



% of block infested
with bb.

File: 19500-25

August 27, 2001

Forest Licensees
Small Business Forest Enterprise Program

Dear Sir and Madam:

The current escalation of bark beetle populations has become the main focus of operational planning in the Lakes District. Information about forest health factors is critical when preparing my determination rationale for the *Forest Development Plan* approval process. Section 13 of the *Operational Planning Regulation* allows me to request that a *Forest Health Assessment* be completed before a *Forest Development Plan* or an *amendment* is made available for review. With this letter, I request that a forest health assessment be included as part of a forest development plan or an amendment to a forest development plan.

Section 37 (1) (d) of the *Operational Planning Regulation*, allows me to request that a pest incidence survey be completed before the submission of a silviculture prescription. I request that a pest incidence survey be completed and that the incidence and general location of pests in a block be submitted with each silviculture prescription. The timing and scheduling of cutblocks for harvesting should be based on the information obtained from these pest incidence surveys.



Forest license and timber sale license agreements allow me to specify the form and contents of a cutting permit application. An acceptable application for a cutting permit must include an estimate of the percentage of the permit that has been affected by forest health factors. An updated estimate must also be included with applications made to extend a cutting permit.

This information will allow me to make an informed decision with regard to the forest resource in the Lakes District. It will also aid my staff in preparing strategies that will help to curtail the spread of bark beetles.

Yours truly,

Mark Vieweg
Acting District Manager
Lakes Forest District

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Ministry of
Forests

Lakes Forest District

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