

Blue Stain Wood Products

In recent years, bark beetle outbreaks have reached epidemic proportions. These outbreaks have killed trees across large areas, increasing the risk of wildfire. Wildfires can affect water quality and decrease property values. Forest management activities help to mitigate the damage and help create healthy future forests.



Removing beetle-killed trees is a critical factor in our capacity to implement management activities. The trees killed by bark beetles have a blue stain, so developing a market for the wood will contribute to creating healthy forests.



Cross section shows blue stain in log

This blue stain comes from a fungus, but does not alter the structural integrity of the wood.



This panel demonstrates the effects of applying finishes to blue stain wood. Clear finishes are best for highlighting the blue stain.

Blue stain does not spread from piece to piece or within a piece of lumber and does not cause rot or decay. **Blue stain lumber will not weaken over time. Blue stain is not a mold and will not cause mold in homes.**

Blue stain lumber is harmless to human health. Blue stain lumber is as strong as non-blue stain lumber and can be used in building construction.

Blue stain trim and paneling with pleasing aesthetic qualities are specialty wood products that may be available in some areas.



Using blue stain lumber can play an important role in restoring our western forests.



This brochure was developed jointly by the Council of Western State Foresters and the Society of American Foresters – WY, CO. Information was gathered from the USFS Forest Products Laboratory. Visit their website at: <http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/>

