Slash Management with Regard to Ips Beetle

In Western Colorado, the bark beetle *Ips confuses*, attacks and kills Pinon pine trees. They are host specific, meaning they do not attack trees other than the pinon tree.

Ips beetles have short life cycles, only 8 weeks, and depending on the weather may produce as many as 4 generations per year between April and October. Compare this with the more familiar mountain pine beetle (MPB) that has only one generation per year. Ips beetle activity begins by mid-April when the weather has become warmer. This April emergence is the adults that were laid as eggs the previous fall, usually around September/October.

This first generation will begin to infest stressed trees; fresh cut green logs/trees and the associated slash. This is different from MPB in several ways. MPB *must* have standing (vertical), live, green trees that are in excess of 6 inches in diameter. Pinon pine Ips beetle do not make that distinction. They can infest any green material that is larger than one inch in diameter, slash (branches and crown of the tree removed from the stem), individual branches or portions of the living crown, the whole tree (even those greater than 24” in diameter) and freshly split green firewood. Therefore some special recommendations are in order.

- Expect colonization of all fresh green material by Pinon Ips
- Ips beetles have an 8-week life cycle with the first generation emergence in mid-April. That means there will be another mid-June, another in mid-August and perhaps another by the middle of September.
- Ips beetle infested material may be treated in the following ways:
  1) Grinding or chipping the logs and slash. If the brood is not crushed in the process then exposure to the sun will kill them.
  2) Transport the material to a safe site further than 1 mile to forested acreage
  3) Pile and burn the infested material – may not be permissible in the near future, check with local fire department
  4) Bury the material greater than 8 inches deep in soil
  5) Debark the logs – impractical with small branches and slash
     - The Log Wizard debarker is useful on tree stems
  6) Unlike MPB, solar treatments with or without clear plastic will be ineffective because of the short life cycle of Ips beetle
- If you cut green material after mid October when Ips are not active, your material may still be colonized by Ips in mid April during the first emergence. If that happens, you have until that brood matures by mid June to treat the material. To prevent colonization, ensure all material is dry before late March.
- If you cut green material between April and October when Ips is most active, then you will have 8 weeks from the day you cut that material to properly dispose of it.
- Green material may stay green enough for colonization for up to six months, especially if it has been stored in shade at high elevations.