

What Killed the Trees?

A mountain pine beetle epidemic is killing mature pine trees across the West. Beetles, the size of a grain of rice, bore under the bark and lay eggs, interrupting the flow of nutrients which kills the tree. Beetles also carry a blue stain fungus which contributes to the death of the tree. This epidemic was triggered by drought, warmer winters and aging forests.



What happens next?

When beetles run out of trees to infest, their populations decline. Seeds from the old forest, and the existing young trees, will become the new forest.



The Forest Is Changing

Watch Out for Falling Trees

- Be aware of your surroundings. Avoid dense patches of dead trees; they can fall without warning.
- Stay out of the forest when there are strong winds that could blow down trees. If you are already in the forest when the winds kick up, head to a clearing out of reach of any potential falling trees.
- Place tents and park vehicles in areas where they will not be hit if trees fall.
- When driving in remote areas of the forest, park close to a main road, rather than on a spur or one-way section. If trees fall across the road you may be trapped.
- Do not rely only on cell phones for safety as there is no coverage in many areas of the national forest.

Your Safety is Your Responsibility!

Rocky Mountain Region

