Addendum I
Revised Cost-share Rates for First Thinnings of Pine Stands for SPB Prevention in East Texas
July 1, 2009

With continued federal funding for the SPB Prevention Program in East Texas in FY 2009, the SPB Technical Advisory Board has approved the following changes in SPB cost share rates and criteria. These changes will take effect on all new cases received in College Station on or after July 1, 2009. In addition, all approved cases that have yet to be completed as of July 1, 2009 will automatically qualify for these new rates if completed prior to the specified expiration date.

1. Cost shares for the first thinning of pulpwood stands will be approved only for stands of 10 or more acres that rank as high hazard to SPB (not stands that rank as moderate or lower hazard).
2. Cost shares for private tracts located within 5 miles of a National Forest will be increased to $100/acre.
3. Cost shares for tracts in ten counties of southeast Texas (Polk, Tyler, Jasper, Newton, Hardin, Orange, Liberty, San Jacinto, Montgomery, and Walker) not located within 5 miles of a National Forest will be increased to $80/acre. In addition, a flat $2,000 incentive will be made to the logger within these ten counties upon completion of the thinning of an approved SPB case that involves tracts of 10-50 acres in size (see Addendum II for details).
4. Cost shares in 15 other beetle prone counties (Anderson, Angelina, Cass, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Houston, Marion, Nacogdoches, Panola, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby and Trinity) will be increased to $50/acre.
5. For counties not listed above, cost shares will be approved at $50/acre only if the stand ranks as high hazard and the TFS grid block ranks as moderate, high or extreme hazard, based on the most recent TFS grid block hazard map (attached). For any grid blocks not ranked on the 2003-2007 SPB hazard map, use the 1996 grid block hazard rating shown in TFS Circular 3/06/5000 entitled "How to Prevent Southern Pine Beetle Infestations: A Guide to Cost Sharing Thinning Operations in East Texas."
6. Cost-shares for services of a consulting forester will be up to 50% of costs, not to exceed $10/acre.
7. The maximum allowed per federal fiscal year (October 1 - September 30) will be $5,000 for individual landowners and $10,000 for a partnership or trust involving two or more partners.
8. Cost-share rates for pre-commercial thinning will remain unchanged (70% of actual costs, not to exceed $105/acre of cost shares for tracts within 5 miles of a National Forest, 60% of actual costs, not to exceed $90/acre for the 10 counties in southeast Texas listed above, and 50% of actual costs not to exceed $75/acre for all other counties or situations listed in numbers 4 and 5 above).
9. Applications approved prior to July 1, 2009 that have yet to be completed will be cost shared at the new rates if completed prior to the expiration date without need to reapply. Expiration date is 18 months following the approval date. (A single 6-month extension is available upon request.)
10. If you have any questions, contact Mike Murphrey, SPB Prevention Forester in Lufkin (Phone: (936) 639-8170; e-mail mmurphrey@tfs.tamu.edu) or Dr. Ron Billings, Project Manager, in College Station (Phone: (979) 458-6650; e-mail rbillings@tfs.tamu.edu.

RFB
06/25/2009
Addendum II

Incentive for Loggers to Thin Small Tracts for SPB Prevention in Southeast Texas

Introduction: Thinning of privately-owned pine stands in southeast Texas for purposes of southern pine beetle prevention has been hampered in recent years by mill quotas, below-average pulpwood prices, and the reluctance of loggers to thin small tracts due to increased set up costs. As a result, only 10% of all SPB cases approved to date have been implemented in counties of southeast Texas, historically the most SPB-prone area of the state. To help offset these regional disadvantages, federal cost shares for SPB prevention have been increased from $40/acre to $80/acre for pine stands within 10 counties of southeast Texas, beginning on July 1, 2009. In addition, beginning on this same date, a $2,000 incentive will be given to loggers to thin a tract of 10-50 acres that involves an approved SPB prevention case in southeast Texas. This incentive will be in addition to the cost shares paid directly to the land owner.

Criteria:

1. The $2,000 flat fee will be paid to the logger upon successful completion of an approved SPB prevention case that is submitted after July 1, 2009. This incentive will remain in effect as long as federal funds are available for this purpose or until guidelines are changed by the SPB Technical Advisory Board.

2. The tract must be located in one of the following counties of southeast Texas: Polk, Tyler, Jasper, Newton, Hardin, Orange, Liberty, San Jacinto, Montgomery, or Walker County.

3. The thinned tract must be 10 to 50 acres in size and not be a portion of a larger tract with similar stand characteristics. The color IR tract map submitted with the SPB application and signature of the TFS District Forester on TFS SPB 3 form will be used to confirm that only small tracts are approved for this payment.

4. The logger must submit the following documents to the Texas Forest Service upon completion of the thinning contract: a) SPB case number; b) Name and address of the logger; c) Signed W-9 tax form, and d) Signature of the TFS District Forester on a logger completion form provided by Texas Forest Service (TFS SPB3 form).

5. If you have questions, contact the Texas Forest Service office nearest you or Dr. Ron Billings, Manager, Forest Pest Management, College Station at 979-458-6650 or rbillings@tfs.tamu.edu.

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06/25/2009