

**December 22, 2005**

**From: The Hall Road Save Our Trees Committee**

**To: City of Kelowna**

**Summary**

Even after extensive logging in Mission Creek Park, the western pine beetle has infested numerous ponderosa pine trees in the adjoining Hall Road neighbourhood. This interface-type neighbourhood is notable in Kelowna for its numerous stands of ponderosas, many of which stand well over 100 feet. Approximately 150 residential lots have ponderosa pines. Some responsible residents are having infested trees removed at their own expense but many residents are unable, or unwilling, to do the same. The bugs hibernating in infested trees over the winter emerge in early April and attack fresh trees. The trees they abandon are dead or dying and become a fire hazard. When the trees fall, they could threaten homes and lives.

**Problem**

We are afforded a small window of opportunity before the beetles take flight in the spring and spread their destruction. Immediate action is required but two obstacles are in place:

1. Financial: The cost of removing a single tree can range from \$300 to \$2,000. Some residents have more than 50 trees on their property. The financial burden for removing these trees is onerous.
2. Legal: There is no legal requirement that forces owners to remove infested trees to control the beetle's spread, and some owners are ignoring the problem. Neighbours who have done the right thing by removing their infested trees must watch helplessly as the beetles fly from dying pines next door and attack their remaining trees.

**Recommendations**

Pro-active measures are required by residents in conjunction with the City of Kelowna and the Regional District to safeguard property and lives and to help limit the beetle's spread to other neighbourhoods:

1. Financial assistance be provided to homeowners who remove infested trees. Residents need free access to burning boxes, chippers, logging services etc. Every opportunity to access provincial and federal grants must be explored.
2. A bylaw be enacted that requires the removal of infested trees.

The Hall Road Save our Trees committee is calling for a city-wide policy that controls the beetle outbreak throughout Kelowna. The same infestations are killing trees in neighbourhoods along the South Slopes, in the Mission, Quail Ridge, Gallagher's Canyon and elsewhere. The sooner we act, the cheaper the long term solution. We request the opportunity to make a presentation to City Council describing our situation and our recommendations. Please contact Cheryl Farmer at 878-7462.

Thank-you.