

# BARK BEETLES AND CONIFER MORTALITY

MICHAEL I. JONES<sup>1</sup>, CURTIS EWING<sup>2</sup>, & CHRIS LEE<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>FOREST ADVISOR, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION – MENDOCINO, LAKE, & SONOMA  
COUNTIES

<sup>2</sup>CAL FIRE, FOREST HEALTH SPECIALIST

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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# FOREST HEALTH

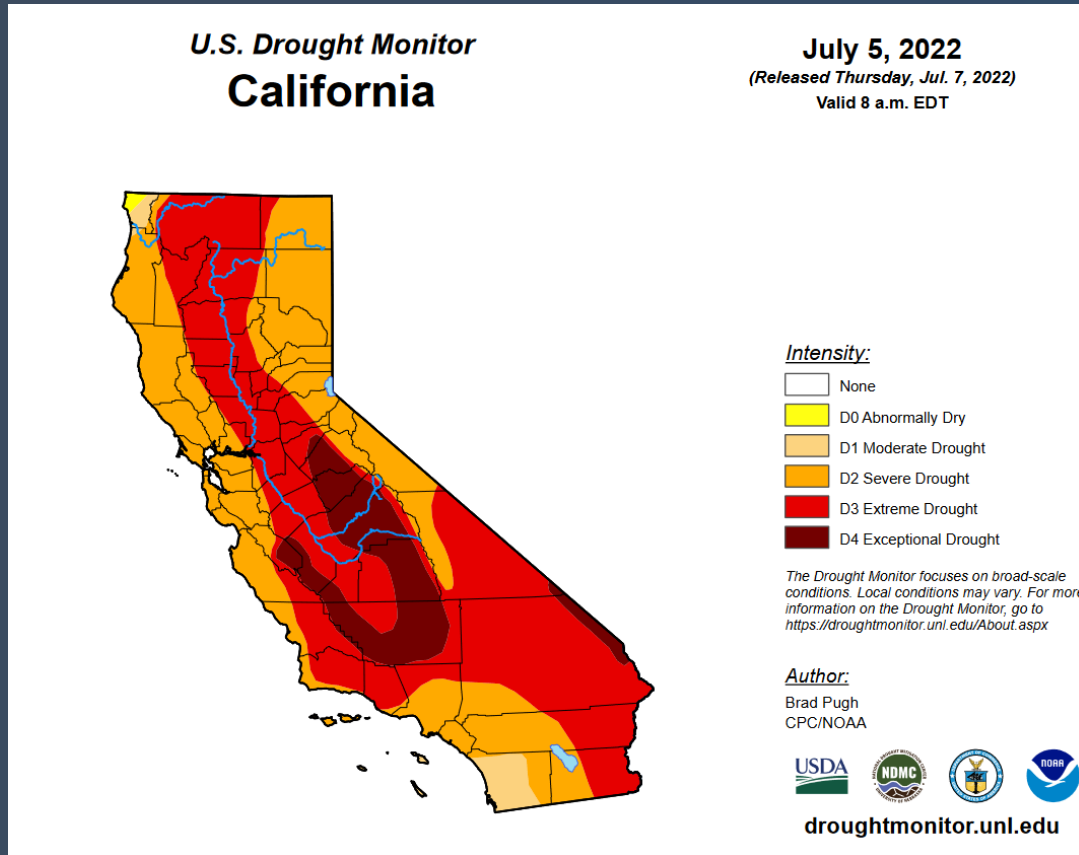
- Forests are Dynamic
- Dead trees are important
- Disturbances are important
  - Abiotic (e.g., weather, drought, fire)
  - Biotic (e.g., anthropogenic, animals, insects and diseases)
  - Create canopy gaps, alter forest structure, enhance vegetative and wildlife diversity, nutrient cycling, food



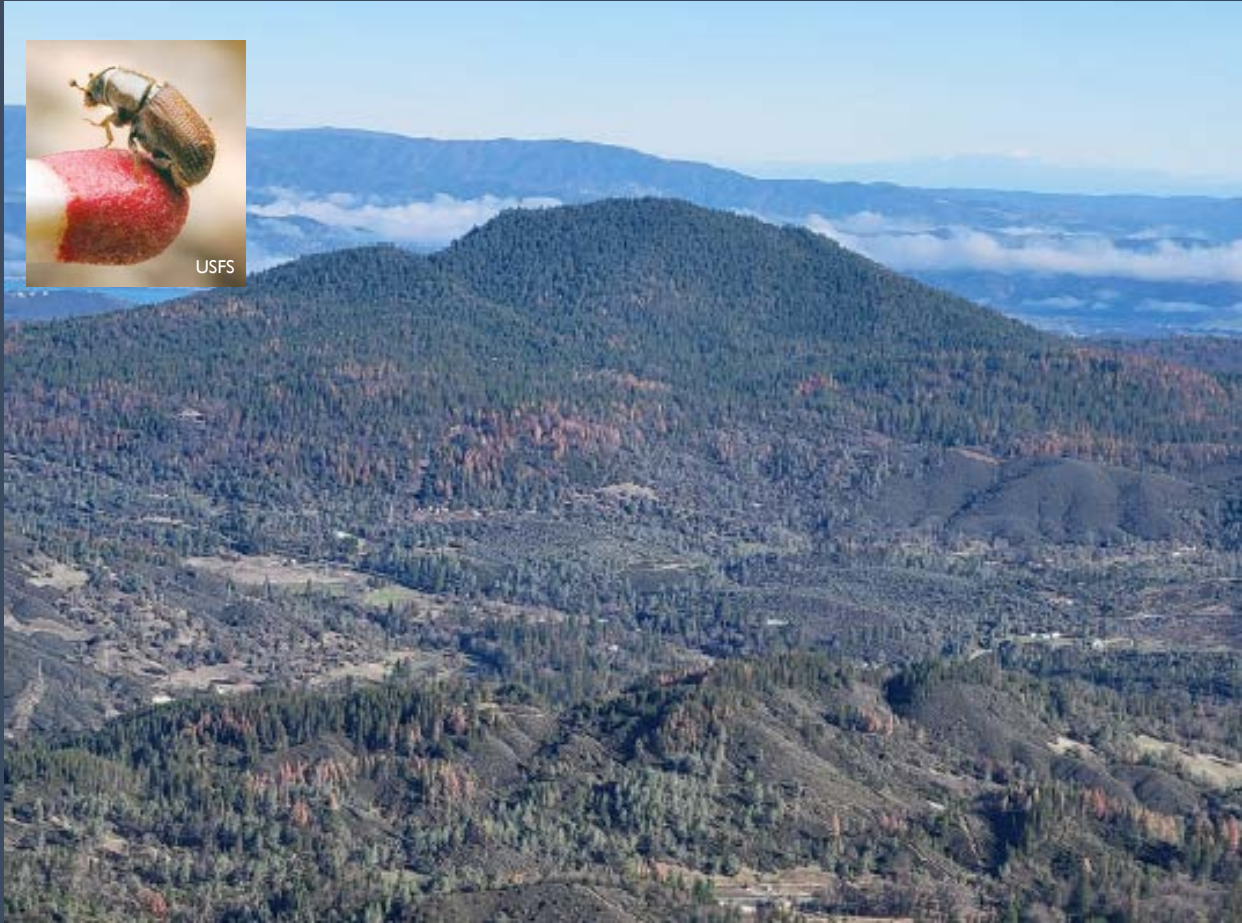
C. Lee, CAL FIRE



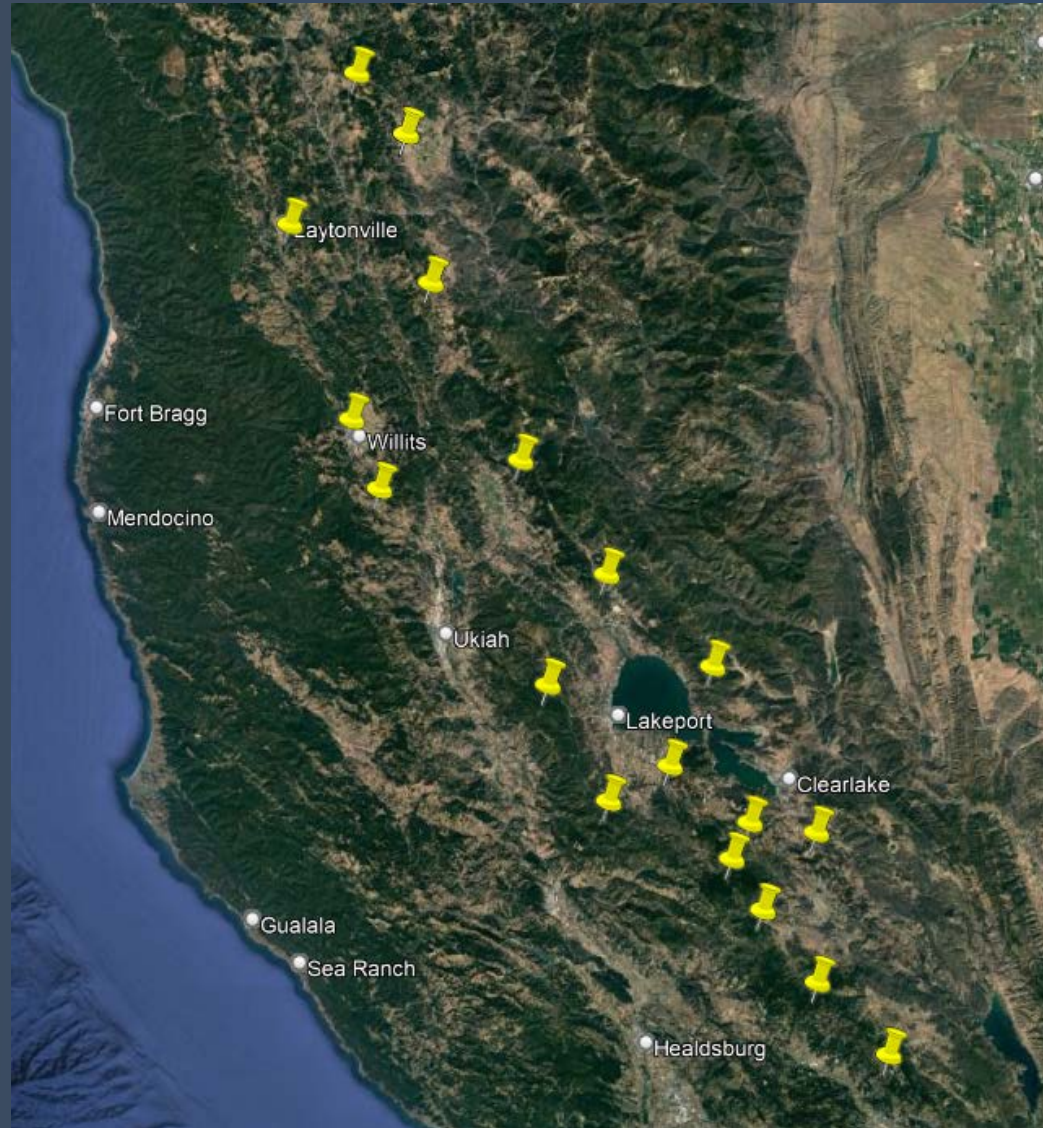
# DISTURBANCES ALIGN...



# LANDSCAPE SCALE TREE MORTALITY

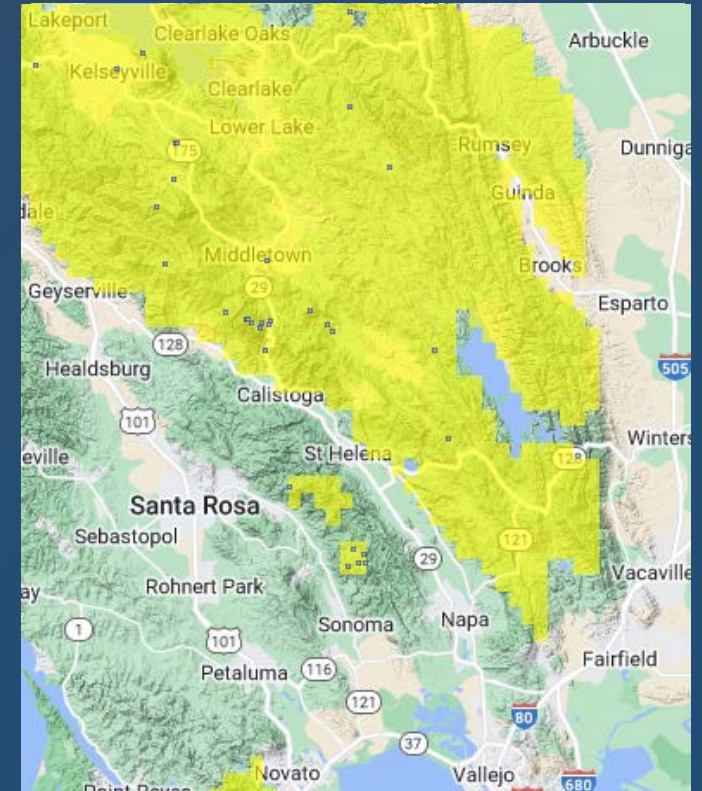


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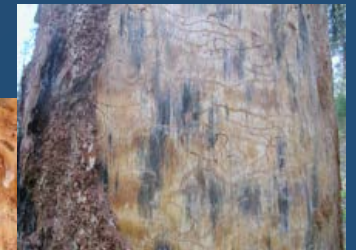
# CONIFERS IMPACTED

- Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)
- Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)
- Grey pine (*P. sabiniana*)
  - e.g., ghost pine, Sierra foothill pine
- Knobcone pine (*P. attenuata*)



# IDENTIFYING BARK BEETLE INFESTED TREES

- Identification
  - Canopy Decline
  - Pitch tubes
  - Galleries (feeding tunnels)
    - Associated fungal infections



# INSECTS OF THE CURRENT OUTBREAK

- Western Pine Beetle (*Dendroctonus brevicomis*)
  - Hosts: Ponderosa pine (*P. ponderosa*)
  - Attracted to stressed trees, can mass attack
- Red Turpentine Beetle (*Dendroctonus valens*)
  - Hosts: Pine (*Pinus* sp.)
  - Common in fire stressed ponderosa pine
- *Ips* (multiple species)
  - California fivespined ips (*Ips paraconfusus*)
  - *Orthotomicus* (= *Ips*) *spinifer*
  - Hosts: western pine species
  - Infest slash





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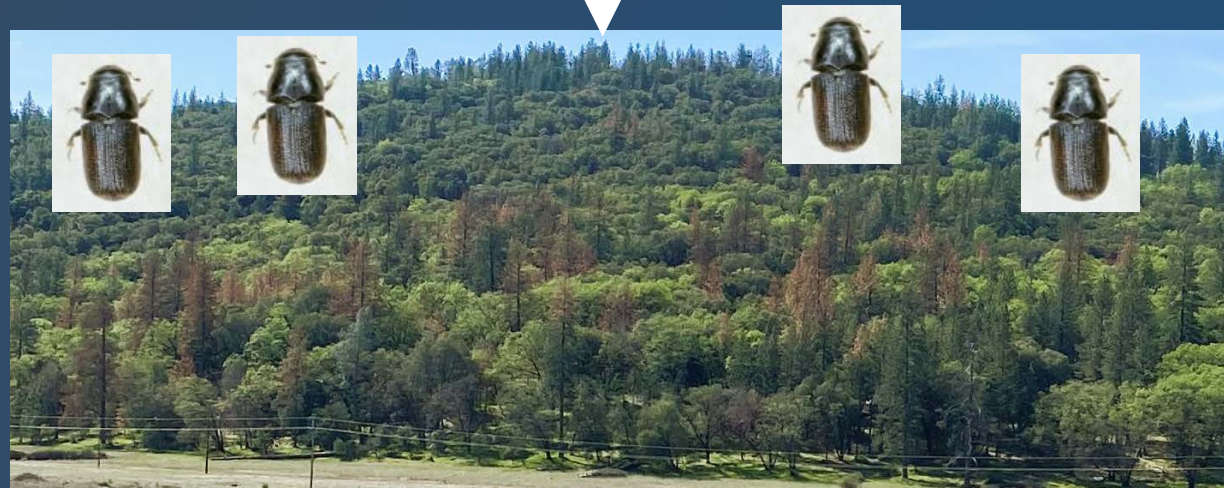
Figure 8—Ponderosa pine killed by California fivespined ips population that built up in the slash piles in the foreground.

# INSECTS OF THE CURRENT OUTBREAK

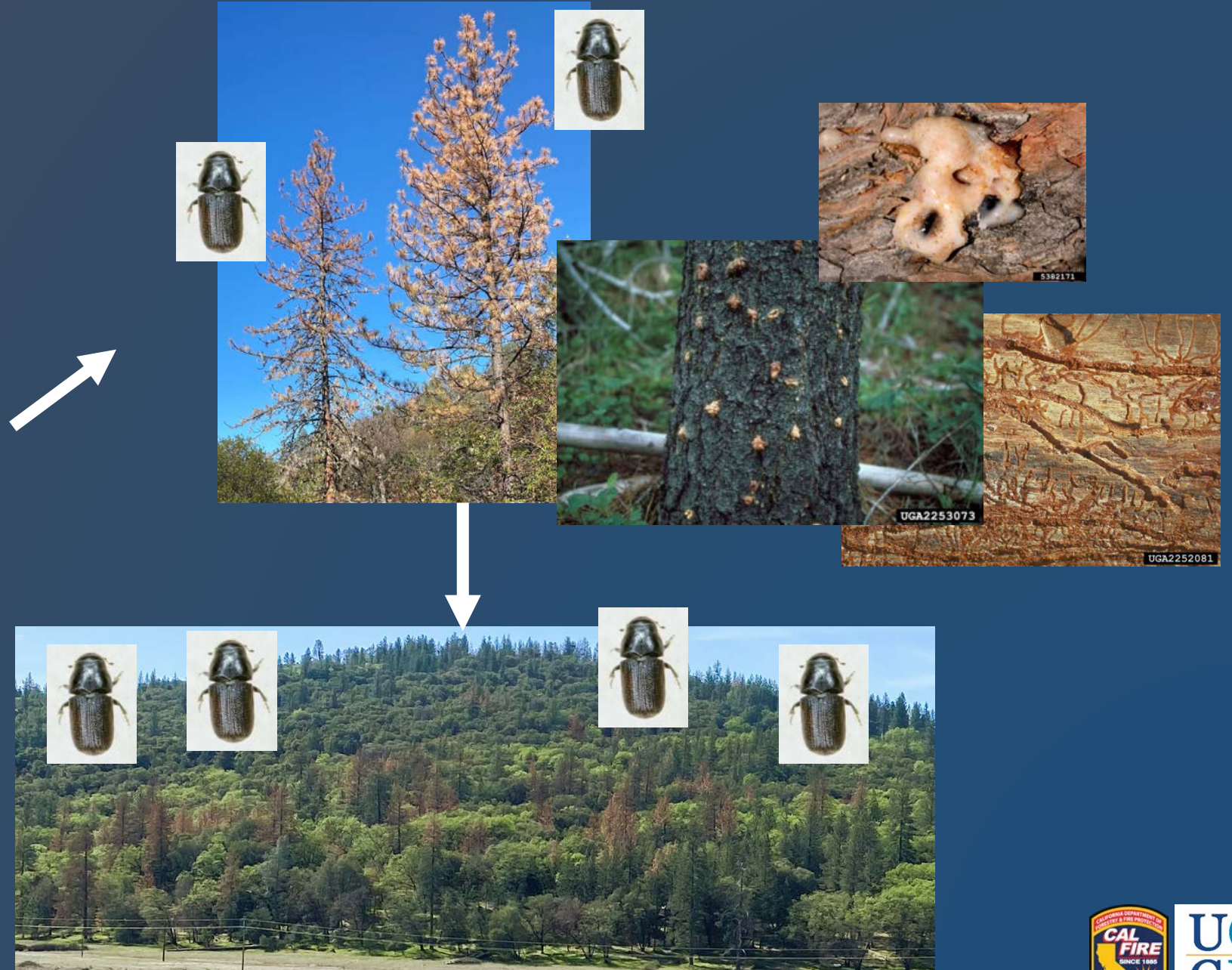
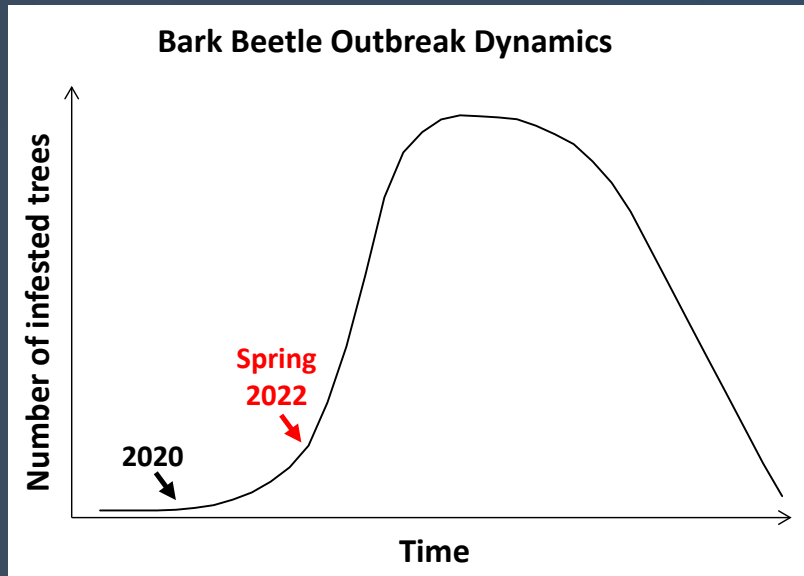
- Flatheaded fir borer (*Phaenops drummondi*)
  - Hosts: Fir (*Abies* spp.) & Douglas-fir (*P. menziesii*)
  - Common in stressed, downed trees
- Douglas-fir Engraver (*Scolytus unispinosus*)



# INSECT OUTBREAKS



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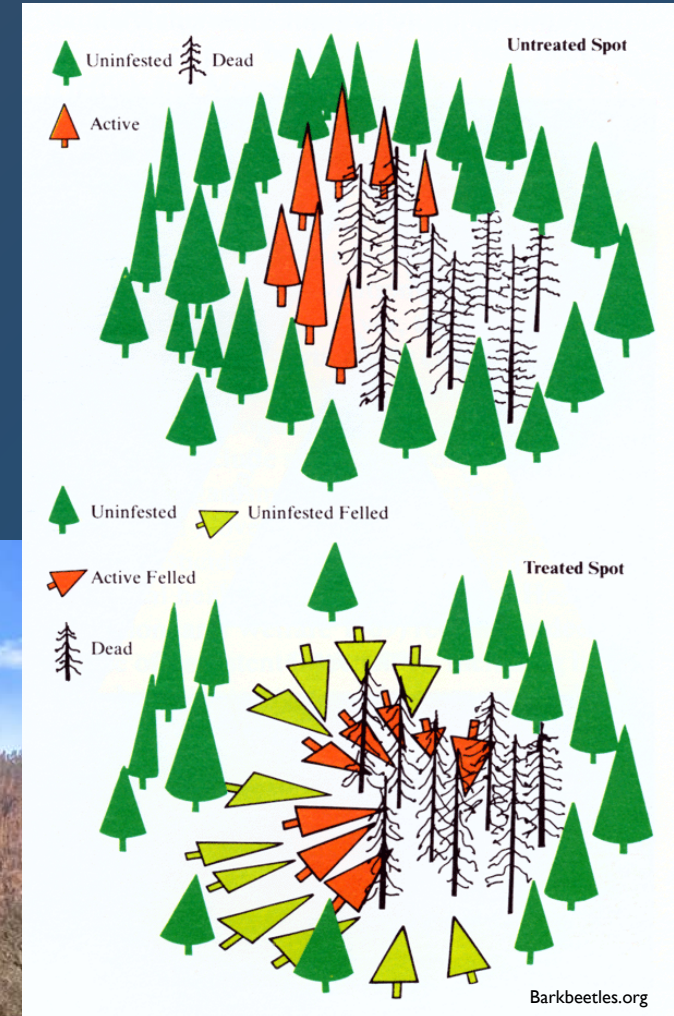
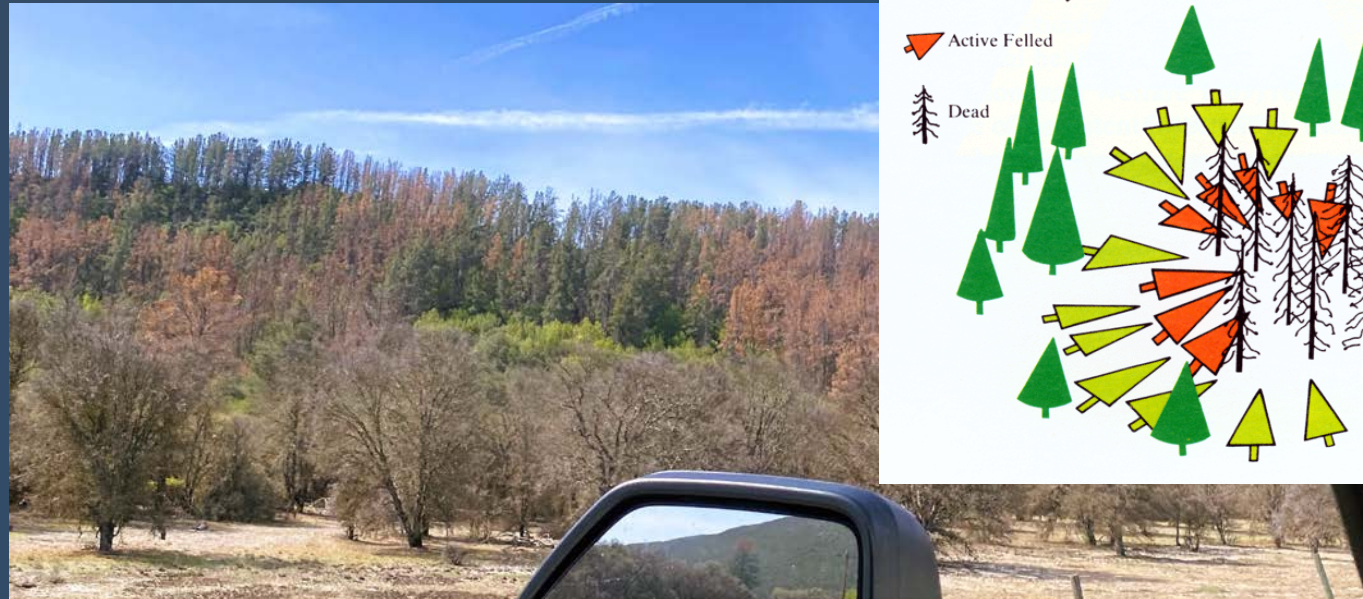
# MANAGING BARK BEETLES

- The current infestation will run its course
- Integrated Management Approach
- Remove and destroy infested material
- Remove dead trees
  - Hazards
  - Fuels reduction



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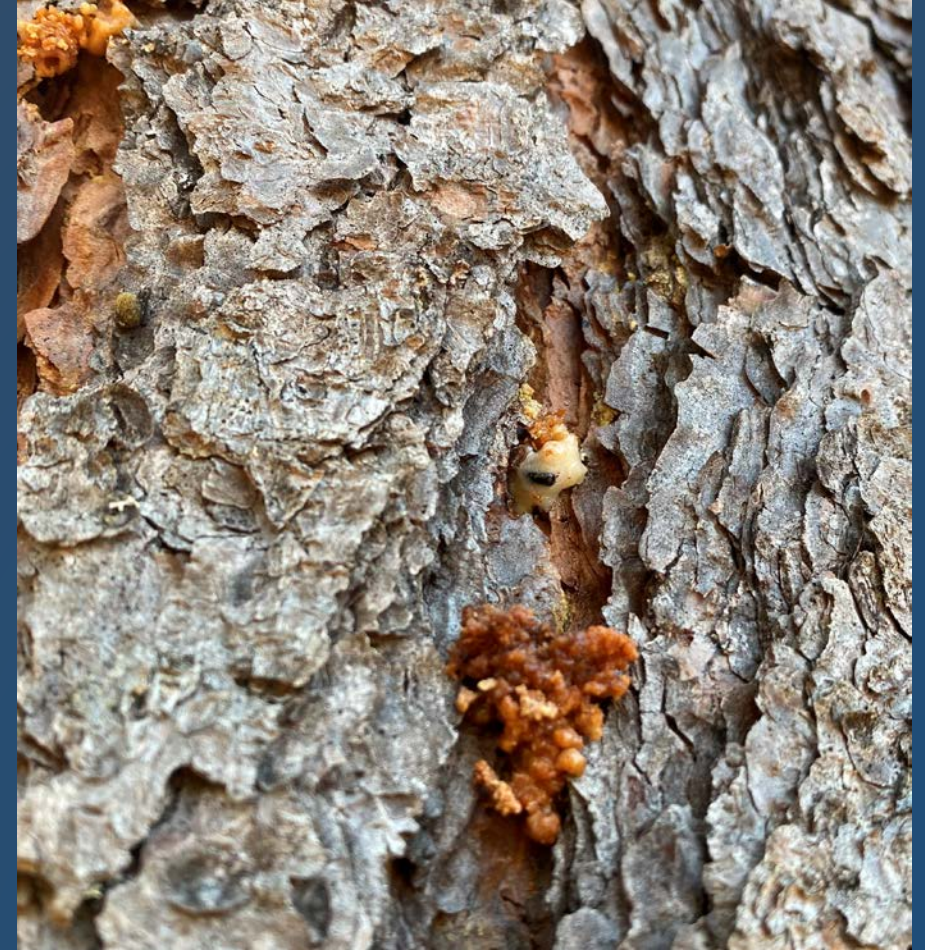
# MANAGING BARK BEETLES

- Thinning
  - Improve vigor and health
  - Remove/destroy slash
- Insecticides
  - Before infested to prevent beetles from attacking trees
- Pheromones
  - Prevent mass attacks & mating disruption
- Supplemental watering
- Plant nonsusceptible hosts



# RESOURCES

- UCCE Mendocino – Forest Health & Forest Resources  
(<https://cemendocino.ucanr.edu/Forestry/>)
- UC IPM Bark Beetle Management  
(<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7421.html>)
- US Forest Service FIDL – western pine beetle  
(<https://www.barkbeetles.org/western/WPBFIDL.htm>)
- US Forest Service western pine beetle management guidelines  
([https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5188577.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5188577.pdf))
- US Forest Service pine Ips species management  
([https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5299326.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5299326.pdf))





# THANK YOU

## Questions?

[mjones@ucanr.edu](mailto:mjones@ucanr.edu)

UCCE Mendocino Forestry  
(<http://cemendocino.ucanr.edu/Forestry/>)

UC ANR Forestry (<http://ucanr.edu/sites/forestry/>)

