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# Llameros Newsletter



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## Pine Bark Beetle....It's here!

Most people tend to gasp at their first viewing of the rust colored mountain landscape and proclaim "life will not be the same" with all those dying trees. Yes, pine bark beetle infestation is epidemic in the western Rocky Mountains and it will take out much of our mature lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) and other pine species. With a little luck it will leave some species like the fir and spruce alone, and of course the aspen will thrive in some parts. There are some concerns about a shift in wildlife species adaptability, but life does go on and it is natural. A new generation of lodgepole pine will evolve, and in the interim, it will give us a changing landscape with its own beauty for the next few decades.

In simple terms, the pine bark beetle is a tiny little bug (about the size of a rice grain) that is perfectly designed to ferociously eat and reproduce in pine trees when the conditions are just right, sucking the life out of any lodgepole pine in its

path. Well, the conditions are just right! It is a native bug and infestation has been going on for thousands of years. Some argue it is a natural cycle having not uncommon effects parallel to large scale forest fires. The debate really is focused on "can we salvage any use of the trees? Can we stave off large scale fires? Can we protect users of the forest from falling trees? And how will it re-direct or effect wild-life species since we really do not know, as this level of beetle kill has not happened in

***"...it's a native bug, and infestations have been going on for thousands of years"***



over 100 years and there is not much data to review?"

The Washakie, Absaroka, and Fitzpatrick Wilderness's have seen a significant infestation in the last couple of years. Some friends and I were recently on a Fall archery elk

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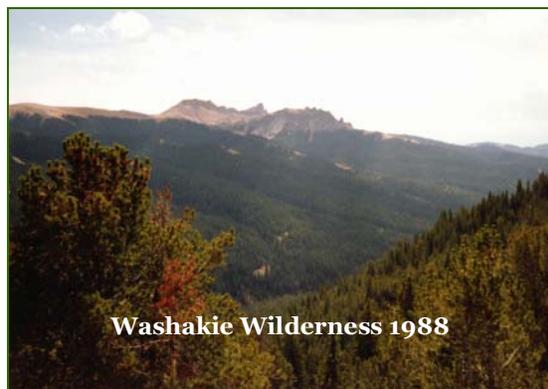
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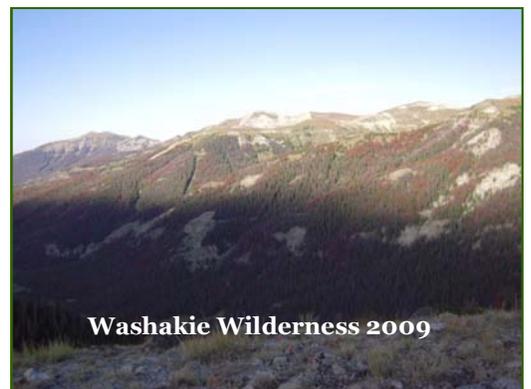
### Special points of interest:



### If you look close you will see some rust colored dying pine trees in the 2009 photo.



Washakie Wilderness 1988



Washakie Wilderness 2009

## con't- Pine Bark Beetle

hunting trip and observed about a 40% rate of dying and dead trees in large clusters. The elk population is thriving in these parts. While I have no doubt the eventual new undergrowth will provide ample nutrient-rich forage for large ungulates like elk, deer, moose, and sheep to thrive, there may be a shift in migration patterns to seek adequate cover. I think the elk, deer, moose and sheep will be OK, but I do have concerns about the grizzly bear and its feeding needs. The grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem and

the Bridger-Teton and Shoshone National Forests have historically depended upon the whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) "nut" for a high protein food source. Yes, unfortunately the pesky pine bark beetle attacks these high alpine pine species also. The whitebark pine is a different specie however and many don't believe it will recover the same as the lodgepole pine will, therefore leaving a major void as a protein source for the grizzly bear. So much so, some have advocated *Pinus albicaulis* may need endangered species protection.

What will happen? There are no clear answers, however I personally believe the grizzly bear will adapt and shift their protein intake to more "grubbing" for roots, berries, and small animals like gophers, voles, squirrels, mice and bugs, which by the way will be on a marked increase because of the deadfall. Also, I believe they will take advantage of spring time calving season and we will see an increase in preying on elk and moose calves. The grizzly bear is a huge success story in our part of the world here, in terms of a viable reproductive

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## What's In a Name?

A lot of people ask us, "How do you tell all of your llamas apart?" "Do they all have names?" You bet they do! But how do we think up names for each one of them? Believe it or not, there is a method to our madness, so when a cria is born, the wheels start rollin! When we began our business, we decided to start the new cria's name with the first initial of their mother's name. This usually helps to identify them

at a glance. Next, the cria's name has to have something to do with the Wind River or Absaroka Mountains. For

... "Now, what was that white llama's name again?"

example, Abby, (Absaroka) had Atlantic (canyon), Arter (mount), Alpine, and Aspen. Pingora (named after a peak in the Wind River Range) had, Pinnacle (Buttes

around Togwotee pass), Pylon (rock mound pyramid), Popo (Agie River), and Paint Brush (state flower).

In recent years, the "A" names and the "P" names have gotten used up, so now we start with the second letter of the mother's name. So...Abby has also had Blue Grass. There are, of course, exceptions to the rule. The main exception being that some llamas were purchased or given to

us with names such as Brighton, George, General Patton, Starburst and Cream Soda to name a few. So, yes, every one of our llamas has names even though you may hear me say..."Now, what was that white llama's name again?" It's a good thing Scott and the guides can remember!! *Therese*



## Thank You

We want to thank all of our customers and friends over the years that have helped us build our outfitting company. We continue to mold our company to better serve our customers. We truly appreciate your business.

We wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Scott, Therese, and Skyler**



**"The Ohio State University" Beavis dotting the "I" made their web site**



### con't- Pine Bark Beetle

endangered and threatened species. However, this beetle infestation turn of events, I believe, should warrant a careful observation of the grizzly bear food source and we should wait and see if the bears adapt to the changing environment before we de-list



**them. Don't get me wrong, I'll be the first to tell you they are thriving right now and we have no problem maintaining population objectives through harvest hunting, but let's wait and**

see how they adapt and if, in particular, the sows produce healthy cubs. It may very well be, without adequate protein, grizzly bear population objectives could and should be lowered.

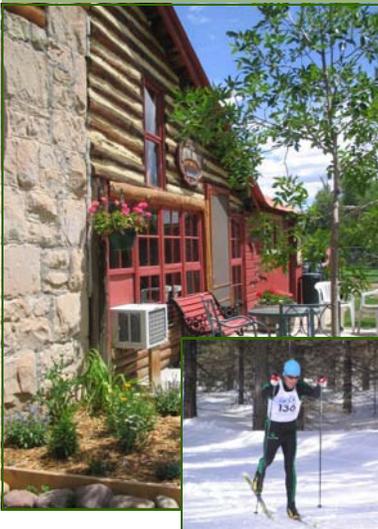
So, the dying traditional lodgepole and whitebark pine

forests we have been accustomed to will fade now in our life-time bringing in a minority specie of trees and eventually a new generation of healthy pine. Some wildlife will thrive because of the new environment, and a couple of species may encounter trouble, but the beauty is still unsurpassed in this diverse landscape of the Wind River Range and Absaroka Range of western Wyoming. **Scott**

If anybody is interested in a special guided trip to these parts of Wyoming in the Washakie Wilderness, we would love to show you the evolving diversity of this forest and mountain range. FYI: The Popo Agie Wilderness, with which we primarily operate in and this part of the Wind River Range, has currently not seen large scale beetle kill infestations

*Note: There are hundreds of informative and professional articles on this subject. We wanted to give you our general overview and observations from 25 years of outfitting. One great source of informative articles and blogs can be found at [Wyo-File.com](http://Wyo-File.com)*

**A special thanks for your pictures...here are a few!**



### Banner Year For The Bunk House

**Good news!** The Bunk House has new winter rates!! For the months of January through March, The Bunk House price is \$60.00 per night for the same great amenities! Take advantage of Lander's beautiful winter weather and its many winter activities while staying with us. The Bunk House has a toasty gas "log burning" stove and cozy interior that beckons winter visitors. Good news for all you computer savvy customers...The Bunk House now has Wi-Fi! Now you have the choice to stay connected with the rest of the world while you're on your vacation!

**New Bunk House rates for 2011 :**

**\$115 per night, \$575 per week (6 nights) April-December**

**\$60 per night, January through March**

# Lander Llama

company



WILDERNESS • PACK • TRIPS

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## "Parting Llama Shot"

Beavis, the llama, passed away in Nov. 2010



Lander Llama Company has been in business for over 24 years, and some of our llamas have been with us for a good part of that time! I guess old age is a fact of life, but we've had to say good-bye to some of our loyal beasts of burden the last couple of years. You may have been fortunate enough to have one or more of them to support your trip! A big thank-you and good-bye to these boys who have worked so hard for us: Artie, Buffalo Bill, Brighton, Mocha, Thunder, Buck, and Beavis

RSS



"Woody's Fly Shop.com is open. Please log on and browse for some flies or pack rods or order some really cool embroidered hats."

Scott Woodruff, Owner



## Woody's Fly Shop.com

WoodysFlyShop.com was up and running full-swing this summer! We really appreciate everyone who supported us on-line or at our physical store. Thank-you!

Some of the comments heard this season at Woody's---

*"Wow, this is great! You guys are open still? Everyone in town is closed already!"*

*"You have everything we needed, right down to the BPA-free water bottles and mosquito spray!"*

*"Awesome, these flies are only 85 cents? That's the cheapest in town!"*

*"These St. Croix pack fly rods are only \$152.00?"*

*"Oooo—I like the new style of Lander Llama Co. and Woody's Fly Shop t-shirts!"*

Some of the more unusual comments heard---



*"Wow, I just gave Skyler exact change for this camp soap and she gave me \$20.00 back!"*

*"My son just caught an 18 inch trout in the river behind Woody's!"*



Remember, Woody's Fly Shop doesn't sell fishing licenses, but there are several places in the area that do! We're also open on Sundays!