



graded for appearance. Under existing grading standards, any color in white wood, such as bluestain, becomes a grading defect and lowers the value of the wood.

Why isn't structurally graded lodgepole used more locally? Many architects and even building codes will call for the use of Douglas-fir in structural applications. Douglas-fir is a strong wood, but it is often used in applications where another species, such as lodgepole pine, would perform the task just as well. Wood that is graded for certain applications, such as a building stud, is designed to perform that function regardless of the species used. The preference for Douglas-fir in many applications is one based on custom as much as any technical reason.

Does this local lodgepole cost more than other lumber? The answer is generally, "it depends". Locally produced wood is certainly competitively priced, and in many cases may be less expensive than similar products shipped to our area. Products like bluestain paneling are a particularly good deal because the standard grading procedures have pushed their price down, when many consumers find their character more attractive than "white wood".

Is the product I want made locally? There are very few commercial wood products that cannot be produced locally. If you wanted to use a local wood product but assumed it wasn't available, you'd probably be pleasantly surprised if you ask one of our local producers.

OK, WHERE CAN I GET LOCAL WOOD?

The Colorado State Forest Service Steamboat Springs District (csfs.colostate.edu/pages/steamboatspgdist.html) maintains a list of local wood product producers.

The list is by no means complete, but it's a great start. The State Forest Service also supports a statewide list of Colorado forest producer's through the Colorado Forest Products program (www.coloradoforestproducts.org).

Local commercial lumber yards may also sell some locally produced wood products. It sure doesn't hurt to ask them, and let them know you're interested in using local wood products.

USEFUL LINKS

Western Wood Products Association
www.wwpa.org

The Bug Wood Network
www.bugwood.org

Bark Beetles of the World
www.barkbeetles.org

The Bark Beetle Information Task Force (BBITF) has developed this information piece in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service and the Colorado State Forest Service. Established in 1999, the BBITF provides information to citizens and interested groups on bark beetle-related issues and is comprised of representatives from the USFS, CSFS, Colorado State University Cooperative Extension, Colorado State Parks, City of Steamboat Springs, Steamboat Springs Chamber Resort Association, Routt County, Community Agricultural Alliance, and the Public at Large.

LOGEPOLE PINE AND BEETLE KILL- RELATED BLUE STAIN



DISPELLING THE MYTHS

WHY DESIGN AND BUILD WITH NATIVE WOOD?

The mountain pine beetle epidemic raging across the Rocky Mountain west is leaving millions of lodgepole pine trees standing dead or dying on Colorado and Wyoming forests. The time is ripe for innovative thinking and decision making that



will benefit affected communities and the environment. Although some degree of dead trees on the landscape can contribute to a healthy forest ecosystem, the scale of this event may be unprecedented. The amount of dead trees on the landscape is a challenge to public and private land managers as they seek to mitigate the impacts to the people living in these forests. These impacts include the risks related to enhanced fire danger as well as the very real danger from falling hazard trees.

Harvesting of dead and dying trees is often the only alternative in mitigating these risks and in promoting the next forest. Finding productive and creative ways to utilize wood and/or wood products derived from these beetle infested trees requires informed decision making across a wide range of producers and potential users and from community leaders. The purpose of this document is to provide easy access to factual information that can be useful for regulatory entities, building designers and architects, as well as builders and other users of wood products.

WHY NOW?

Nationally and locally we've seen an increase in public awareness and demand for green building products, reflected in such measures as the recently adopted Routt County Green Building Program. Utilizing local wood, with its low carbon footprint and other environmental and social benefits, dovetails well into the new green economy.

Utilizing our local beetle kill wood is a win-win for the environment, our communities, and the consumer. Here are some reasons why:

- ☀️ helps mitigate the dangers from fire and falling trees in our neighborhoods and in the forest.
- ☀️ helps our local economy and creates and maintains jobs for our friends and neighbors.



- ☀️ reduces the carbon footprint impacts created from transporting wood from distant locations.
- ☀️ utilizing our local wood (rather than not using it) offsets the impacts our local demand for wood has on other parts of the globe.
- ☀️ local beetle kill lodgepole pine is an attractive and structurally sound alternative to other commercially available woods.

AREN'T THERE PROBLEMS?

There is a lot of misinformation and just plain myths about lodgepole pine. Wood from trees killed by the mountain pine beetle often contain a blue or grey color as a result of a fungus introduced by the beetle. This bluestained wood has its own set of myths. The following are some common questions regarding lodgepole pine and bluestain wood:

Can I use lodgepole for structural applications? Lodgepole is the strongest of the western pines. It is well suited engineered trusses and other specific structural applications.

Does the bluestain affect the strength of the wood? There is no significant strength difference between wood with bluestain and wood without bluestain. The color can add character and is considered visually appealing by many consumers.

Is the bluestain fungus still active in the wood I use? No. The color in the wood is left over from when the fungus was actively growing in the moist, usually live wood. There are no health hazards or risk of spread once the tree has been milled into wood products.

How are people using lodgepole and bluestain in building locally? In addition to engineered wood products, such as trusses, lodgepole is being used in a wide variety of building applications. Its classic "pine aesthetic" and the fact its knots do not bleed through paint make it desirable for paneling, wainscoting, trim and molding, furniture, and even flooring. Bluestain can add distinctive and attractive character to any of these uses. Lodgepole pine is often the species of choice locally in building log homes and post and beam structures.

How is lodgepole pine and bluestain wood graded for structural use? Wood used structurally is graded under agreed upon standards established by trade associations such as the Western Wood Products Association. Species that share similar strength characteristics are grouped together, so you might find graded structural lodgepole in the Spruce-Pine-Fir- S (SPF-S) group, or in Engelmann spruce and lodgepole pine (ES-LP). In either case, bluestain does not affect structural grade. Lodgepole pine uses in post and beam structures and other large timber construction are usually engineered for the particular application by a qualified architect or engineer.

How is lodgepole pine and bluestain wood graded for non-structural use? Wood used in paneling and other aesthetic applications is