

LAWRENCE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Dates and Notes

District Office closed
President's Day holiday
Feb. 20

SD Association of
Conservation Districts
Officials & Employee Seminar
And Big Sioux Nursery
Annual Meeting
Feb. 21-22
Pierre

District Supervisors Meeting
Feb. 29 (March meeting)
District Office, Spearfish

Conservation Districts and State Attack MPB

The following information was taken from an article written by Custer Conservation District Supervisor Dave Thom. It will appear in the National Association of Conservation District's publication, Forestry Notes.

The Custer, Lawrence and Pennington County Conservation Districts, through the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD), have teamed with the state's Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry to respond to an exploding mountain pine beetle infestation in the Black Hills. The districts hired 46 people to inventory and mark trees attacked by the beetle on private lands and in Custer State Park. Through a joint powers agreement with the state, the SDACD does the supervision and administrative work for the conservation districts under technical guidance by state foresters.

The mountain pine beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae*) lays its eggs beneath the bark of ponderosa and other pines. The larva excavates the inner bark and, often in combination with a "blue-stain" fungus, disrupts sap flow and kills the tree. Private lands cover about 300,000 acres of the 1.5 million acres in the Black Hills. In addition to county and state efforts, the USDA Forest Service commercially harvests about 25,000 acres of infested or high risk trees on the Black Hills National Forest annually.

The conservation district crews work on pre-determined priority areas. Along with county weed and pest crews and state personnel, they expect to inventory and map infested trees on an estimated 55,000 acres and mark about 250,000 trees for over 715 landowners. Landowners are sent a letter with the results of the inventory and marking done on their property and

treatment and cost-sharing options available. In almost all programs the private landowner contributes either in-kind or cash to the cost of removal or treatment of infested trees. For a comprehensive look at the issue and additional information see the <http://beatthebeetles.com> website.

Photo at left: Marking mountain pine beetle infested ponderosa pine on a sub-zero day, January 2012.



Board of Supervisors

Charles Edwards,
Spearfish

Karl Jensen, Whitewood

Charles Nicholas,
Spearfish

Ellen Reddick, St. Onge

John Rombough,
Spearfish

Assisting the District

Sarah Eggebo, District
Conservationist

Zindie Meyers, District
Manager

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Resource Cons. & Forestry
Pierre Office