



Southern Pine Beetle Briefing Paper National Forests in Alabama

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National Forests in Alabama Southern Pine Beetle Fast Facts Week of October 2, 2017

The southern pine beetle (*Dendroctonus frontalis*) is the most destructive native forest insect pest. SPB measures only about 1/8 of an inch. They create S-shaped galleries under the bark at almost any height on the tree. After maturing in the tree bark, the SPB will bore their way out and fly off to attack another pine tree. Forest managers use various methods to suppress and control the SPB. The best insurance is to cut a buffer strip of un-infested pines around the active head in the beetle infested area. The practice will interrupt the SPB flow of host trees and stop their advance.

Bankhead National Forest

National Forest Location: Winston, Lawrence and Franklin Counties
Congressional Districts: Congressman Robert Aderholt (R- District 4) – Bankhead NF
Approximate Number of Ground Checked SPB Spots (Areas): 204 spots
SPB Spot (Area) Latest Flight Detection (AFC and FS): 370 spots
SPB Treated Acres: Approximately 20 acres within timber sales and 0 outside of the sale boundary
Estimated Percentage of Acres Impacted: Less than 1/4 percent of district acres
Estimated Wilderness Acres Impacted: Approximately 20 acres
Technology Used: Aerial Detection, GPS, GIS, Portable Data Recorders
Response Phase: Assessment and Treatment Phase



Adult southern pine beetle. Photo by Erich Vallery, courtesy of Bugwood.org

Talladega National Forest – Oakmulgee District

National Forest Location: Chilton, Dallas, Hale, Perry, Tuscaloosa Counties.
Congressional Districts: Congressman Gary Palmer (R-District 6) and Congresswoman Terri Sewell (D-District 7)
Approximate Number of Ground Checked SPB Spots (Areas): 196 spots
SPB Spot (Area) Latest Flight Detection (AFC and FS): 372 Spots
SPB Treated Acres: 3 acres outside of timber sale boundary
Estimated Percentage of Acres Impacted: Less than 1/4 percent of the district acres
Technology Used: Aerial Detection, GPS, GIS, Portable Data Recorders
Response Phase: Assessment and Treatment Phase

Talladega National Forest – Talladega District

National Forest Location: Cleburne, Clay and Talladega Counties
Congressional Districts: Congressman Mike Rogers (R-District 3)
Approximate Number of Ground Checked SPB Spots (Areas): 18 spots
SPB Spot (Area) Latest Flight Detection: 24 spots
SPB Treated Acres: No timber harvesting action to date
Estimated Percentage of Acres Impacted: Less than 1/4 percent of the district acres
Estimated Wilderness Acres Impacted: 20 acres
Technology Used: Aerial Detection, GPS, GIS, Portable Data Recorders
Response Phase: Assessment Phase

Talladega National Forest – Shoal Creek District

National Forest Location: Calhoun, Cleburne, Clay, and Cherokee Counties

Congressional Districts: Congressman Mike Rogers (R-District 3)

Approximate Number of Ground Checked SPB Spots (Areas): 15 spots

SPB Spot (Area) Latest Flight Detection (AFC and FS): 15 spots

SPB Treated Acres: No timber harvesting action to date

Estimated Percentage of Acres Impacted: Less than ¼ percent of the district

Estimated Wilderness Acres Impacted: 20 acres

Technology Used: Aerial Detection, GPS, GIS, Portable Data Recorders

Response Phase: Assessment Phase