

# The Bitterroot's Trees of Many Colors

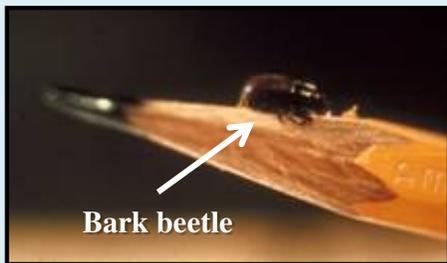
## Why Some Evergreens Are No Longer Green



Forests in the Bitterroot Valley contain many red trees that have been killed by bark beetles



Bark beetles are a natural part of the forest and normally kill weak trees. This gives the remaining trees room to grow stronger



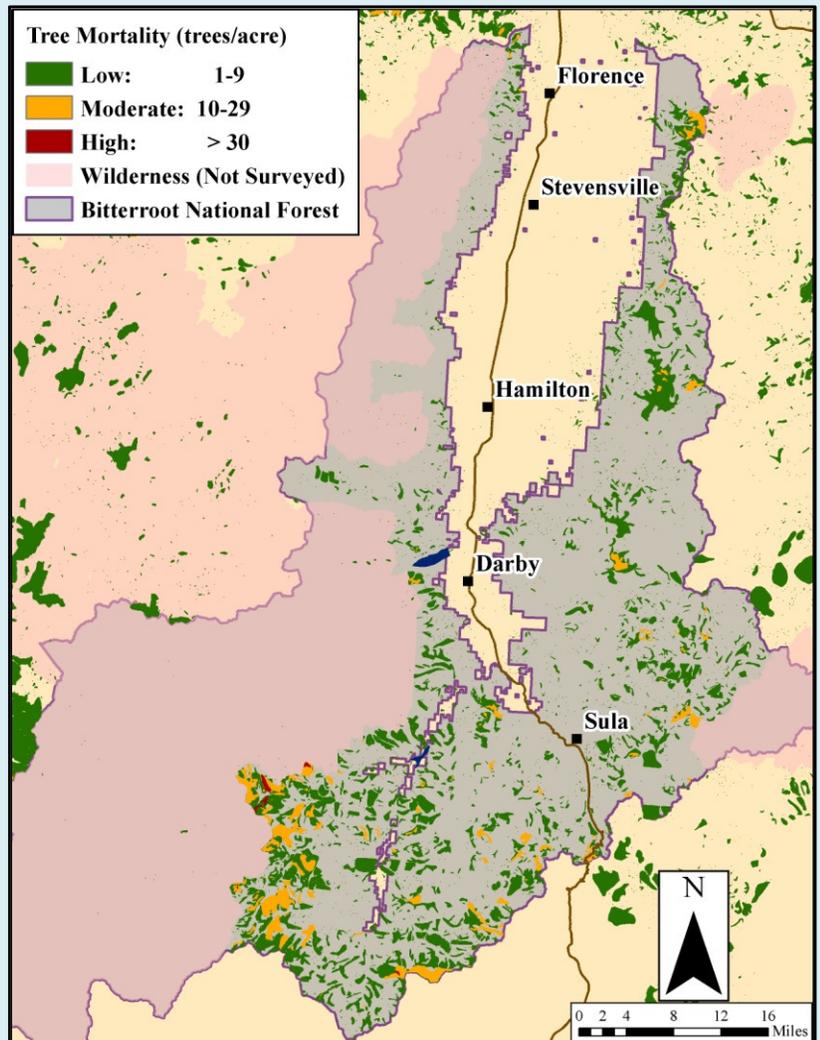
Drought and lack of fire have made many trees weak. Some forests have become overgrown or old in age which gives the bark beetles plenty of food

Many trees in high-use recreation sites and campgrounds are being protected with an insecticide spray or by thinning to remove infested trees and increase forest health

There are scattered pockets of red trees on the Darby and Stevensville Ranger Districts

The largest groups of dead trees are on the West Fork and Sula Ranger Districts

### Cumulative Bark Beetle-Caused Mortality in Bitterroot National Forest from 1999-2011



#### Bitterroot National Forest

For additional information on forest management visit: [www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot](http://www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot)

For additional information on bark beetles visit: [www.beetles.mt.gov](http://www.beetles.mt.gov)

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