- Under normal conditions the beetles cause periodic, low amounts of single tree and small group mortality of which typically attack the least healthy trees in the stand. Trees growing in lower density settings are more healthy and able to withstand beetle attacks.

- The use of commercial timber sales and tree harvests are effective and economical tools that suppress and prevent beetle epidemics.



An additional 34,000 acres of untreated, infested trees were detected on air photos in 2013. Some areas remain in epidemic status. This plan treats approximately 162,000 acres using non-commercial or commercial (harvest) methods. Below: The area of green, healthy trees is a timber sale that reduced susceptibility to beetle attack before the beetle killed all the surrounding trees.



Continued treatment is critical in the highest priority areas to quickly treat the epidemic and prevent catastrophic wildfires.

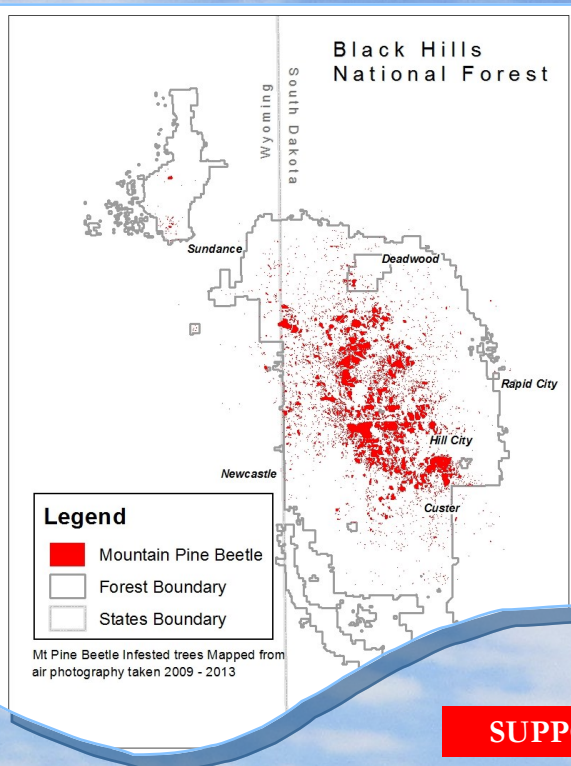


# THE BLACK HILLS REGIONAL MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE STRATEGY



***GET INVOLVED!  
SUPPORT THE  
RESTORATION  
EFFORT***





The current mountain pine beetle (MPB) epidemic has affected approximately 430,000 acres, with varying degrees of mortality, since the outbreak began in 1996. There have been some encouraging declines in some areas but there is a need to stay vigilant with this epidemic. We must continue working with our partners to keep our forests green and more resilient to insects and wildfire damage, as much now as ever. Numerous public agencies, forest products industry, private land owners, and conservation leaders are implementing an “all lands” strategy to slow the spread of the mountain pine beetle. To be effective, we must work together across large landscapes, and ahead of the beetle infestations.

### SUPPORT THE RESTORATION

Your donation will fund implementation of the **Black Hills Regional MPB Strategy**, which was developed by conservation leaders in the Black Hills area in 2012. The mission statement is “To help reduce and mitigate the current MPB epidemic towards endemic levels that promotes economic, ecological, and social long-term sustainability of the Black Hills region.” There are four goals to accomplish the mission: 1) Reduce the current MPB epidemic 2) Create and maintain healthy forests that are resilient to future MPB outbreaks and catastrophic wildfires 3) Ensure the viability of the forest products industry in the region 4) Ensure public safety from hazard trees and catastrophic wildfires. Further funding is needed to accomplish the goals and objectives identified in the strategy.

<http://www.sdrcd.org/BlackHills.aspx> to view the Black Hills MPB Regional Strategy

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Private landowners, forest industry, resource conservation districts, county, state, and federal agencies have joined together in a collaborative “all lands” approach to combat the current MPB epidemic in the Black Hills; an effort unmatched throughout the country. Over the last two years:

- More than 650,000 infested trees were non-commercially treated on about 300,000 acres.
- 1 million infested trees were removed via commercial timber harvest.

### MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE DONATION

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO BLACK HILLS  
RC&D

~A 501 C3 NON- PROFIT ORGANIZATION~

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

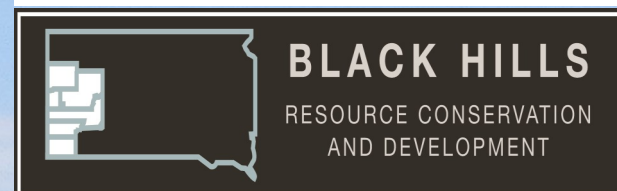
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Donations to:

Black Hills Resource Conservation and Development,  
PO Box 9547, Rapid City, 57709.



Black Hills Resource Conservation and Development (BHRC&D) is a non-profit organization that encourages and improves the capability of volunteer locally elected and civic leaders in the RC&D Area to plan and carry out projects for resource conservation and community development. Our board is made up of local volunteers who represent sponsoring organizations. BHRC&D is a supporting partner in The Black Hills Regional Mountain Pine Beetle Strategy and is the administrating agency for the strategy.