

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT – JULY, 2010

Mountain Pine Beetle is making inroads on our beautiful hillsides. The current damage is much more apparent than the previous year. By the end of July to the middle of August, the newly - mature beetles will have flown to infest new trees. Fall is the best time to identify trees that are newly attacked. Look for pitch tubes and boring dust at the base of the tree. Identification in the fall gives several months to decide how to handle cutting the tree down and disposal of the trunk. Many homeowners wait until May and find that they are unable to find someone to cut the trees down.

The cold spell that occurred last October caused dieback in many of our native shrubs. Chokecherry, aspen and mountain mahogany are showing many damaged areas.

The weather has been perfect for aphids. They are appearing on many of our shrubs and evergreen trees. The aphids will not kill the tree or shrub but are unsightly and can make them more susceptible to other insects or disease. There are also colonies of western tent caterpillars showing up in chokecherries, currants, mountain mahogany and aspen. It appears that this may be a bad year for these pests. They have the potential to completely defoliate the plant.

Wildlife is abundant. Bears, mountain lions and one marmot have been spotted. It has been reported that someone is feeding the wildlife. Remember that this is illegal and endangers all of us.

Our wet spring has brought lots of tall grasses and weeds which are a wildfire hazard. Be vigilant and take steps to protect your property against wildfire.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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