

File: 18810-04/EBBMA

January 23, 2006

To: Regional Managers
District Managers

From: Robert G. Clark
Provincial Bark Beetle Coordinator

Re: Re-designation of Emergency Management Units

Pursuant to Section 109(2) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*, I hereby re-designate emergency management units (EMU's) as depicted on the map labelled "Emergency Bark Beetle Management Area and Strategic Planning Map for Mountain Pine Beetle", dated January 23, 2006, posted at:

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/mountain_pine_beetle.

The area of the province encircled by the purple band is included within the Emergency Bark Beetle Management Area (EBBMA). EMU's contained within are "Aggressive" and "Sanitation" but, for the purposes of this map, "Containment" replaces "Sanitation". Areas designated as "Salvage" have passed the point where emergency measures are feasible and should not be considered to be part of the EBBMA.

The effective dates for EMU's are as follows:

- Salvage EMU's previously designated and effective March 31, 2004, remain as Salvage under this designation.
- Salvage EMU's newly designated as per this letter are effective March 31, 2006. Until then, these newly designated Salvage EMU's are to be considered as Containment.
- All other designations are effective on the date of this letter.

To use this map for the purposes of streamlined planning under the *Bark Beetle Regulation* (BBR), B.C. Regulation 286/01, for those licensees operating under the an approved Forest Development Plan and for application of any other tools created and/or maintained for bark beetle management that requires application within aggressive or sanitation EMU's, the following points are provided for your information:

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- The EBBMA map was derived from using aerial overview information for mountain pine beetle as well as consideration of management objectives and performance reasonably expected to occur. Separate EBBMA maps are created for spruce and Douglas fir bark beetles.
- Input into the EBBMA boundary and EMU designations were received from Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR) entomologists, district MFR staff, and licensees and were considered in the preparation of the EBBMA map.
- The EBBMA map is the product of analyzing performance, expansion of bark beetle infestations, and projections of the same.
- Forest Investment Account (FIA) funding allocations for suppression beetle management units (BMU's) is handled separately from these EMU designations and is therefore not indicated on the EBBMA map.
- The intent of the EBBMA is to provide a means for identifying areas within which emergency measures can be reasonably expected to control bark beetle populations. Emphasis is placed upon 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/forsite/fhdata/bbstrategy.htm> are therefore used to assist in determining emergency designations. One can generally consider for this map, aggressive EMU's to have the same targets for beetle brood removal as would suppression BMU's, sanitation to have that of holding, and salvage being the same. For more detail, please refer to these guidelines or contact your regional MFR entomologist.
- The importance of the technical guidelines referred to above notwithstanding, this map will show only EMU designations in order to provide as much clarity as possible in applying streamlined planning under the BBR and application of any other tools created and/or maintained for bark beetle management that requires application within aggressive or sanitation EMU's.
- Where beetle population levels have risen to the point where it is not clearly evident that one can achieve greater than 50% of mountain pine beetle brood removal, the designation is changed to salvage. Once effective, the following applies:
 - o Streamlined planning provisions of the BBR for emergency bark beetle population control purposes are not intended for salvage areas. District Managers should rescind planning exemptions previously given under the BBR when an EMU has been re-designated to salvage.
 - o Any tools created to provide more efficient and effective management of bark beetle under control objectives of aggressive and sanitation EMU's should not be used.
 - o Consideration should be given to larger block management versus small patch sanitation or small clearcuts, subject to professional planning.

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- Given the small cutblock sizes typically managed by small scale salvage (SSS) programs, Districts and licensees should consider direction SSS to areas of aggressive or sanitation EMU's to take advantage of the harvesting efficacy practiced by these licensees.

An assessment of performance should be made following the winter harvest season relative to management goals. While changes to aggressive or sanitation 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 the undersigned at (250) 567-6363 or the Assistant Provincial Bark Beetle Coordinator, Barry Dobbin, RPF, at (250) 565-6100.

Originally Signed By:

Robert G. Clark
Provincial Bark Beetle Coordinator

pc: Barry Dobbin, Assistant Bark Beetle Coordinator, Northern Interior Forest Region