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**Directive No.** 2011-04                      **Date** April 15, 2011

**Subject** **Mountain Pine Beetle Log Management**

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**Purpose**

To protect Alberta's forest resource by reducing the risk of the spread of mountain pine beetles (MPB).

This Directive applies to MPB-infested pine **with bark attached**, resulting from Level II control treatments, industrial salvage or other harvest operations. It applies to MPB-infested pine transported on public highways/roadways (including any public roadway governed by the *Public Lands Act*), whether originating from Crown, private or Federal lands.

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**Policy**

Harvesting and timely processing of MPB-infested pine is a highly effective control mechanism to limit the increase and spread of MPB populations. The protocols in this Directive will significantly reduce the risk that timber harvesting and transport may have in spreading infestations.

**Management Protocols**

Operators or individuals transporting MPB-infested pine volumes on public highways/roadways must either:

- Follow the protocols described in this Directive to ensure effective MPB control, or
- Propose operator-specific management plans to fulfill the intent of this Directive.

**Scientific Research Exemptions**

Certain scientific research projects may be afforded exemptions to a number of the protocols listed in this Directive. Project proposals seeking exceptions are to be sent to the Senior Manager, Forest Health Section for review, and the Department may provide written approval detailing the specifics of the exemptions.

**Timber Allocation for Level II Control Treatments Operations**

Level II control treatments will be authorized through approved annual operating plans under Forest Management Agreements, Timber Licenses and Permits. Forest Product Tags will not be issued for the harvest and removal of MPB-infested pine.

**Emergency Harvest Response**

In critical situations, the risk of hauling and processing MPB-infested pine within the no-haul period may pose less risk than leaving the trees standing. Based on the Department's assessment of this risk, emergency harvest responses may be initiated. Additional protocols may be instituted to limit beetle dispersal and promote effective control during the emergency harvest response.

**Annual Review of Directive**

To reflect the possibility of significant MPB population changes in Alberta over time, the Directive will be reviewed by the Department to assess its suitability to the current situation.

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## Procedure

The protocols described herein are specific to the MPB Management Zone or area in which the MPB-infested pine is being processed or manufactured. These are the, Leading Edge Zone, Active Holding Zone, Inactive Holding Zone, and the area not designated by a zone due to beetle absence). The boundaries of MPB Management Zones are dynamic and may be updated annually, or more frequently as necessary. (Zone link - <http://www.mpb.alberta.ca/>)

Operator-specific management plans must be submitted to the appropriate Area Forestry Program Manager based on where the processing or manufacturing will take place, along with the tenure holder's Level II harvest plan, or as directed by the Department. Operator-specific management plans must address the variance from or adherence to each of the following 8 management protocols, and detail proposed strategies that will be used to mitigate risk. Refer to the Information Letter titled, *Best Management Practices for Hauling and Milling MPB-Infested Pine* for alternative tactics. The Area Forestry Manager will review and respond to the proposal within 30 days.

### Management Protocols

#### 1. Hauling

- a. Unless otherwise directed by the Department, timing restrictions for the hauling of MPB-infested pine is as follows:

		To:			
		Inactive Holding Zone	Active Holding Zone	Leading Edge Zone	Area not designated
From:	Inactive Holding Zone	No restrictions	No haul July 1 – Aug 31	No haul July 1 – Sept 15	No haul July 1 – Sept 15
	Active Holding Zone	No restrictions	No haul July 1 – Aug 31	No haul July 1 – Sept 15	No haul July 1 – Sept 15
	Leading Edge Zone	No restrictions	No haul July 1 – Aug 31	No haul July 1 – Sept 15	No haul July 1 – Sept 15
	Area not designated	No restrictions	No restrictions	No restrictions	No restrictions

- b. In specific situations, if the operator can demonstrate to the department that there is a minimal risk of hauling (e.g. large beetle populations at the destination, lack of host tree presence), the Area Forestry Program Manager may alter no-haul dates.
- c. The location of any spills of MPB-infested pine during transport must immediately be reported to the Department and completely cleaned up. Residue and debris resulting from the spill must be disposed of, to the satisfaction of the Department, by July 1.

#### 2. Storage

- a. In all areas other than the Inactive Holding Zone, MPB-infested pine must be

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decked separately from all other wood at the processing, manufacturing or temporary storage sites. A map or description of the storage location(s) must be provided to the Department upon request.

### **3. Transfer/sale of MPB-infested Logs or Lumber with Bark Attached**

- a. When transferring, or selling MPB-infested pine harvested from Crown, private or Federal land, the seller/distributor must treat all infested wood adequately to kill live beetles under the bark by July 1. Approved treatments include debarking, heating to a temperature of 56.1°C for a minimum of 30 minutes, fumigating with a registered insecticide, or treating with a wood preservative.
- b. If the owner of the MPB-infested pine decides to sell the wood without treating before July 1, the owner must:
  - Obtain written approval from the Area Forestry Program Manager. This process would facilitate follow-up compliance checks with known receivers; and
  - Disclose to the receiver/purchaser that the wood is MPB-infested, and make known to them the requirements of this directive.
- c. When MPB-infested pine is transferred or sold, the receiver/purchaser is bound by this Directive while the wood is in their possession.

### **4. Processing and Manufacturing**

- a. Unless otherwise directed by the Department, all MPB-infested pine must be debarked by July 1 within the Leading Edge Zone, the Active Holding Zone and in areas not designated.
- b. There is no debarking requirement/deadline within the Inactive Holding Zone.
- c. The Department will consider alternate strategies should the mill foresee an inability to comply with this debarking timeline. The operator is required to inform the Department at least 30 days prior to the debarking deadline if the ability to comply with this protocol is uncertain.

### **5. Residue Disposal**

- a. Bark or other residue with bark attached (e.g. tops and butts) resulting from the processing or manufacturing of MPB-infested pine that takes place away from the harvest location must be disposed of prior to July 1 within the Leading Edge Zone, the Active Holding Zone or in areas not designated.
- b. There is no disposal requirement/deadline within the Inactive Holding Zone.
- c. Approved residue disposal methods include burning, processing with a wood waste grinder (hogger), heating to a temperature of 56.1°C for a minimum of 30 minutes, fumigating with a registered insecticide, or burying to a depth of 1 metre.
- d. If the chosen disposal method requires that residue be hauled to another location, the Department must be notified of the planned disposal method and location. Loads must be tarped or sealed during transport to prevent any beetle spread.

### **6. Scaling and Harvest Accounting**

- a. The insect designation will apply to all Level II pine logs originating from cutblocks containing naturally occurring MPB-infested pine, as approved in the Annual Operating Plan (AOP). In cutblocks baited with bark beetle aggregation pheromones, MPB-infested pine is not considered natural unless there are more
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than a total of 5 spill-over attacked trees within 50 meters of any pheromone. A MPB-attacked tree occurring more than 50 meters from pheromone bait is considered natural.

- b. MPB survey information (confirmed or endorsed by a Forest Health Officer or regulated forestry professional) indicating beetle presence in the block(s) must accompany the AOP submission. Timber dues will be payable as set in the Timber Management Regulation.
- c. MPB-infested pine logs are to be further segregated through separate volume accounting using independent timber scaling populations.

#### 7. Pheromone Monitoring/Trapping

- a. MPB pheromone trap-based monitoring or mass-trapping programs may be required at manufacturing/processing sites, and temporary log storage sites. This requirement is based on risk as determined by the Area Forestry Manager. Operators will be notified of this requirement in writing by the Department.
- b. Approved pheromone monitoring and trapping procedures are documented within the *Logyard Management Standards for FRIAA*.

#### 8. Record Keeping and Compliance

- a. In all areas other than the Inactive Holding Zone, the operator must have procedures to track hauling and milling volumes of MPB-infested pine logs to enable status reporting of storage volumes at the manufacturing site and temporary storage areas.
- b. The operator's processing or manufacturing records and site are subject to inspection by Forest Officers to ensure compliance.

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### Definitions

**Bark attached** – More than 2% of the entire surface area of a single log/piece/forest product with outer-bark attached. This amount of bark is considered large enough to provide habitat for forest pests.

**Level II control treatment** – the mountain pine beetle control strategy of harvesting entire stands with any level of active mountain pine beetle infestations, as approved by the Department.

**MPB-infested pine** – currently attacked pine of any species or age harbouring live mountain pine beetle larvae, pupae or adults.

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### Authorities

#### *Timber Management Regulation*

Section 164.1(3) – authorizes the restriction of log or forest product transport within Alberta if their movement could cause or risk damage to forest growth by insects or disease.

#### *Forest and Prairie Protection Act*

Section 28 – Minister may carry out any control measures considered advisable for prevention and control of MPB infestations.

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**Cross-  
Reference**

Forest Management Policy Directive 2006-06 – *Importation of Conifer Logs and Forest Products with Bark Attached*

Forest Management Policy Directive 2007-02 – *Debris Management Standards for Timber Harvest Operations*

Information Letter – *Best Management Practices for Hauling and Milling MPB-Infested Pine*

Interpretive Bulletin – *Planning Mountain Pine Beetle Operations*

Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan for Alberta

Logyard Management Standards for FRIAA

SRD Mountain Pine Beetle Management Guide

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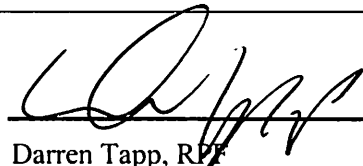
**Contacts**

Daniel Lux, Senior Manager, Forest Health Section (780) 644-2246

Doug Schultz, Senior Manager, Timber Production, Auditing & Revenue Section (780) 422-4865

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**Approved**



Darren Tapp, RPF  
Executive Director, Forest Management Branch

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