

Legacy Trees and Forest Management Operations

What is a Legacy Tree?

A Legacy Tree is a tree (usually lodgepole pine) that has been treated previously with the pesticide MSMA (trade name Glowon®) and is still on-site, either standing or felled. The purpose of the treatment was to kill the developing broods of mountain pine beetles in small and isolated infestations.

Why the Concern about Legacy Trees?

MSMA is an arsenical compound and recently there have been concerns that residual arsenic in legacy trees may be a risk to human health and to the well-being of the environment. Scientific investigations will be directed towards determining the extent and validity of these concerns. Legacy Trees are not to be removed from the forest or burned until the results of these investigations are complete.

How Will Legacy Trees Affect Operations?

Legacy Trees are to remain in place in the forest. They are not to be felled, removed or burned. They are to be conspicuously marked by whomever finds them, their extent and location recorded and that information reported to the

district manager. Legacy trees can, in many cases, be incorporated into Wildlife Tree Patches, thereby minimising their impact upon harvesting operations.

How Are Legacy Trees Identified?

Legacy Trees were conspicuously marked at the time of their establishment.



MSMA-treated tree at time of establishment

Over time, however, flagging tape and tags may fall off, paint may fade and brush may cover the axe frill.



Legacy tree seven years after establishment

Sometimes all that will identify a standing dead lodgepole pine Legacy Tree may be the axe frill very low on the bole.



Axe frill at base of Legacy Tree

Spruce trees have, from time to time, been treated with MSMA to create lethal trap trees. The trees were felled two weeks after injection with MSMA so that they would be attractive to spruce beetles. These trees may be difficult to quickly identify as MSMA-treated trees due to decomposition. However, when groups of felled spruce trees are discovered in remote locations one should examine them carefully for axe frills and treatment tags.

What Do I Do when I Find Legacy Trees?

Agreement has been reached that, when Legacy Trees are discovered in the field, the person finding them will:

- record an approximate central point of the area, using a *GPS*
- record the extent and approximate boundary of the area covered by Legacy Trees
- determine and record the approximate date of treatment
- record the approximate number of Legacy Trees
- record the species of the Legacy Trees
- report this information to the district manager

Where are Known Legacy Trees Listed?

Information on known Legacy Trees is available from the district manager and it will be available through the website noted below.

For More Information:

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/health/msma.htm>

Or contact your district manager.

Legacy Tree Reporting Form

GPS location (degrees & decimal minutes)

_____N _____W

Approximate Area (hectares) (attach map)

_____ Ha

Approximate Date of Treatment

Approximate Number of Trees Treated

Other Pertinent Information

Submitted By:

Date Submitted:
