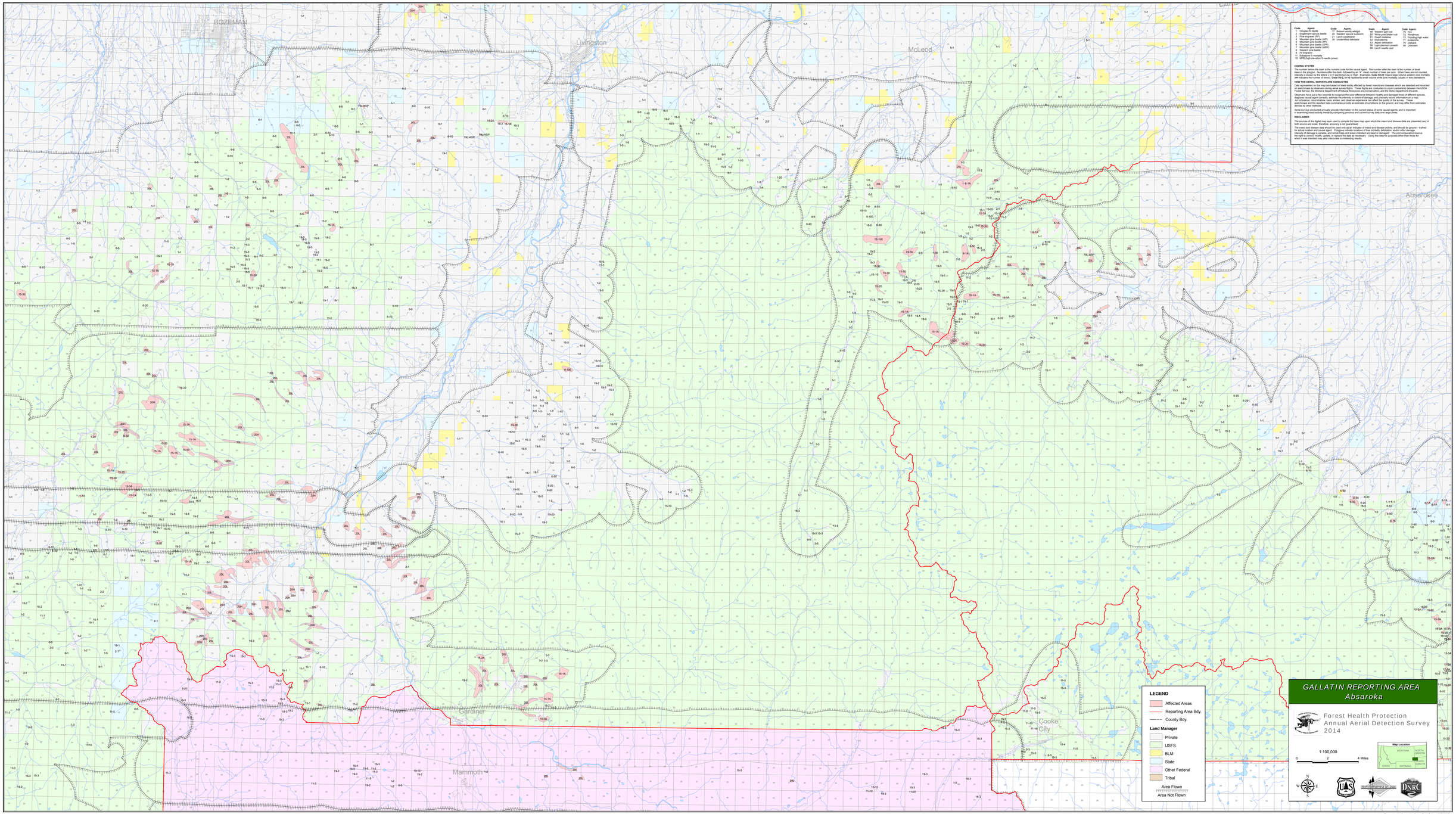

Code	Agent:	Code	Agent:	Code	Agent:	Code	Agent:
1	Douglas-fir beetle	19	Western spruce budworm	50	Western larch dwarf mistletoe	71	Drought
2	Engelmann spruce beetle	20	Western spruce budworm	52	White pine blister rust	72	Windthrow
3	Pine engraver (PIY)	21	Larch casebearer	53	Dwarf mistletoe	73	Flooding high water
4	Western pine beetle (WBP)	28	Unidentified defoliator	54	Western gall rust	74	Avalanche
5	Mountain pine beetle (PTP)			55	Aspen defoliation	79	Outbreak
6	Western pine beetle (PTW)			56	Lophodermium pinearum	99	Unknown
7	Mountain pine beetle (MBP)			59	Larch needle cast		
8	Western pine beetle						
9	Pine weevil						
11	Subalpine fir mortality						
15	WPB (high elevation 5-needle pines)						

CODING SYSTEM

The number before the dash is the numeric code for the causal agent. The number after the dash is the number of dead trees in the polygon. Numbers after the dash, followed by an "A", mean number of trees per acre. When trees are not counted, polygons are assigned a 1 or 2 to indicate "Present" or "Abundant". Codes with a "P" following the causal agent code indicate the number of trees. Code 99-0 is an NR represents small acute aerial pine mortality, usually in tree plantations.

HOW THE AERIAL SURVEYS ARE CONDUCTED

Data represented on the map are based on trees visibly affected by forest insects and diseases which are detected and recorded on sketchmaps by observers during aerial survey flights. These flights are conducted by a joint partnership between the USDA Forest Service, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and the Idaho Department of Lands.

Observers have just a few seconds to recognize the color difference between healthy and damaged trees of different species. Because of the variability in tree species, stand conditions, and the skill and experience of the observers, mistakes happen. Air turbulence, cloud shadow, haze, smoke, and observer experience can affect the quality of the survey. These discrepancies and the resultant data summaries provide an estimate of conditions on the ground, and may differ from estimates derived from other surveys.

Aerial surveys conducted annually provide information on the current status of some causal agents, and is important in examining insect activity trends by comparing previous and current survey data over large areas.

DISCLAIMER

The sources of the digital map layer used to compile the base map upon which the insect and disease data are presented vary in accuracy and detail. Some features may be inaccurately located.

The insect and disease data should be used only as an indicator of insect and disease activity, and should be ground – truthed for actual location and causal agent. Polygons indicate locations of tree mortality, defoliation, and/or other damage. Not all trees within a polygon are dead, defoliated, or otherwise damaged. The participating agencies reserve the right to correct, modify, update, or replace the data as necessary. Using this data for purposes other than those for which it was intended may yield inaccurate or misleading results.

Forest Health Protection-Boise Field Office 1/9/2012 CN