

Q&A: Omineca spruce beetle outbreak

February 25, 2019

Q: Is all spruce being hauled from infested BMUs subject to the FLNRORD monitoring program, and not just specific blocks that we are targeting in our spruce beetle report-outs?

- *All spruce being hauled from infested BMU's (designated monitor, suppress, hold, salvage) would be subject to FLNRORD monitoring. Loads identified as potentially high risk would be assessed based on the risk associated with the individual block or storage area where the load came from as well as the potential impact of the activity (ex. hauling distance, route, timing, temp. etc.). Harvesting report outs are*

Q: Does temporary storage referred to in the document include reload sites?

- *Yes*

Q: Does storage of infested logs in the field mean decks on a block?

- *Yes. It is recognized that the licensee is not perpetuating the spread of beetle populations if they are leaving infested logs in the block they were harvested from during the beetle flight but it should also be recognized that suppression efforts are potentially negated. If challenged with either leaving logs in the field or transporting during the flight period it is preferred that logs are left on site; however the optimal course of action would be to haul and mill infested stems prior to the flight period.*

Q: Do the guidelines and monitoring plan apply to all forms of transportation

- *Yes. The guidelines apply to all forms of transportation such as rail and barge.*

Q: Can spruce beetle survive being stored and or transported in water?

- *Insects in general can survive submersion in water for up to a couple of days – if they are, in fact submerged. Resin is quite hydrophobic and will generally protect the beetles safely inside; however if fully submerged the beetles will not fly until the logs are dry.*