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Ministry of Forests and Range

Forest Practices and Investment Branch

MEMORANDUM

File: 18810-04/EBBMA

June 10, 2010

To: Regional Executive Directors
District Managers

From: Jim D. Sutherland, Director
Forest Practices and Investment Branch

**Re: Re-designation of Emergency Management Units**

Pursuant to Section 109(2) of the Forest Planning and Practice Regulation, I hereby re-designate emergency management units (EMUs) as depicted on the map labelled Emergency Bark Beetle Management area (EBBMA) and Strategic Planning Map for Spruce Beetle dated March 31, 2010, posted at:

www.gov.bc.ca/pinebeetle

The area of the province encircled by the purple band is included within the Emergency Bark Beetle Management Area (EBBMA). EMUs contained within are Aggressive, Containment or Salvage.

The effective dates for EMUs are as follows:

- Salvage EMUs so designated March 31, 2004, remain as Salvage under this designation.
- All Aggressive, Containment and Salvage EMUs newly designated as per this memo and accompanying map are effective on the date of this memo.

To use this map for the purposes of streamlined planning under FRPA and for application of any other tools created and/or maintained for bark beetle management that requires application within aggressive or containment EMUs, the following points are provided for your information:

- The EBBMA/EMU designation map was derived from using aerial overview survey information for mountain pine beetle as well as consideration of management objectives and performance reasonably expected to occur. Separate EBBMA/EMU designation maps are created for Mountain Pine, Spruce and Douglas fir bark beetles.
- Input into the EBBMA boundary and EMU designations were received from Ministry of Forests and Range provincial and regional entomologists and district staff and licensees and were considered in the preparation of the EBBMA/EMU designation map.

- The EBBMA/EMU designation map is the culmination of months of work in assessing performance, expansion of bark beetle infestations, and projections of the same.
- Beetle management funding allocations identified in the Land Base Investment Strategy for suppressions beetle management units (BMUs) is handled separately from these EMU designations and is therefore not indicated on the EBBMA/EMU designation map.
- The intent of the EBBMA/EMU designation is to provide a means for identifying areas where emergency measures can be reasonably expected to control bark beetle infestations. Emphasis is placed on the ability to achieve goals of suppressing beetle populations or holding them static. The provincial guidelines entitled *Provincial Technical Implementation Guidelines to Bark Beetle Management* located at http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/health/fhdata/bbstrategy.htm is used to assist in determining emergency designations. It can generally be considered for this map that aggressive EMUs have the same targets for beetle brood removal as suppression BMUs, containment EMUs to have the same targets as holding BMUs with salvage being the same in each case. For more detail, please see the guidelines reference above.
- The EBBMA map and EMU designations may be of value to licensees operating under a Forest Stewardship Plan when justifying actions or exemption requests under FRPA. However, other tools such as those provided by sections 1.5.1 of the Interior Appraisal Manual and 2.1.2.2 of the Cruising Manual may be of value.
- Where beetle population levels have risen to the point where it is not clearly evident that one can achieve greater than 50% of brood removal, the designation is changed to salvage. Once in effect the following applies: any tools created to provide more efficient and effective management of bark beetle under control objectives of aggressive and sanitation EMUs no longer applies. Consideration should be given to larger block management versus small patch sanitation or small clear-cuts, subject to professional planning.

An assessment of performance should be made following the winter harvest season relative to management goals. While changes to aggressive or containment can be made as early as late summer or early fall following beetle overview surveys, changes to salvage will be left to spring of each year.

If you have any questions regarding this re-designation, please contact Tim Ebata, Forest Health Officer at 250 387-8739.

Jim D. Sutherland, Director
Forest Practices & Investment Branch

Attachment