



**NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN INNOVATIVE
FORESTRY SOCIETY**

**MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE STRATEGY
2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

May 2011



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1. Introduction

The intent of this report is to provide a general update of the Mountain Pine Beetle infestation in the Merritt TSA and the harvesting activities of the IFPA licensees. This report satisfies conditions 4 and 5 of the IFPA extension conditions and covers the period from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010. This report reviews the accomplishments and plans of the licensees.

2. General Summary of Merritt TSA beetle levels

The Merritt TSA is generally seeing a decline in the amount of green attack, but there continues to be some variability within the TSA. In the portion of the TSA North of Merritt the beetle has run its course and the large majority of Pine is red and grey attack and no longer contains beetle. The majority of the Pine stands in the TSA south of Merritt have been infested with beetle to varying degrees and there remains a few isolated areas that are relatively green.

3. Develop Harvest Priorities

Harvest Priority continues to be concentrated on salvaging mountain pine beetle infected stands, however an increasing focus is being directed at harvesting Spruce Beetle infected stands in the south and eastern portions of the TSA.

3. 2010 Harvesting Completed (Jan 1 – Dec 31)

By the end of 2010 the NSIFS licensees harvested a total volume of 2,035,201 m³ which is 116% of the available AAC for the year. The 2010 harvest was approximately 9% greater than the 2009 harvest. These harvesting volumes are specific to the IFPA licenses and the actual harvest volume in the TSA was much higher due to smallwood licenses, small scale salvage and FRO and NRFL volumes. Considering the continuing soft market conditions experienced in the past year, this level of harvest (and recovery of damaged timber) is exceptional.



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

| | | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|-------|---|------|------|------|------|
| MPB | Heavily MPB Infested | 93% | 90% | 92% | 81% |
| | PI Volume at Risk | 3% | 8% | 1% | 0% |
| | Blocks >70% PI | 77% | 84% | 91% | 72% |
| | HI + Vol@Risk (MPB) | 96% | 98% | 93% | 81% |
| Other | Other Salvage (mostly Fire and Sx beetle) | 3% | 1% | 3% | 19% |
| | Other (green wood) | 1% | 0% | 4% | 0% |

In 2010, harvesting was again directed into infested and damaged stands with very little volume reported as non-salvage. The amount of heavily infested PI volume dropped along with >70% PI stands, however, this was made up by the shift to spruce beetle infested stands and a minor component of fire damaged timber. In total over 99% of harvesting was dedicated to salvaging damaged stands.

9. 2011 Planned Harvesting

At this point in time, it is unclear how the recent TSA reduction in cut of 14% will impact the NSIFS licensees; however, for 2011, NSIFS licensees will continue to maximize the available AAC in a continuing effort to target priority stands. In the short term, the MPB expansion has subsided, but there continues to be a significant volume of susceptible pine remaining. Spruce beetle is also clearly on the rise that requires aggressive harvesting resources to ensure infested stands are logged prior to deterioration of the stands makes them uneconomical.

10. Conclusion and General Direction for 2011

It is anticipated that greater than 90% of harvesting in 2011 will be in heavily infested or damaged stands.



The partition cut associated with the Chief Forester determination in late 2010, along with the rise in other non-pine damaging agents dictates a review of the “Merritt TSA MPB Uplift Operational Sub-committee Guidelines”. The MOF and licensees are currently working to refine the guidelines to add clarity and ensure intended stands are prioritized for harvest by all licensees.