

Nicola-Similkameen Innovative Forestry Society



Feb. 22, 2010

Office of the Regional Executive Director  
515 Columbia St.  
Kamloops  
BC  
V2C2T7

Attention: Dirk Trigg & Jeff Stone

Dear Sirs:

Re: NSIFS MPB STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT- 2009

Please find the attached 2009 Annual Report in order.

If you have any questions or would like clarification on any items please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

Nicola Similkameen Innovative Forestry Society



Jerry C. Canuel, RPF  
BOD-Chair

cc: Board of Directors, Nicola Similkameen Innovative Forestry Society  
Chuck van Hemmen, District Manager, Cascade Forest District

Nicola Similkameen Innovative Forestry Society



# NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN INNOVATIVE FORESTRY SOCIETY

## MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE STRATEGY 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

January 2010

# Nicola Similkameen Innovative Forestry Society



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## **1. Introduction**

The intent of this report is to provide a general update of the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) infestation in the Merritt TSA and the associated harvesting activities of the Innovative Forest Practices Agreement (IFPA) licensees. This report satisfies conditions 4 and 5 of the IFPA extension condition and covers the period from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. This report reviews the accomplishments and plans of the IFPA licensees.

## **2. General Summary of Merritt TSA beetle levels**

The Merritt TSA continued to experience an expansion in red and green attack pine in 2009. In the portion of the TSA north of Merritt, the beetle has run its course and the large majority of the Lodgepole pine is red and grey attack and no longer contains any active beetle brood. The majority of the Lodgepole pine stands in the TSA south of Merritt have been infested with beetle to varying degrees. Un-attacked, healthy stands are present located primarily in the higher elevations of the TSA.

## **3. Develop Harvest Priorities**

Harvest Priority continues to be focused on salvaging mountain pine beetle infected stands and reducing the potential unsalvageable losses.

Spruce Beetle has become a significant threat to identified Engelmann spruce stands and drainages located south of Princeton. Additional harvesting operations by all licensees have been initiated in these stands in an effort to reduce the losses and spread of the beetle.

## **4. 2009 Harvesting Completed (Jan 1 – Dec 31)**

By the end of 2009, the NSIFS licensees harvested a total volume of 1,864,264 m<sup>3</sup>. This represents 97% of the planned harvest volume for this period and 106% of the total available AAC.

The 2009 harvest was approximately 10% less than the 2008 harvest levels.

The following table illustrates harvested volumes by NSIFS licensees from 2006 to present.



The total volume harvested was distributed across the following priority categories:

		2006	2007	2008	2009
MPB	Heavily Infested	93.4%	93%	90%	92%
	Volume at Risk	2.5%	3%	8%	1%
	Blocks >70% PI	N/A	77%	84%	91%
	HI + Vol@Risk	95.9%	96%	98%	93%
Other	Other Salvage (blowdown)	2.3%	3%	1%	3%
	Other (green wood)	1.8%	1%	0%	4%

The 2009 harvesting was very similar to 2008 in terms of priority category and continues to consist primarily of heavily infested MPB stands and volume at risk to MPB.

In 2009, licensees again reported the volume harvested that was in blocks >70% PI volume. Licensees harvested 84% of the volume from >70% PI stands. The remaining volume was in Lodgepole Pine leading stands with most being 60 to 70 percent pine.

The total harvest volume in the TSA was much higher than indicated in this report due to smallwood licenses, small-scale salvage and FRO and NRFL volumes. Considering the poor market conditions experienced in the past year, this level of harvest (and recovery of damaged timber) has been exceptional.

Other harvesting in greenwood or non-pine stands was again necessary to either meet specific mill needs or to manage cutting permit expiry issues.

## 5. 2010 Planned Harvesting

For 2010, NSIFS licensees plan on harvesting a total volume of 1,751,305 m<sup>3</sup> off of these licenses representing 100 % of the total AAC. This demonstrates the licensees' continued and concerted efforts to increase harvesting capacity, utilizing uplift volume, reducing beetle numbers and keeping unsalvageable losses to a minimum.

It is anticipated that greater than 90% of the total harvest will be in heavily infested stands and greater than 95% in heavily infested and volume at risk.



## **6. Conclusions and General Direction for 2010**

Licensees will allocate greater than 95% of harvesting resources against beetle affected stands. Planned harvest levels for 2010 are to harvest the available AAC.

Licensees will continue to manage towards “Merritt TSA MPB Uplift Operational Subcommittee Guidelines” in their development and operations in 2010. This will result in increased environmental protection and consistent management strategies among all licensees in the TSA.

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Appendix 1

NSIFS Mountain Pine Beetle Strategy  
IFPA Licensee 2009 Actual Harvest Volumes

	Core AAC	Jan 1, 2004 IFPA uplift	July 13, 2005 IFPA uplift	Total AAC	Planned cut 2009	Actual Cut 2009	2009 of Plan YTD	%
Aspen	132,744	92,596	57,404	282,744	282,000	285,523	101	
Aspen/Stuwix		0	190,000	190,000	275,000	268,031	97	
Weyerhaeuser	413,556	0	70,575	484,131	484,000	429,204	89	
Stuwix	950	179,405	85,000	265,355	250,000	316,855	127	
Tolko	338,255	39,684	86,667	464,606	550,000	548,268	100	
Ardeu	35,100	19,015	10,354	64,469	80,000	16,383	20	
<b>Total</b>	<b>920,605</b>	<b>330,700</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>1,751,305</b>	<b>1,921,000</b>	<b>1,864,264</b>	<b>97</b>	

<b>Total m3 harvested in 2009:</b>	<b>1,864,264</b>	
<b>Breakdown of harvested timber</b>		
	<b>Volume (m3)</b>	<b>% of total</b>
> 70% PI stands	1,695,663	91%
<b>Category</b>		
	<b>Volume (m3)</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Heavily Infested	1,754,337	94%
Volume at Risk	50,180	3%
Other Salvage	50,372	3%
Other	9,375	1%

<b>Aspen</b>	
Planned 2009 cut	282,000
Achieved 2009 cut	285,523
Volume in >70% PI stands	285,523
Heavily Infested	285,523
Volume at Risk	
Other Salvage	
Other	
<b>AP/Stuwix</b>	
Planned 2009 cut	275,000
Achieved 2009 cut	268,031
Volume in >70% PI stands	268,031
Heavily Infested	268,031
Volume at Risk	
Other Salvage	
Other	
<b>Stuwix</b>	
Planned 2009 cut	300,000
Achieved 2009 cut	316,855
Volume in >70% PI stands	316,855
Heavily Infested	316,855
Volume at Risk	
Other Salvage	
Other	

<b>Ardeu</b>	
Planned 2009 cut	80,000
Achieved 2009 cut	16,383
Volume in > 70% PI stands	16,383
Heavily Infested	16,383
Volume at Risk	
Other Salvage	
Other	
<b>Weyerhaeuser</b>	
Planned 2009 cut	484,000
Achieved 2009 cut	429,204
Volume in >70% PI stands	379,773
Heavily Infested	340,515
Volume at Risk	39,258
Other Salvage	49,431
Other	
<b>Tolko</b>	
Planned 2009 cut	550,000
Achieved 2009 cut	548,268
Volume in >70% PI stands	429,098
Heavily Infested	527,030
Volume at Risk	10,922
Other Salvage	941
Other	9,375