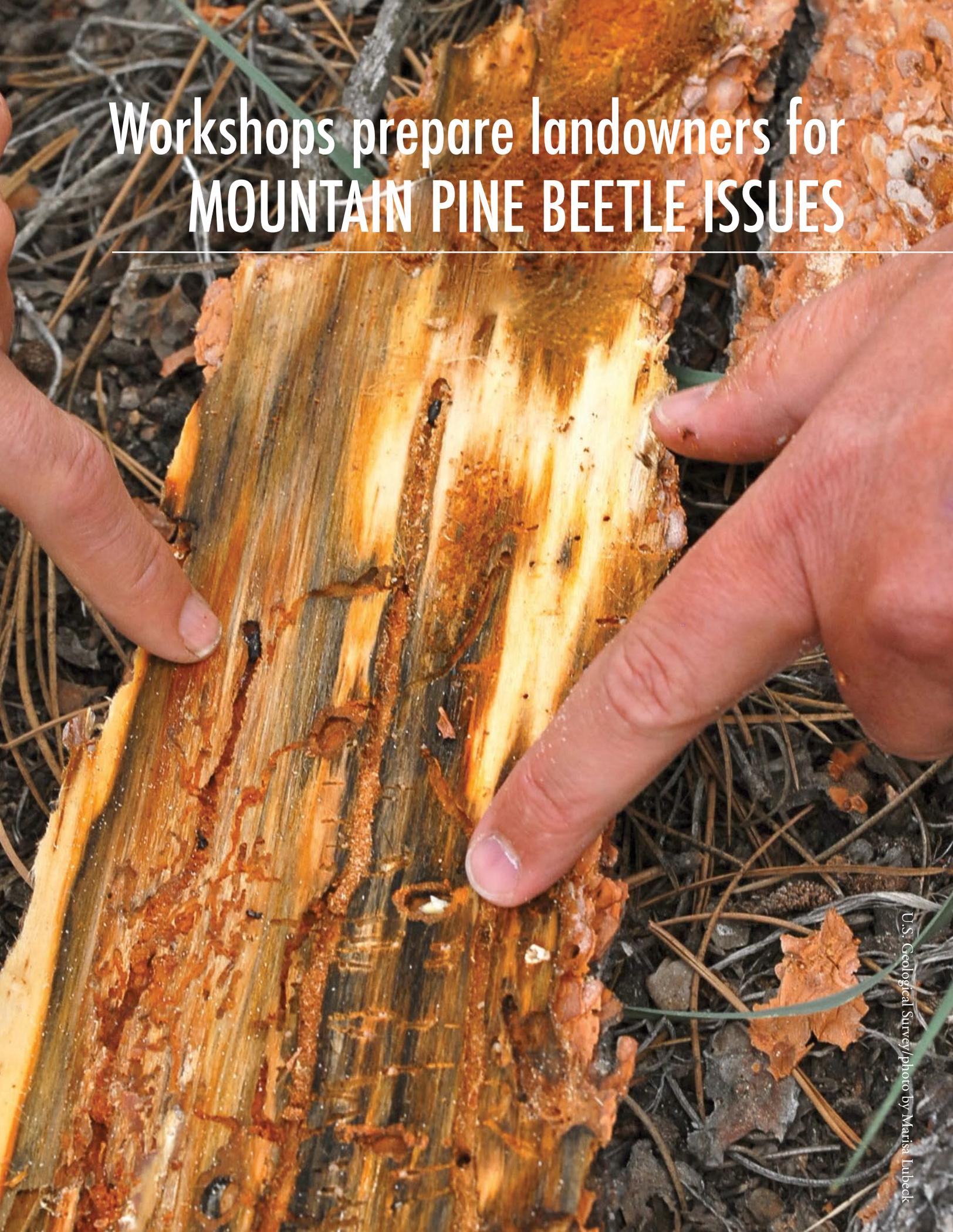


# Workshops prepare landowners for MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE ISSUES

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## SITUATION

The Black Hills Forest is the second-largest timber producing forest in the nation. In Crook County, timber harvested from public and private lands is a large economic contributor to the town of Hulett and the major employer in the area. Mountain pine beetle (MPB), *Dendroctonus ponderosae*, is a native insect found in many western forests. MPB bores holes into mature, living pine tree species in the summer and fall and deposit eggs that develop into larvae that eat the cambium layer and kill the tree. MPB in the fall of 2011 was identified as moving into the Black Hills region and would soon be a major problem in the Wyoming Black Hills based on the scale of the infestation recorded in the southeastern Black Hills. Forests that have not had wildfires and timber harvests are most affected. Workshops were developed to educate the public by determining needs of private landowners who might be affected by MPB.

The most up-to-date information would be shared with stakeholders during workshops in various towns throughout northeast Wyoming. Workshops were developed through cooperation between Wyoming State Forestry (WSF), Crook County Natural Resource District (CCNRD), and the University of Wyoming Extension. UW Extension, with the help of CCNRD, would facilitate all workshops. This included finding towns with affected private landowners, advertising the workshops, and determining workshop locations. WSF would instruct at the workshops.

Two workshops were in March 2012 and four workshops December 2012 through February 2013. Workshops were held in Hulett, Pine Haven, Sundance, Beulah, and Aladdin. Instruction focused on MPB identification, looking for MPB activity, different management techniques,



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and education of neighboring landowners. Trees that contained MPB were displayed at the workshops, and participants were allowed to chip away bark and properly identify MPB trees. There were 32 people who attended the four workshops December 2012 through February 2013, and 24 attended the two workshops in 2012. Participants were from Wyoming and South Dakota.

## IMPACTS

Those who attended the workshops were surveyed. All gained knowledge related to MPB identification and management strategies. Participants said the workshop met their needs. Several attendees provided feedback several months after the workshops that they had taught a neighbor about MPB or made management changes to their properties.

Short-term impacts from the MPB workshops include a gain of knowledge for proper identification of MPB, ips beetle, and turpentine beetles; a better understanding of the MPB life cycle and where and how that can be used for proactive control; and what control methods exist for detouring and eliminating MPB. An intermediate impact will be an increased desire from private landowners to survey their properties for MPB activity or potential at-risk areas. Landowners well-prepared for MPB infestation will have a higher likelihood of not losing an entire stand of trees and have the potential for immediate timber production following an event.