

# WHAT'S KILLING THE PINE TREES?



Increased mortality of ponderosa pine trees is occurring due to bark beetles attacking drought weakened trees. Arizona fivespined ips (right) and pine engravers are the two most common beetle species attacking trees in the Prescott area. These beetles are native insects that typically occur at low levels but are capable of rapidly expanding their populations and subsequent impacts when there is an abundance of weakened trees across the landscape.

## **HOW CAN I TELL IT IS BARK BEETLES?**

Signs of successful attack include fading of needles, which often starts at the top of large trees (left). At eye level, you may see reddish-brown boring dust (sawdust like material) in bark crevices and at the base of the tree (right). Small wads of sap, called pitch tubes, may be present which is the tree's attempt to defend itself against attacking beetles (far right).



## **WHAT CAN BE DONE?**

Promoting vigorous growth of trees through proactively thinning of forest stands is the best long-term defense the Prescott National Forest has against these bark beetle outbreaks. Private landowners wishing to obtain more information on protecting their trees can contact the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management at (602) 771-1400 or Yavapai County Extension office at (928) 445-6590.

