

COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE  
Mountain Pine Beetle Program  
Jefferson County

This is a brief pictorial report on my investigation of the controversy involving Mrs. Virginia Price's concern for management of native ponderosa pine stands as a tool in controlling the beetle. The area was visited on February 7, immediately following Governor Lamm's directive to investigate.

The Denver Post article of February 5 contained a photograph which could be interpreted as a "clear cut" area. Here is another view of the natural meadow to which the logs were hauled.



View from south of I-70 looking north. The arrow identifies the "swath" cut of concern to Mrs. Price. A patch of 95-100 trees on about three acres was cut.



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Another view of the "swath".  
Mrs. Price's property is over  
the ridge. I-70 cannot be  
seen from the property.



Standing about 50 yards from the  
Price property the view south,  
toward I-70 shows scattered small  
trees and branches. Logs for  
lumber have been removed; fire-  
wood, posts or poles will be  
removed soon.



Moving down the slope to a point approximately 150 yards from the Price property, this photo shows the Price home.



Standing at the same point as before, this is a view south. I-70 is at bottom of slope. Note skidder moving logs to landing in meadow.



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Another view from essentially  
same point toward I-70.



View from same point, looking  
east.



View from same point, looking west.



Stump of one of 75 dead, but still green trees in "swath". Note blue stain fungus in stump and pitch tube where beetle entered tree.



Stump of one of 10 similar trees as above but without blue stain fungus. These trees were infested with mistletoe, a parasite, which reduces tree vigor. Note in this case, also, pitch tube of beetle.



View looking back toward swath (east) from a point about 150 yards away. These trees are in good condition and will not be cut.



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Moving from the Price area, this view of residue at Camp Safari, a mile or so west, shows how the Price area might look after removal of firewood, etc. The Denver Mountain Parks crews will probably chip all residue leaving the area similar to the next photo showing Fillius Park near Evergreen.



Fillius Park after total management job completed in 1977. Note stumps of infested and susceptible trees. Remaining trees show no sign of beetle attacks.



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Following are views of other areas in Jefferson County which will add background in understanding the management concept.

This overexposed photo shows an area south of Evergreen. It was heavily infested with beetles. The property is also part of the Denver Mountain Parks. A contract was awarded to a private company calling for payment of \$11 per thousand board feet to the City and County of Denver.



Another overexposed photo shows yellow paint at breast height and on base of tree. All trees to be removed are personally marked by qualified people.



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Management plans for all areas call for protection of wildlife habitat. This dead "snag" was left for squirrels, birds and raptors.



The two CSFS foresters on the firing line, supervising the management program are Bruce Coulter (L) and Chuck Dennis. They are both highly qualified foresters and are noted for good judgement.



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It is unfortunate that the area abutting the Price property was so severely attacked by the beetle. It is equally unfortunate that the trees were still green. There is no doubt, however, that in May or June 90% or more of the trees would have turned brown, a sure sign of death. Removal of the trees then would have been taken for granted.

Why not wait until death of the trees is obvious to everyone? In August the beetles begin leaving the infested trees and attack others. The time period, June and July is too short to treat all infestations. This situation requires a year around effort.

The management concept now being practiced on many landownerships is based on research showing that properly spaced, younger growth trees are usually capable of repelling the beetle. They have more nutrients, sunlight and water. Implementing management, however, requires removal of some uninfested trees. This feature is the basis for controversy. Public meetings, news releases, etc. are the tools being used to overcome objections.

Is the beetle control management project being professionally handled in the vicinity of the Price property and elsewhere? Based upon my 26 years in the field of forestry, it is.

Our long range objective is to provide for a safe, vigorously growing forest, enlisting all forest landowners in a common cause. Doing this job without punitive regulation by providing leadership, education, training and service presents problems and opportunities unknown in single ownership situations found in federal agencies. Regardless, we Coloradoans are succeeding. The continuing support of the Executive and Legislative branches is a key feature in this success.

  
Thomas B. Borden  
State Forester

