Private land Management for Douglas-fir Bark Beetle

General Indicators that Douglas-fir bark beetle is infesting Douglas-fir trees on your property:

Red and gray trees in close proximity to each other – indicate attacked trees from previous 2 springs

From May to July (current year)

Evidence of new attack is the appearance of bright reddish brown boring dust, or FRASS, on bark at the entrance holes of galleries of live green trees, usually in the lower 5 meters.

August to October (current year)

Some spring-attacked trees will be detectable through light foliage colour change (red bottom of leaves)

What you should do.

In August to September, walk your property and examine each Douglas-fir tree for the appearance of FRASS on the bark. The detection of impacted live trees is greatest in these months given the FRASS will fall away from the trees as wind and rain events occur.

- Ribbon each tree that has FRASS on it.
- Have a person, who is proficient in safe falling practises, fall the ribbonned trees.
- Cut the wood up for firewood
- Burn the firewood before May of the following year. The beetle will overwinter in the bark, regardless of piece size, and emerge in the following spring. If this occurs then the steps above will have to be repeated increasing the impact on your private land.

As a general rule, landowners should remove all Douglas-fir and Western larch blowdown trees on their property as the beetle is attracted to dead and down material.
If there are many trees impacted on your property, salvage logging is possible. Residents should call a local forestry consulting company for further advice. Call Brian Watson, Stewardship Forester FLNRO, 250-426-1707, with local Rocky Mountain Resource District information requests.

Downed Douglas fir tree with FRASS from spring beetle attack.