

S
D-6, Insect Control.
Wallowa. 1907-1909

SS
District, Studies,¹
Insect Infestation.

November 12, 1909.

Dr. A. D. Hopkins,
Bureau of Entomology.

Dear Doctor Hopkins:

The following letter has just been received from Mr. G. H. Cecil, Acting District Forester in District VI:

“On October 11, I forwarded to Dr. A. D. Hopkins from Halfway, Ore., a small bottle containing specimens of bark beetles, and grubs of borers, together with a section of bark and wood showing their work cut from a yellow pine tree.

“These specimens were collected from the timber sale of the T. W. Odell, September 2, 1909, in Sec. 18, T. 7 S., R. 47 E. on the Wallowa National Forest. They grew on a westerly slope of about 20° and approximately 300 feet from a creek. When the specimens were collected the tree was entirely dead, although still retaining its needles. The brown beetles were taken from a spot about 4 ft. from the ground, while the darker ones seemed to be found only around the base of the tree. The grubs of the borer were scattered over all the section investigated.

“The attack of insects on yellow pine in the locality seems to have been quite recent, within the last two or three years, although large areas of lodgepole have been destroyed in the last five years. While the damage to the lodgepole occurring as it does as a rule in isolated mountain regions is no great loss, particularly since it is being replaced in part, at least, by larch, the damage to yellow pine is a more serious proposition and I would be very glad to have Dr. Hopkins identify the specimens and give us advice as to their control.”

These specimens are doubtless the ones referred to in your letter of October 27 to the District Forester, to which Mr. Allen replied in his letter of November 2, which was recently forwarded to you. I am sure that Mr. Cecil will very much appreciate receiving any information you may be able to give him in regard to the insects and the possible damage which they may do.

Very sincerely yours,
Raphael Zon
Acting Assistant Forester.

¹ This document was transcribed from a photocopy of the original, which is located in the Supervisor's Office Silviculture Library Archives. To the greatest extent possible, this version is an exact duplicate of the original text.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
DISTRICT 6

SS
District – Studies
Insect Infestation

BECK BUILDING
Portland, Oregon

November 6, 1909.

The Forester,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

On October 11 I forwarded to Dr. A. D. Hopkins from Halfway, Oregon, a small bottle containing specimens of bark beetles, and grubs of borers, together with a section of bark and wood showing their work cut from a yellow pine tree.

These specimens were collected from the timber sale of the T. W. Odell, September 2, 1909, in Sec. 18, T. 7 S., R. 47E. on the Wallowa National Forest. They grew on a westerly slope of about 20° and approximately 300 feet from a creek. When the specimens were collected the tree was entirely dead, although still retaining its needles. The brown beetles were taken from a spot about 4 ft. from the ground, while the darker ones seemed to be found only around the base of the tree. The grubs of the borer were scattered over all the section investigated.

The attack of insects on yellow pine in the locality seems to have been quite recent, within the last two or three years, although large areas of lodge pole have been destroyed in the last five years. While the damage to the lodge pole, occurring as it does as a rule in isolated mountain regions is no great loss, particularly since it is being replaced in part, at least, by larch, the damage to yellow pine is a more serious proposition and I would be very glad to have Dr. Hopkins identify the specimens and give us advice as to their control.

These specimens are doubtless those referred to in Dr. Hopkins' letter of October 27 to the District Forester, to which Mr. Allen replied in his letter SS of November 2 sent to Dr. Hopkins "through the Forester."

Very truly yours,

Geo. H. Cecil

Acting District Forester.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 18, 1907.

The Forester,

% Mr. Raphael Zon,

Forest Service,

Washington, D. C.

Dear sir:

On January 9th a letter was received from Mr. James B. Adams, Acting Forester, calling attention to depredations by beetles on the lodgepole pine over large areas in the Wallowa Forest Reserve, Oregon, as reported by Forest Inspector Erickson, and requesting a special investigation. In my reply of January 9th, request was made for specimens from the dying trees and for more detailed information, as a basis for conclusions in regard to necessary action.

In response to this request, a letter to the Forester from Supervisor O'Brien, dated January 30th, relating to specimens forwarded by him, was referred to me February 6th, but the specimens were not received until the 14th.

The fine specimens, fully labeled with desirable data, have been examined, and the beetle which is responsible, represented by both larvae and adults, is identified as Dendroctonus monticola. This species we have found to be a very destructive enemy of the lodgepole pine, silver pine, sugar pine, and western yellow pine, in various sections, from northern Idaho to the Yosemite National Park. We have studied its life history and habits in some detail, and will issue a circular at an early date, giving detailed information on the insect and methods for its control.

This beetle is closely allied to D. ponderosae, and has similar life history and habits. Therefore the methods recommended in Bulletin No. 56, of this Bureau, may be adopted with such change in the details as the local conditions and different character of the tree may suggest.

In order to bring the beetle under control, it is necessary that at least seventy-five per cent of the insects in the infested trees should be destroyed during the period between the middle of October and the middle of the following June. This may be accomplished by simply removing the infested bark from the trunks of the trees as they stand, or after felling, or by felling the trees and converting the infested part of the trunk into ties or saw logs and removing them from the reserve before the broods emerge.

Another method would be to scorch the bark on the logs sufficiently to kill the beetles, or, as a last resort, where practically all of the trees are infested in a given locality, they could be effectually and quickly destroyed by a forest fire. There are doubtless cases where the protection of the large areas of healthy trees might be effected by such radical measures. However, I would not recommend it without being fully acquainted with the facts.

Lodgepole pine will remain sound a long time after it is killed by insects, and is thus available for many uses.

We contemplate sending a man into this reserve next spring to make special investigations. In the meantime, a thorough survey should be made by rangers or foresters, to ascertain the approximate percent of timber that is now infested, as a basis for definite action.

Very truly yours,

A. D. Hopkins

In Charge of Forest Insect Investigations,
Bureau of Entomology.