

Pine beetles menace 4 billion board feet

By HEIDI SWILLINGER
Of the Emerald

While California wages war on the Mediterranean fruit fly, Oregon is fighting its own insect battle with the Mountain Pine Beetle.

About the size of a grain of rice, the dark brown insect, partial to the Oregon lodgepole pine, destroys a tree by burrowing under the bark and laying eggs.

However, the real killer is a blue-stain fungus transmitted by the beetle, according to Jim Swaby, entomologist for the Oregon Department of Forestry.

The fungus, which affects a

trees' circulatory system, eventually could be responsible for the loss of 2 to 4 billion board feet of timber in central Oregon, dwarfing in scope the 1.6 billion board feet lost after last year's eruption of Mt. St. Helens.

Swaby says using chemicals to combat the beetle is financially unfeasible since the insects aren't affected by sprays once they've burrowed beneath the bark. While he says a preventative spray is available for trees of aesthetic value around homes, every tree in the forest would have to be sprayed from top to bottom in order to make the pesticide effective.

"Thinning trees is the only way to save a (pine) stand," Swaby says. He says reducing the number of trees competing for nutrients is the only feasible way to manage the beetle infestation, which has increased by 70 percent every year since 1978.

The Mountain Pine Beetle is a natural component of the pine ecosystem in eastern Oregon, Swaby says. Along with forest fires, the beetle "is nature's way of managing the lodgepole pine."

But the current infestation has reached epidemic proportions since a number of lodge-



Graphic by Max DeRungs

pole pine stands have reached the age and diameter the beetles consider choice for breeding.

"We've eliminated Mother Nature's ability to manage the beetle with fire because it would be impossible to let that much acreage burn," Swaby says.

"If fire didn't kill (the pines), the beetle would," he says. "It's six of one and half a dozen of another."

He says this particular beetle outbreak could last as long as 20 years.

"If we don't do something to manage trees now, people 40-60 years from now will be

looking at the same outbreak," he predicts.

Massive infestations of the beetle have plagued Ponderosa pine stands in Colorado for the last 10 years, says Bill Aquadro, a forester with the Colorado State Forest Service.

He says the only way to combat the problem is by handpicking infested trees and then cutting them down.

"A preventative spraying is impossible unless you're an individual landowner and want to protect a few trees around your home," he says.

Aquadro says that if infested trees are cut down before they

are dead, the lumber is usually salvageable. "It's perfectly good wood," he says, explaining that the blue tint caused by the fungus "makes a real nice blue stain that's used a lot in paneling."

"It has great ornamental purposes."

Swaby says it's impossible to tell how much money Oregon will lose due to the beetle. He says the state can expect only a 5-percent loss recovery once the trees have been killed.

However, he says if the trees are harvested while still green, a much larger percentage probably can be recovered.

valuable coupon

\$1 off
any purchase over \$5
(on reg. priced items only)

Wide selection of clothes,
baskets, records and tapes.

**Lazar's
Bazar**

2 locations
1036 Willamette Street
and 164 W. Broadway
on the downtown mall
687-9766
or 687-0139

CASH
For Textbooks
Mon.-Fri.
**Smith Family
Bookstore**
768 E. 13th
1 Bl. From Campus
Ph. 345-1651

S.F. N.Y. BOSTON
GREEN TORTOISE
unique travel experiences
and park tours

yellowstone
hot springs

call 800-227-4766

1475 Franklin
B.J. KELLY'S 683-4686

TONIGHT
B.J. Kelly's and KZEL welcome
GREGG TRIPP

\$2.96 cover, 96c Buckets of Bud 8-10
Live Music 6 nights a week!

WED: STONEGROUND for Ladies Nite
THURS: QUARTER BEER NITE 8-10 pm
with the MEGATONES & LON GUITARSKY
in a Benefit for the McKenzie-Willamette
Nurses Assoc
FRI & SAT: SNEAKERS
MON: Blues with BURNERS

HAPPY HOUR
MON-FRI
4-6 pm

But it will close this week Center offers inexpensive tour opportunities abroad

Students who plan to travel in the near future should be warned that this is the last week to obtain international student travel I.D. cards and youth hostel information from the Student Travel Center.

Jill Freisem, outgoing director of the Student Travel Center, will hold office hours this week in Suite 1 of the EMU from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday and from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Friday.

Originally, the Student Travel Center had planned to close its

doors during summer session because of a lack of funding and because of construction work being done at its usual headquarters in Rm. 202 of the EMU. However, because of a large demand for youth hostel information and student I.D. cards, the IFC granted emergency summer funding and provided temporary office space in the EMU so help could be given to inquiring travellers.

The International Student I.D. Card costs \$6, and can be obtained by filing a short application form showing proof of student status as of Spring of 1981 along with a "vending-machine" size photo (1 1/2" X 2"). Holders of the card are eligible for a number of student privileges including reduced admissions to museums and discounts on transportation and accommodations.

In addition, the American Youth Hostel Card entitles students to stay in relatively inexpensive youth hostels where prices for a night's lodging

range from \$2 to \$6. The Youth Hostel card, which costs \$14 for people 18 years old or older, can be used in the United States and 50 other countries. Membership in American Youth Hostels, Inc., is open to individuals, families and groups of all ages and nationalities.

Freisem says the Student Travel Center offers some services not offered by travel agencies. For example, the Center provides information for students who want to work abroad as well as charter flight information not available through travel agencies.

The Center will re-open in the fall in Rm. 202 of the EMU where its travel library, catalogs and programs are located.

Because of budget constraints next year's office hours will be sporadic, and office space probably will have to be shared, Freisem says.

But, for now, travellers with questions can call 686-3724 or stop by the Travel Center during office hours.

*McKenzie
Coffee Co.*

World's finest coffees
Mexican and Swiss Chocolate
Rare and Exotic Teas
Steamed Bagels
Mayflower Building
782 E. 11th 342-2071

SON OF

An exceptional personal bookstore representing the best in American Quality publishing — Modern & classic fiction, natural science, art & gift books.

Special Orders?
Gladly & Efficiently!

651 E. 13th
Eugene, OR
343-3551

KOOBDOOGA