Russ Mitchell was born on Feb. 14, 1930 in Portland, OR, where he attended schools in and around the area during his formative years. He enlisted in the US Marine Corp in 1948 and served in Korea. After leaving the military he returned to school and earned a Bachelor's in Forestry from Oregon State College [now University] in 1956, a Master's degree from Syracuse University, and a PhD in Forest Entomology from Oregon State College in 1960. Russ had a very successful and fulfilling lifelong career as a Research Entomologist with the US Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. Much of his research focused on the relationship of forest insect/host interactions, insects and forest management, and the relationship of insects and fire. In 1973, he took a nine-month assignment to the Swiss Federal Research Institute in Zurich, Switzerland to investigate the biology and natural enemies of gall aphids affecting the growth of spruce and larch in plantations designed for avalanche control in the Alps. From 1982 – 1985, Russ was the Applications Coordinator for the Canada/United States Spruce Budworm Program- West, a research grant program providing funding for research, development, and application of integrated pest management for the western spruce budworm in the western U.S. and Canada. Following this assignment, Russ was stationed in the Bend Silviculture Laboratory, where he studied mountain pine beetle and other insects of the central Oregon pine type. His work always focused on the practical application and management of the forest insects that he studied.

His work included a variety of forest insects, including the spruce gall aphid, western pine shoot borer, pandora moth, dispersal of Douglas-fir tussock moth larvae, and Sitka spruce weevil (*Pissodes strobi*), where he identified two spruce hybrids that were highly resistant to this insect. However, the keystone work of his career was devoted to advancing the science on balsam woolly adelgid and mountain pine beetle.

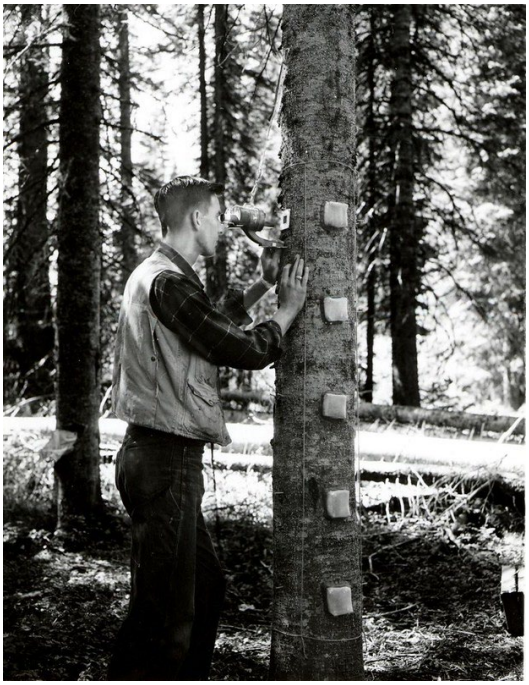
He pioneered and contributed most of the knowledge on balsam woolly adelgid (BWA) in the Pacific Northwest, including the insect's life history, host susceptibility, damage, ecological impacts, and introduction of potential predators. He followed the course of novel infestations in native forests for more than 40 years as BWA spread and became established in the Pacific Northwest, authoring or co-authoring many of the informative works on this insect.

His work with mountain pine beetle concentrated first on the insect's behavior and biology in ponderosa pine, and later expanded into lodgepole pine, where he focused on spatial attack patterns and co-investigated the utility of thinning lodgepole pine to increase vigor and reduce mountain pine beetle damage. He served a dual assignment with the PNW Research Station and the Deschutes National Forest that included establishing justifications and protocols related to thinning some 100,000 acres of second-growth ponderosa pine and serving on environmental assessment teams.

Russ authored and co-authored almost 60 publications, including peer-reviewed research papers, several chapters for books, and popular articles; and he gave numerous invited lectures and symposia presentations. During his career he was an active member of the Western Forest Insect Work Conference. He was highly respected and honored by his colleagues and peers:

"…his finest hallmark of excellence, however, is his versatility and credibility as a research entomologist." - G. Daterman (1997)

"He has published many "firsts" …and at the same time, he has never forgotten the practitioner…" - B. Wickman (1991)



Russ Michell counting BWA populations & inspecting a true fir disk with rotholz caused by BWA.