



A HIGH-RESOLUTION RECORD OF MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE OUTBREAKS FROM 7500-8500 CAL YR BP AT BAKER LAKE, MONTANA

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Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) outbreaks have become a common phenomenon throughout lodgepole pine forests in the western United States (Bentz et al., 2010; Bentz and Powell, 2014; Berg et al., 2006). The area affected by MPB has increased throughout recent years, likely due to both an increase in beetle populations and the amount of habitat available for beetles (Brunnelle et al. 2008). A better understanding of the magnitude and frequency of past outbreaks will provide a baseline of what outbreaks were like prior to human impacts. Methods used by Watt (2013) will be applied to high resolution pollen data from Baker Lake Montana, a site in Brunnelle et al. (2008), to contribute to a regional picture of MPB outbreaks and forest composition change for three lakes in the Northern Rocky Mountains with the goal of better understanding how climate change and forest management practices have affected these forests in the past.

