Addendum I
Revised Cost Share Rates for First Thinnings of Pine Stands for SPB Prevention in East Texas
July 1, 2011

With continued federal funding for the SPB Prevention Program in East Texas in fiscal year 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 share rate for private tracts located within five miles of a national forest is $100/acre.
3. Cost share rate for tracts in 11 counties of Southeast Texas (Hardin, Harris, Jasper, Liberty, Montgomery, Newton, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto, Tyler and Walker) not located within five miles of a national forest is $80/acre. In addition, a flat $2,000 incentive will be made to the logger within these 11 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 share rate in 19 other beetle prone counties (Anderson, Angelina, Bowie, Cass, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Houston, Marion, Nacogdoches, Panola, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Smith, Trinity, Upshur and Wood) is $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 Texas Forest Service grid block ranks as moderate, high or extreme hazard based on the most recent agency 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 share rate for services of a consulting forester is 50 percent of costs, not to exceed $10/acre.
7. The maximum allowed per federal fiscal year (Oct. 1 – Sept. 30) will be $5,000 for individual landowners and $10,000 for a partnership or trust involving two or more partners. Multiple partnerships that contain the same partner name will be considered a single partnership for cost share purposes, with an annual limit of $10,000.
8. Cost share rates for pre-commercial thinning are 70 percent of actual costs, not to exceed $105/acre of cost shares for tracts within five miles of a national forest, 60 percent of actual costs, not to exceed $90/acre for the 10 counties in Southeast Texas listed above, and 50 percent of actual costs not to exceed $75/acre for all other counties or situations listed above in Nos. 4 and 5.
9. Applications approved prior to July 1, 2009, that have yet to be completed will be cost shared at the new rates stated above if completed prior to the expiration date without need to reapply. Expiration date is 18 months following the approval date. (A single six-month extension is available upon request.)
10. If you have any questions, contact Mike Murphrey, SPB prevention forester in Lufkin, at 936-639-8170 or mmurphrey@tfs.tamu.edu. Or, contact Dr. Ron Billings, project manager in College Station, at 979-458-6650 or rbillings@tfs.tamu.edu.

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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 11 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: Hardin, Harris, Jasper, Liberty, Montgomery, Newton, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto, Tyler, and Walker.

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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