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**(S.D.)-Officials Ask Public To Wait On Chunked Beetle Infested Trees**



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 03/18/2013 08:11 AM

(CUSTER, S.D.)—Black Hills National Forest officials are reminding the public that it is important to not stack or move cut-and-chunked trees that were cut last fall through this spring, until October 2013. Officials say some beetles could survive if enough time has not been allotted for the chunks to dry out.

Transporting mountain pine beetle infested logs before October is also not recommended. Officials say that transporting logs could move live beetles to a different location where they could emerge from the chunks and spread the infestation to nearby pine trees. "The small percentage of beetles that have survived in the chunks will have emerged by October, and you can move or pile the chunks for firewood at that time," said Public Affairs Officer Scott Jacobson with the Black Hills National Forest.

Cut-and-chunk is a method that is used on the Black Hills National Forest to help reduce the mountain pine beetle population. Trees are felled and cut into 24-inch or less chunks to promote faster drying.

For more information, contact Scott Jacobson at 605-673-9216. For more information on the Black Hills National Forest, visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/blackhills>.

--U.S.Forest Service