Why are the Trees Cut?

These trees were killed by a mountain pine beetle epidemic triggered by drought, warmer winters and aging forests. Beetles, the size of a grain of rice, have killed millions of mature pine trees in the West. Dead trees were sold to timber businesses for lumber, wood pellets, firewood and other uses. The blue stain introduced by the beetles does not affect the strength and quality of lumber. Seeds from the old forest, and the existing young trees, will become the new forest.