Eligibility Criteria for Participating in the SPB Cost Share Program

July 1, 2009

Specific criteria for participating in the cost share program are outlined below:

Eligibility:

- Minimum of 10 acres of loblolly, shortleaf or slash pine in need of thinning.
- Cost shares are available for pine pulpwood stands located in Anderson, Angelina, Cass, Cherokee, Gregg, Hardin, Harrison, Houston, Jasper, Liberty, Marion, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Panola, Polk, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler, and Walker counties. For other counties, the pine stand must be within a TFS grid block ranked as moderate SPB hazard or higher (see 2007TFS grid block hazard map). Thinning of merchantable stands that contain sawtimber will not qualify for cost shares.
- Merchantable pulpwood stands must be at least 70% pine and rate as high hazard to SPB (see TFS Circular 249).
- For precommercial thinning, the pine stand must be 6-12 years of age and have at least 700 stems/acre.

Procedure:

- TFS District Forester or consulting forester submits SPB Application and SPB Treatment Plan (signed by TFS forester, consulting forester and landowner), tract and general location maps, Terms and Conditions form (signed by landowner), and W-9 form (signed by landowner) to TFS headquarters in College Station for initial approval by Project Director.
- Following treatment, TFS forester revisits stand to verify treatments. Landowner or forester submits completion summary signed by TFS forester and related documentation (total costs for precommercial thinning or quantity of pulpwood removed from merchantable stands) to receive cost shares.

Cost Shares:

Precommercial thinning (no trees harvested and sold)
• Cost shares: 50% of costs, from $75 - $105/acre for thinning + up to $5/acre for forestry consultant fees (total not to exceed $10,000/fiscal year/landowner or $20,000/year for trusts or partnerships with two or more partners).

• Cost-share match: Documented by receipts for thinning costs and consultant fees.

First thinning of stands with merchantable timber

• Cost shares: $50/acre for thinning + up to $10/acre for forestry consultant fees (total not to exceed $60/acre or maximum annual limits specified for precommercial thinning) for pine stands in Anderson, Angelina, Cass, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Houston, Marion, Nacogdoches, Panola, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, and Trinity counties, except for tracts within 5 miles of a National Forest.

• Cost shares = $80/acre + up to $10/acre for forestry consultant fees for pine stands in Hardin, Jasper, Liberty, Montgomery, Newton, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto, Tyler, and Walker counties, except for tracts within 5 miles of a National Forest.

• Cost shares = $100/acre + up to $10/acre for forestry consultant fees for pine stands within 5 miles of a National Forest (Angelina, Davy Crockett, Sabine, and Sam Houston National Forest)

• Cost-share match: Landowner provides record of consulting forester’s services (if involved), plus quantity of pulpwood removed in thinning operation (tons) to Texas Forest Service. TFS will use harvest data to estimate cut-and-haul costs based on standardized rates, to cover the cost-share match.

• In 10 counties of southeast Texas only (Hardin, Jasper, Liberty, Montgomery, Newton, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto, Tyler, and Walker counties), a $2,000 incentive is available to loggers as of July 1, 2009 for thinning small tracts (10-50 acres in size) that involve an approved SPB case. Logger must submit name, address, signed W-9 tax form and TFS SPB 3 form (signed by TFS District Forester) upon completion of thinning operation to receive incentive. The tract can not be a portion of a larger tract with similar characteristics (age, stand density, etc.).

For more information, contact the TFS office nearest you, the TFS Forest Pest Management office in Lufkin, phone: (936)-639-8170, or Dr. Ronald F. Billings, SPB Project Director, Texas Forest Service, 301 Tarrow, Suite 364,
College Station, TX 77840-7896; phone (979) 458-6650; e-mail: rbillings@tfs.tamu.edu.