

Subject: Pine Beetle Destruction

Story Summary: An outbreak of southern pine beetles hit eastern Tennessee two years ago. Warm winters have allowed it to worsen and reach epidemic proportions this year in at least 17 counties. The pine beetles burrow under the bark of the pines and kill the trees.

TRT: 1:51

Suggested Lead: Southern pine beetle infestations have reached epidemic proportions in the eastern half of Tennessee. Stewart Truelsen reports.

Suggested Supers: David Minnear
Minnear Logging Company
@ :23

George McGrath
Tree Farmer
@ :47

Ed Smith
Tennessee Department of Agriculture
@ 1:15

Stewart Truelsen Reporting
@ 1:43

**Pine Beetle Destruction
Stewart Truelsen Reporting
September 28, 2000**

<p>Tree buncher grabbing trees, cutting them off and laying them down. Top half of trees twisted and falling/ Tilt up as pine needles fall from trees being cut/ Locator - Morgan County, TN</p>	<p>VO/ THIS IS NO ORDINARY TIMBER HARVEST. MANY OF THESE LOBLLOLY PINES ARE BROWNING. AND WHEN THEY ARE SHAKEN THEY PRODUCE A SHOWER OF PINE NEEDLES.</p>
<p>Wide shot of dead pines in among other trees/ Logger using axe to peel back bark of tree to show us pine beetles/</p>	<p>HEAVILY FORESTED MORGAN COUNTY, TENNESSEE IS LOSING ALL ITS PINE TREES TO A TINY, DESTRUCTIVE INSECT, THE SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE.</p>
<p>Cover with close-up of pine beetle in hand/</p>	<p>SOT/ I DIDN'T THINK A LITTLE BUG COULD DO THIS TO A TREE, BUT IT'S AMAZING WHAT IT DOES.</p>
<p>David Minnear Minnear Logging Company Tree cutting</p>	<p>SOT/ IT IS A BAD SITUATION, AND YOU HEAR PEOPLE SAYING THEY'RE CUTTING ALL THIS PINE. WE'RE DOING IT FOR A REASON, I MEAN YOU ARE GOING TO LOSE IT REGARDLESS, ITS GOT TO BE CUT.</p>
<p>Dragging trees with tractor/ Loading logs on truck with crane/ Sawmill operation/</p>	<p>VO/ HARVESTING PINES BEFORE THEY DIE AND LOSE ALL VALUE IS ABOUT HE ONLY OPTION. THAT'S KEEPING SAWMILLS, PULP AND PAPERMILLS VERY BUSY.</p>
<p>George McGrath Tree farmer Truck carrying pines into sawmill, logs unloaded</p>	<p>SOT/ EVERYBODY THAT WANTS TO CUT A TREE IS EMPLOYED AND EVERYBODY THAT'S CUTTING TREES IS TAKING THEM TO MARKET SO IT HAS REDUCED THE MARKET FOR PINE IN THIS AREA CONSIDERABLY, AND IT HAS KILLED A LOT OF PINES, IT KILLED A LOT OF MY PINES.</p>
<p>pan of tree canopy/</p>	<p>VO/ HARDWOOD TREES AREN'T BOTHERED BY THE PINE BEETLE, WHICH IS GOOD NEWS FOR THE</p>

	STATE FORESTS.
<p>Lone Mountain State Forest, dead trees in among hardwoods/</p> <p>Ed Smith, Area Forester Tennessee Department of Agriculture,</p> <p>Dead stand of pines on private landholding,</p>	<p>SOT/ AS YOU SEE IN THE BACKGROUND NOW UP ON THE HILLSIDE THERE ARE A NUMBER OF SKELETONS UP THERE, THOSE ARE TREES THAT WERE INFESTED LAST YEAR. IN A HARDWOOD MIXTURE FOREST THAT'S NOT NECESSARILY SO BAD, WE STILL HAVE A FOREST HERE. BUT WHERE A LANDOWNER HAS A PLANTATION OR HAS AN AREA THAT IT IS CONSIDERABLY MORE PINE THAN THIS IS, THEN YOU WILL HAVE A LARGE STAND OF STANDING DEAD TIMBER AND THAT BECOMES A VERY SERIOUS FIRE THREAT.</p>
<p>Close-up of David peeling back bark with pocket knife, beetles/</p>	<p>SOT/ EVERYWHERE YOU PEEL THE BARK, YOU'LL SEE EM, THERE'S PLENTY OF THEM...</p>
<p>David stepping over logs/ Branch stripper/ loading logs</p>	<p>VO/ NORMALLY, WELL-MANAGED PINES ARE RESISTANT TO BEETLE ATTACKS, BUT A COMBINATION OF FACTORS, INCLUDING TWO MILD WINTERS, ARE MAKING THIS THE WORST OUTBREAK IN 25 YEARS. IN MORGAN COUNTY, TENNESSEE, I'M STEWART TRUELSEN.</p>