

Title:	Endangered Pine Directive- Mountain Pine Beetle Infested Stands
Number:	AF, Forestry Policy, 2015, No. 5
Program Name:	Forest Management Branch- Timber Production, Auditing, Revenue & Enforcement
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Purpose

To outline the process and procedures for determining the designation of endangered timber on pine volumes within stands infested with mountain pine beetle within the Inactive Holding Zone.

Policy Context

The Timber Management Regulation provides for exceptions to the general rate of timber dues for coniferous timber that has suffered significant damage due to insects (i.e. mountain pine beetle). Within these stands, green stems exist that are not currently infested but pose a high risk as a source for future spread of the mountain pine beetle. Unaffected stems, due to their inherent risk for the future spread of mountain pine beetles can be designated as endangered timber and eligible for exception to the general rate of dues.

This directive defines the criteria required to designate timber within a mountain pine beetle affected stand as endangered timber.

Procedure

Application for endangered stems

The following criteria must be met for non-attacked Pine trees to be considered for endangered classification:

- Stands must be within the Inactive Holding Zone as published by the Department.
- Where the crown closure methodology is used to determine the endangered pine classification, stands must be classified as Pine dominant leading species based on AVI standards.
- Eligible claims for endangered classification must either be based on 50% or greater of the Pine stand (by crown closure) identified as red/green/grey/dead attack trees or 50% or greater of the Pine logs/pieces as identified through the sample load scaling process

identified as red/green/grey/dead attack trees to claim the remainder of the green non-attacked pine stems as endangered.

- Requests for endangered pine classification using the crown closure method, companies will be required to establish separate populations for pine stems identified as endangered originating from those stands with greater than or equal to 50% of the area identified as red/green/grey/dead.
- Requests for endangered pine classification using the sample scaling method, companies will be required to establish populations to include green, beetle killed and endangered condition codes. Sample loads are to be initially compiled without the endangered condition code and where mountain pine beetle killed logs/pieces are greater than or equal to 50%, the green condition code will be changed to endangered. Companies are required to retain the initial compiled sample load information for verification during annual production audits.
- Companies will be required to provide verification of the percent of the area that is red/green/grey/dead attack either through field, aerial surveys or other methods as approved by the Department.

All requests for dues modifiers for endangered pine must be sent to both the appropriate field office and the Forest Management Branch for review and acceptance. Approval of endangered modifiers for green pine that meet the criteria for endangered timber will be done at the annual operating plan stage or at the time scaling populations are established depending on the method used to document pine attacked trees. All requests for endangered pine must be received and approved prior to any hauling.

Definitions

Endangered timber – timber in an area is endangered by acts of nature or by development that is not authorized under the Act.

Contact Information

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Authorities

Timber Management Regulation

Section 81(10) – lumber, pulp or roundwood products

Section 85(4.2) – oriented strand board

Section 89.2(10) – laminated veneer lumber

Original signed by

Date

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Executive Director

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