PLATTE CANYON FD

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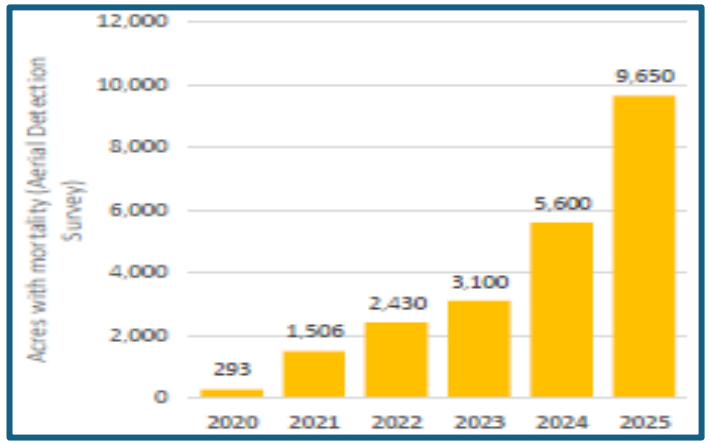
Pine Beetle Overview and Risk



- Mountain Pine Beetle infestation continues to grow in Colorado.
- The number of acres in Colorado with affected trees has grown steadily since 2020.
  - 2024 saw 5,600 acres of tree affected.
- Significant increase in fuel loads, decline in forest health and resilience.

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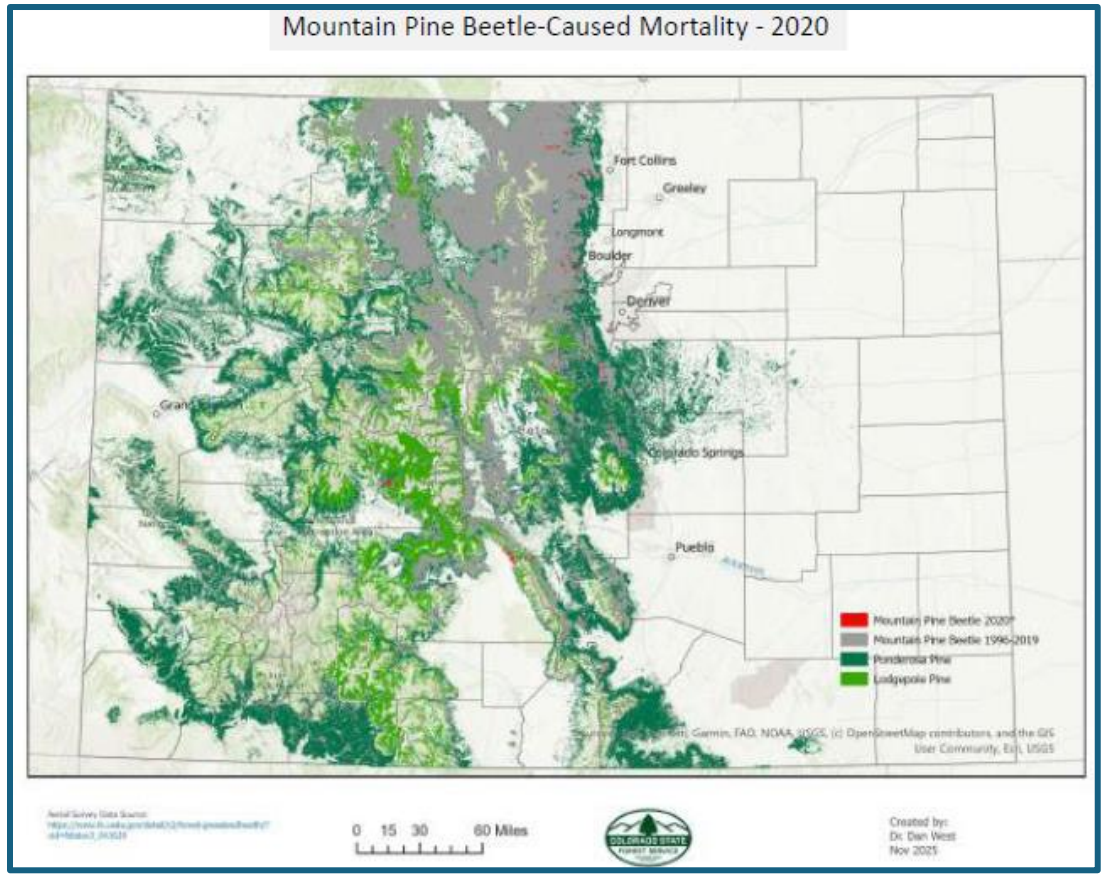
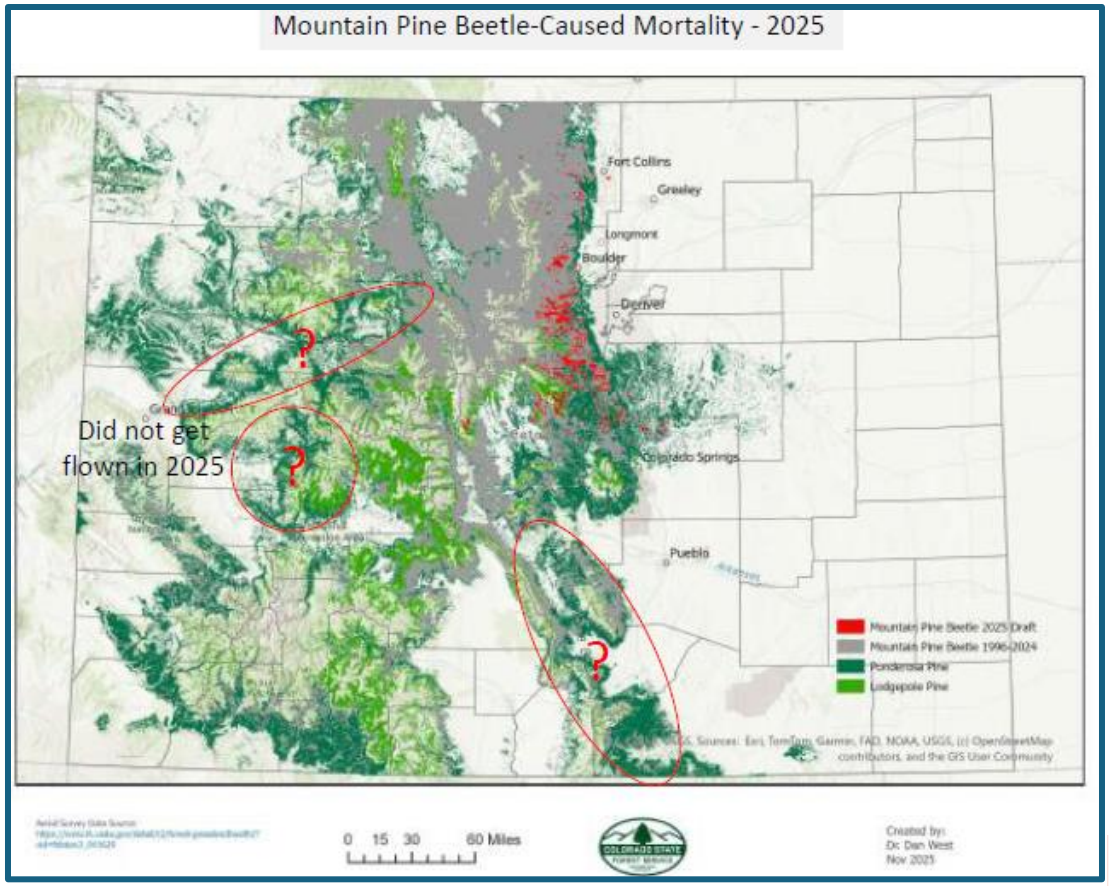
MPB Caused Tree Mortality 2020 – 2025





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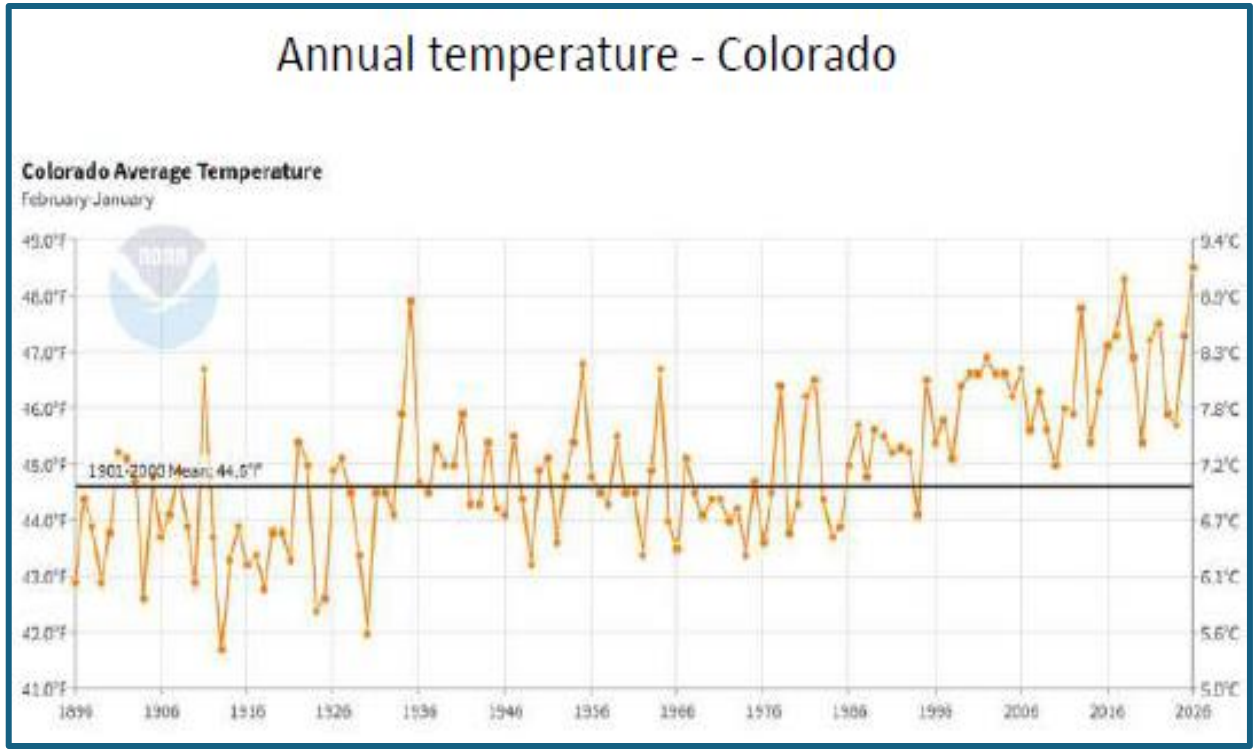
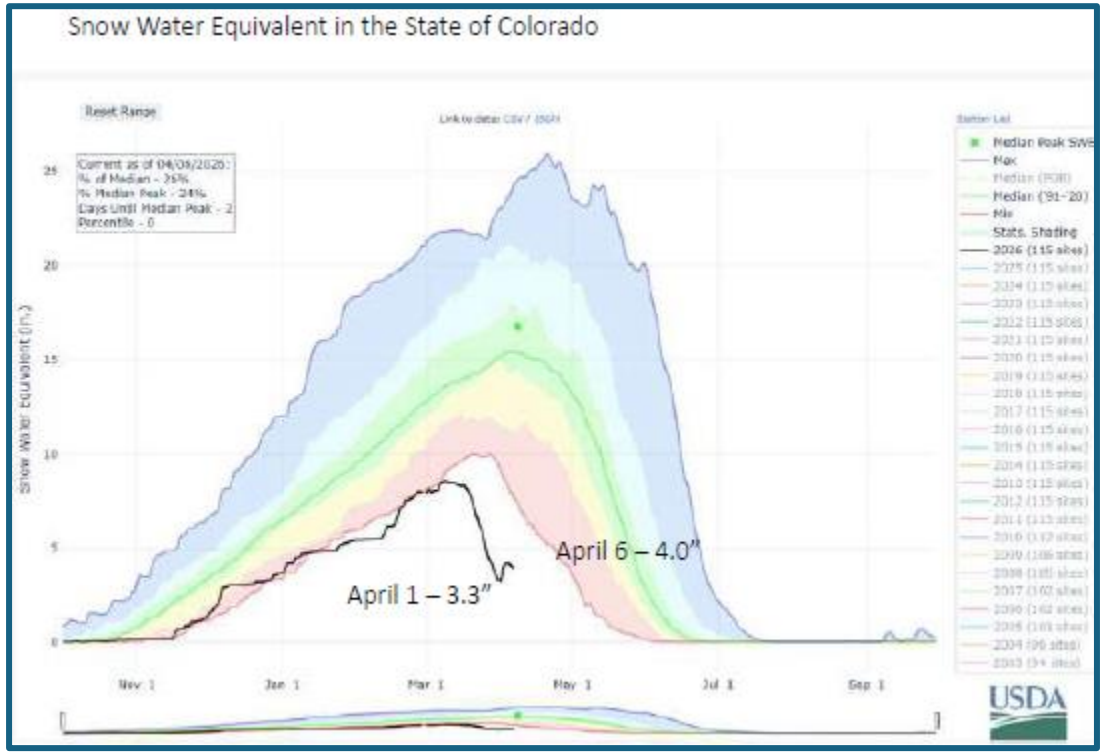
2026 Environmental Impacts





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MPB Prefer Ponderosa, but most pines are potential hosts

All native pines, except piñon, are hosts of MPB

Lodgepole pine

Ponderosa pine

Limber pine

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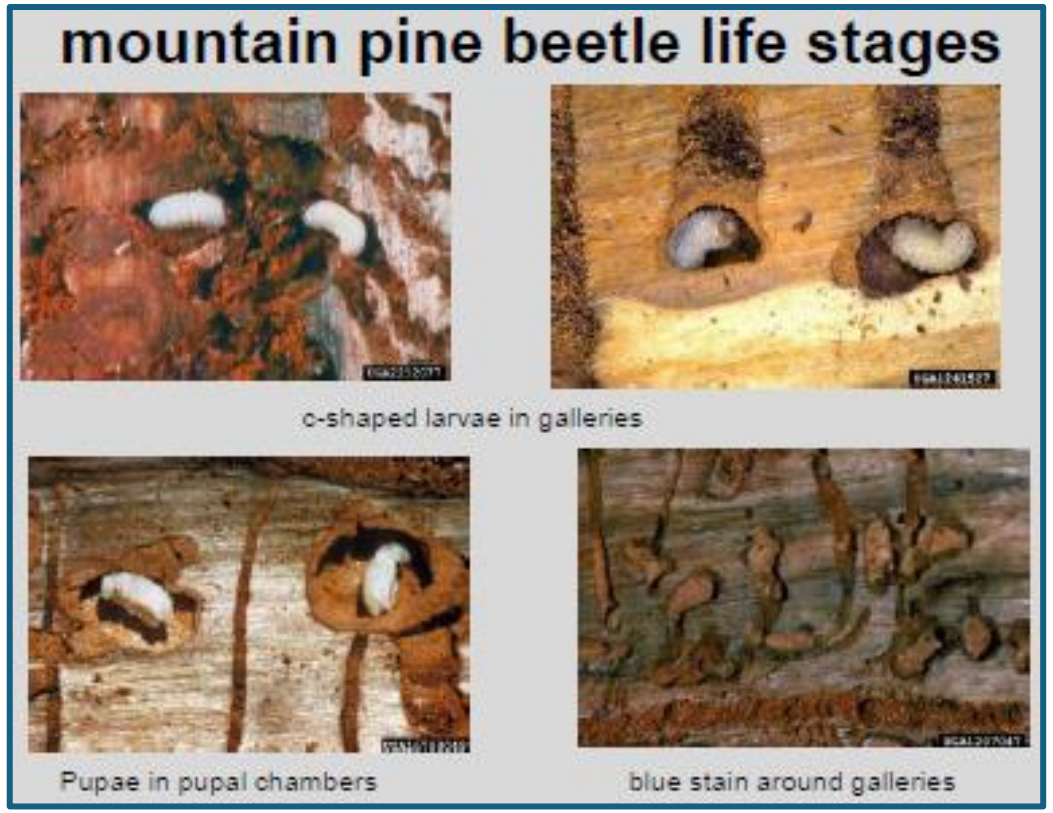
Mountain Pine Beetle Activity



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Pine Beetle Lifecycle

- Mountain Pine Beetle infestation follows a consistent pattern each year.
  - Adult Beetles emerge from host trees in the June/July/August timeframe and fly to new trees.
  - Beetles bore into new trees, lay eggs that evolve into larvae that feed on the host trees over the winter and subsequently consume the tree.
  - The new batch of adult beetles emerge from the host trees and start the cycle again in the summer months.
  - **Best Practice – remove infected trees in Winter, dead trees in Summer**

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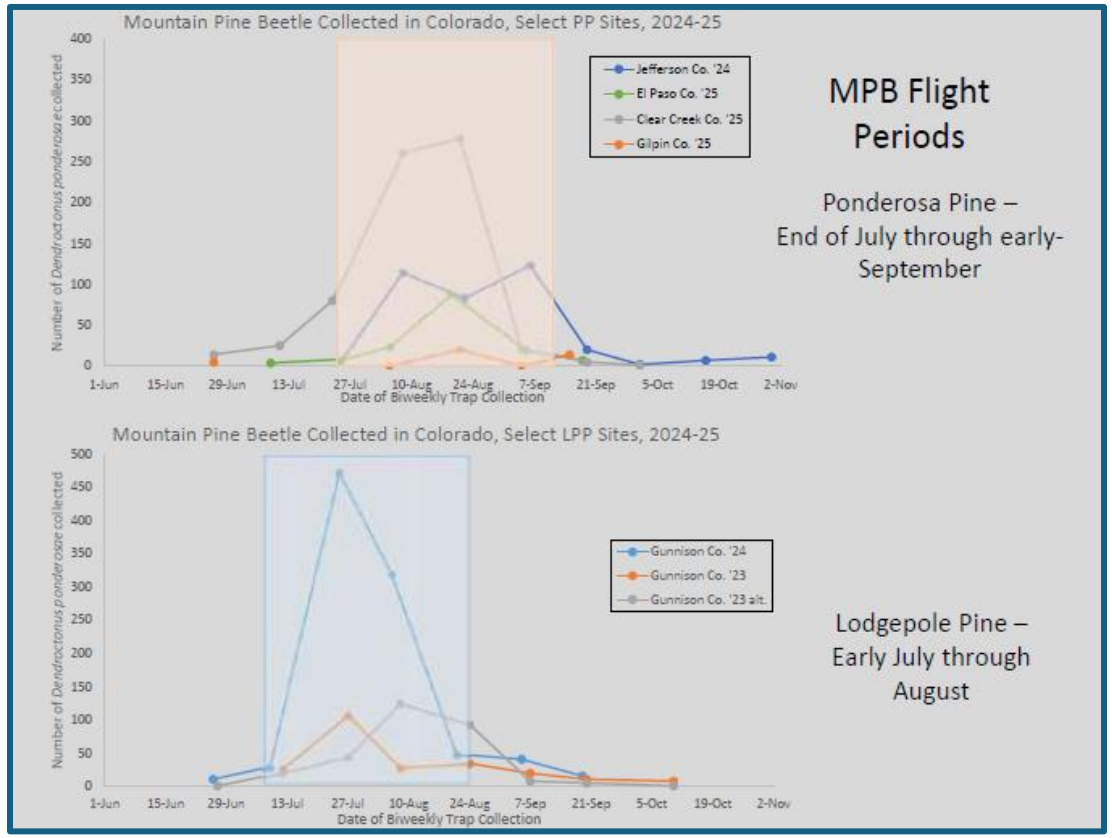
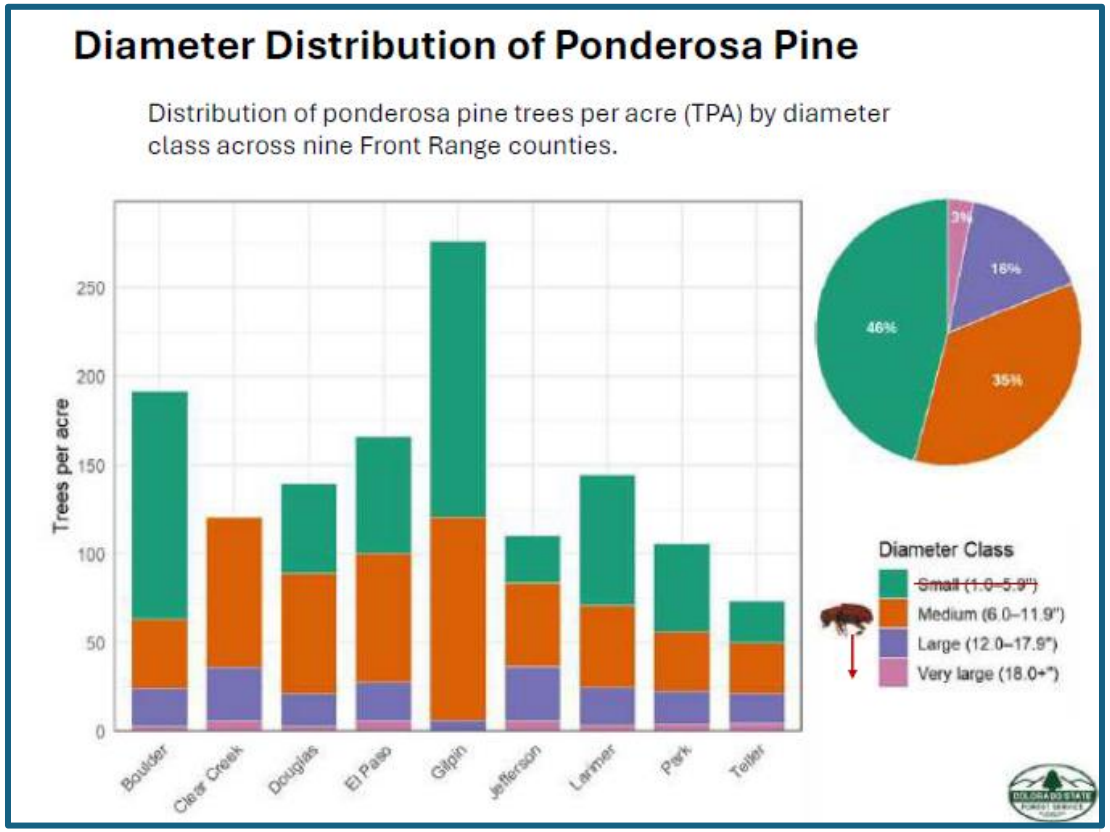
MPB Targets & Peak Beetle Flight 2026





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Questions & Next Steps