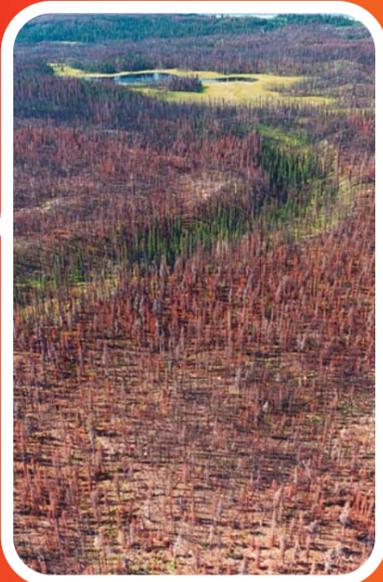


# British Columbia's Mountain Pine Beetle

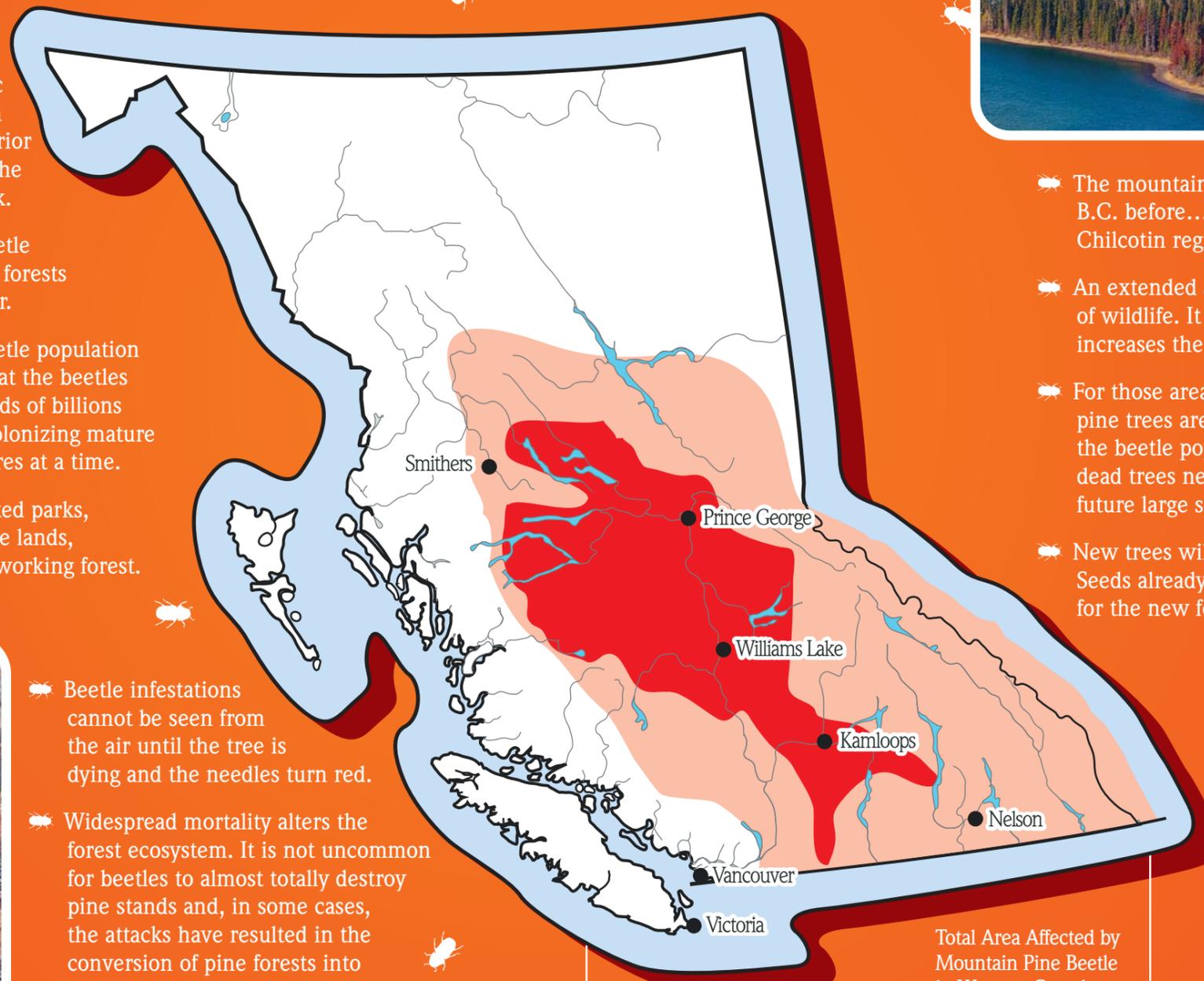
## The spread of the mountain pine beetle epidemic



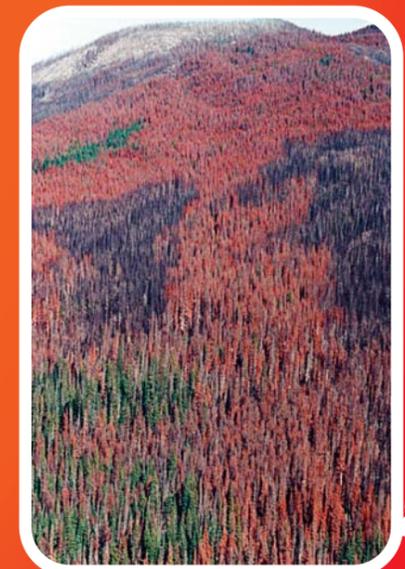
- In 2005, the epidemic covered over 7 million hectares of B.C.'s interior pine forests - an area the size of New Brunswick.
- The mountain pine beetle attacks lodgepole pine forests found in B.C.'s interior.
- The mountain pine beetle population has grown so much that the beetles number in the hundreds of billions and are successfully colonizing mature timber up to 30 hectares at a time.
- The beetles have affected parks, protected areas, private lands, communities and the working forest.



- Beetle infestations cannot be seen from the air until the tree is dying and the needles turn red.
- Widespread mortality alters the forest ecosystem. It is not uncommon for beetles to almost totally destroy pine stands and, in some cases, the attacks have resulted in the conversion of pine forests into fir forests or grass or shrubs.
- There are so many beetles that we now have the worst-ever insect epidemic in B.C.'s history.



- The mountain pine beetle has devastated forests in B.C. before...most recently in the late 1970's in the Chilcotin region near the centre of the province.
- An extended area of beetle-killed trees alters the habitat of wildlife. It also alters water flow for several years and increases the risk of a large wild fire should one start.
- For those areas of the province where most or all the pine trees are infested, as they now are in B.C.'s Interior, the beetle population can be impossible to control. The dead trees need to be removed to reduce the risk of future large scale fires.
- New trees will be planted to renew the ravaged forests. Seeds already on the ground will also produce new trees for the new forest.



Total Area Affected by Mountain Pine Beetle in Western Canada

Light red - Affected Area  
Dark red - Major Outbreak

0 100 200 km.

Source: Natural Resources Canada (February 2005)