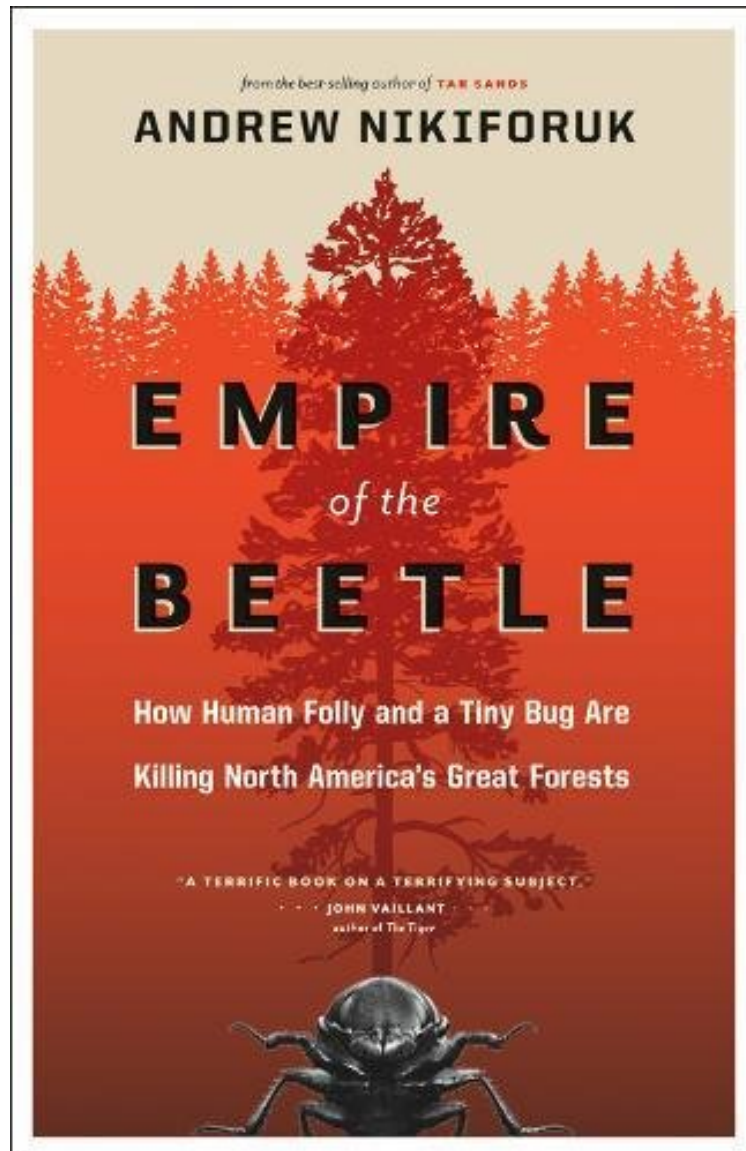


[Mobile ebook] Empire of the Beetle: How Human Folly and a Tiny Bug Are Killing North America's Great Forests (David Suzuki Foundation Series)

Empire of the Beetle: How Human Folly and a Tiny Bug Are Killing North America's Great Forests (David Suzuki Foundation Series)

Andrew Nikiforuk

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Andrew Nikiforuk : Empire of the Beetle: How Human Folly and a Tiny Bug Are Killing North America's Great Forests (David Suzuki Foundation Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be

worth my time, and all praised *Empire of the Beetle: How Human Folly and a Tiny Bug Are Killing North America's Great Forests* (David Suzuki Foundation Series):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Readable and Diverse look at the Mt Pine Beetle and its life in North America
By Kay Lindekugel
As a layperson reader for Beetle books I found plenty of chapters to enjoy: that is to say there is something for everyone who has an interest in the beetle invasions in North America. It is easy to think your region is the only one suffering and fighting and fearing the results of the BUGS. Here you get some perspective and some ideas of how the beetles are managed or not in different places. There's a great "sources and further reading" section. And my favorite quote is on page 118 it begins, "we should never look at a landscape as being etched in stone.." (Les Safranyik). This book is a good mix of data and creative response to the "storm" or war in the forest. Recommended reading for folks trying to get a grip on the changing landscape and the orange trees.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Valuable purchase
By MaryClaire May
Journalist Andrew Nikiforuk keeps me captivated even with the statistical narrative. An easy read - a memorable read - a must read for an excellent background to the Bark Beetle Dilemma people face around the world.
0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A must read for the environment
By Louise E. Brown
Very well written, lots of research done for the book. I thoroughly enjoyed learning more about the beetles, their communities and the human impact and causes on the huge devastation of the forests. Should be required reading for all the naysayers of climate change. I have been personally involved with the U.S. Forest Service and beetle eradication attempts in our Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Also witnessed a lot of the loss in Alberta and British Columbia last summer. An eye opening and scary book.

Beginning in the late 1980s, a series of improbable bark beetle outbreaks unsettled iconic forests and communities across western North America. An insect the size of a rice kernel eventually killed more than 30 billion pine and spruce trees from Alaska to New Mexico. Often appearing in masses larger than schools of killer whales, the beetles engineered one of the world's greatest forest die-offs since the deforestation of Europe by peasants between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries. The beetle didn't act alone. Misguided science, out-of-control logging, bad public policy, and a hundred years of fire suppression created a volatile geography that released the world's oldest forest manager from all natural constraints. Like most human empires, the beetles exploded wildly and then crashed, leaving in their wake grieving landowners, humbled scientists, hungry animals, and altered watersheds. Although climate change triggered this complex event, human arrogance assuredly set the table. With little warning, an ancient insect pointedly exposed the frailty of seemingly stable manmade landscapes. And despite the billions of public dollars spent on control efforts, the beetles burn away like a fire that can't be put out. Drawing on first-hand accounts from entomologists, botanists, foresters, and rural residents, award-winning journalist Andrew Nikiforuk investigates this unprecedented beetle plague, its startling implications, and the lessons it holds.

"Nikiforuk leavens this tragic, instructive history with curious facts about the complex, intelligent insect"
Publishers Weekly
"Sometimes called the "Katrina of the West," these infestations received very little publicity but caused the loss of millions of dollars worth of lumber ... Well written and informative... Highly Recommended" Choice
"A terrific book on a terrifying subject... a chilling, fascinating, and important contribution to our understanding of a rapidly changing world. John Vaillant, author of *The Tiger and The Golden Spruce*"
"A compelling look at what may be the single biggest impact of climate change, and a harbinger of life to come on a warming planet." Jim Robbins, *Science Journalist*, *The New York Times*
"Empire of the Beetle is a work of great skill and passion, and vital to anyone courageous enough to be interested in the ecology of the future."
Rick Bass, author of *Winter: Notes From Montana*
[T]he Iliad of the bark beetles. It really demonstrates how intertwined nature is... as Andrew shows so well, we are part of nature.
John Perlin, leading U.S. solar energy expert and author of *A Forest Journey*