

More Recommendations

I wanted to comment about Cheryl and Chuck Hanson's article "Rip the Bark!" The USFS - CLRD has used this method in a couple of locations. Post treatment monitoring has determined that the ripping does expedite drying however it is labor intensive. This treatment was compared to no bark rip but cut to 4' bolts and stack and dry. Treatment objectives were to destroy the MPB habitat by drying to reduce the population pressure and possible infestation on the adjacent stand. Boles that were bark ripped dried faster but if given enough drying time the same results were achieved. Other thoughts:

- Depending on the size of the project and the amount of volume involved ripping the bark is a suitable process to prescribe.
- If the surrounding stand is heavily infested treating small pockets through felling and ripping the bark will not have any meaningful affect on MPB populations.
- If treating: cut the bole into firewood piece lengths to promote drying.
- If ripping: it is only necessary to go as high up on the bole to a point where MPB galleries are not found. Generally speaking this might be up to 12'.
- The Hanson's stacking technique is a great idea. It might be helpful to rotate or turn the pieces every couple of months. Their stacking technique optimizes drying from air circulation.
- When creating an opening in the canopy consider opening up the stand to sufficiently create enough sun exposure to promote tree regeneration and also position the stacked wood where it will have as much sun on the pile as possible. In other words, consider shading effects from trees left on the openings edge.
- If fuel reduction is an objective the piles should eventually be consumed by burning and should be positioned to minimize scorching on residual trees.
- If you really want a work-out try using a tree wizard to remove most of the bark. This is very labor intensive and works okay with lodgepole but isn't recommended on ponderosa pine due to the thickness of the bark.
- The use of a cable system to move the logs out of the stand may be possible. Larimer county Tree Farmer Jim Roland has developed a small system that works well for steeper areas. In the end the amount of labor involved in setting up such a system may be comparable to bark ripping and stacking. Transporting infested wood into urban areas would need to be considered.

Hopefully these comments are useful. Many thanks to the Hanson's for sharing their thoughts and images.

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