



To the Bear Valley Community:

BEETLES AND TREES

With all the tree mortality occurring in Bear Valley and the Sierra, there have been some recent questions about bark beetles and what we can do about them. There are a number of points about beetles and trees that we would like to pass on.

THE BEETLES ARE HERE TO STAY

As in most of the Sierra, we have a bark beetle infestation. There are many types of beetles that attack different trees, but the result is all the same.....dead trees... fast. If you want to learn more about bark beetles, there is a lot of information available such as here: <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7421.html>

WE HAVE TOO MANY TREES

While the drought is a major factor in weakening a tree's ability to fight off beetles, another major factor is over-population of trees and lack of diversity (since the beetle species tend to focus on one type). The one thing we could do to help improve the sustainability of trees is to reduce the population and allow the remaining trees to get more water and space. If we don't do it, Mother Nature will with beetles and eventually fire.

CLEAR THE DEAD ONES AND THIN THE REST

Dead and Infected trees should be removed ASAP due to the fire risk. Most lots can be thinned to improve spacing and water use. Our common areas also need to be cleared of dead trees and thinned. We still need donations to complete the job this year: We are working through the Calaveras Foothills Fire Safe Council (a 501c3) so that donations will be tax deductible. This is a one-year program so we need your donations ASAP in order to continue this work.

[Common Area Donation Form](#)

CAPTURE AND KILL THE BEETLES

If you are retaining beetle infested cut logs on your property, it is recommended that they be covered with clear plastic tarp to keep the beetles from infecting neighboring trees. The clear plastic will also heat up and help kill the beetles. BVRI published a short description of what to do by forester Ross Richards in 2014 (yep, 8 years ago): https://bvri.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Bear_Valley_Insects_2014.pdf

CHEMICAL TREATMENTS ARE NOT EFFECTIVE TO THE EXTENT YOU MAY THINK

Current treatment options include injecting the tree with pesticides BEFORE they are infected. After they are infected, the treatment will not work sufficiently fast to save a tree. The beetles are faster than the absorption of the chemicals. Plus most all areas in Bear Valley drain into our watershed and drinking water lake. Pesticides are not encouraged.

More information here: <https://bvri.org/community-policies/the-forest/>

Remember to renew your BVRI membership if you haven't already!

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**Thank you
BVRI Board**