

Exhibit 14 From the Chief's Record of Decision for
the Suppression of the Southern Pine Beetle
Final Environmental Impact Statement

Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests
Land and Resource Management Plan

Amendment #1
April 1987

Chapter III. Forest-wide Direction -

Page III-29. Pest Management - Add the following as general direction statement 2, "Control Southern pine beetle infestations in accordance with the management requirements of Section VI of the Record of Decision/Southern Pine Beetle."

Pest Management - Add new Standards, 1-7, 9, 10, General Forest Area; requirements for General Forest Area and Wilderness (RCW Colony Site Protection) and requirements for General Forest Area and Wilderness (General).

Chapter III - Direction for Management Area 7

Page III-115. Pest Management, 1a. - Add at the end of the standard, "except for Southern pine beetle infestations which may be controlled in accordance with the management requirements of Section VI of the Record of Decision/Southern Pine Beetle."

Pest Management - Add new standards - Add all the management requirements except for General Forest Area found in Section VI of the Record of Decision/Southern Pine Beetle.

Chapter III - Direction for Management Area 8

Page III-119. Pest Management - Add new standard 1b - "Refer to forest-wide direction when controlling Southern pine beetle infestations."

This amendment is not a significant change in the Nantahala/Pisgah LRMP. The determination that this is a nonsignificant amendment is made in accordance with 36 CFR 219.10(f) and Interim Directive to Chapter 1920 Forest Service Manual (52 Fed. Reg. 4632, February 13, 1987). This amendment does not alter the multiple-use goals and objectives for long-term and resource management. This amendment adds more specific direction and standards and guidelines for southern pine beetle (SPB) suppression in the general Forest area and Wilderness. The amendment does not involve an increase or decrease in resource demands. In summary, this direction for southern pine beetle suppression does not alter the long-term relationship between levels of multiple-use goods and services projected by the LRMP.

The NEPA analysis for this change of direction has been documented in the Draft and Final EIS for Suppression of the Southern Pine Beetle. The EIS is available for review at the Forest Supervisor's office.

Pertinent Management Requirements from the Chief's Record
of Decision for the Suppression of the Southern
Pine Beetle Final Environmental Impact Statement

VI. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Management requirement guidelines described in the following section were developed to resolve public issues and management concerns and to direct management practices so environmental impacts are mitigated to the greatest extent possible. These management requirements which include mitigation measures described in the FEIS volume 1, chapter II, Mitigation, Specific Mitigation Measures, pages 2-24 to 2-27, are all adopted as part of my decision.

General Forest Area

1. IPM will be used to reduce timber losses caused by SPB.
2. In pine stands adjacent to wilderness, where spot spread from wilderness is possible, priority will be given to reducing or eliminating potential losses to SPB. For example, stand densities would be lowered and rotation ages shortened to maintain or increase tree vigor.
3. Control activities within 1/2 mile of RCW colonies will conform to the guidelines set forth in the Forest Service Wildlife Habitat Management Handbook (FSH 2609.23R). Where cut and leave and cut-and-remove techniques are not feasible, and cut and hand spray is used, no standing trees will be sprayed. Pile and burn will not be used near active RCW colonies.
4. Mitigation of adverse impacts from the cut-and-remove method will be similar to mitigation measures employed during a commercial timber harvest on a national forest. The guidelines and general mitigating measures for this activity are found in the Forest Service Manual - 2430 Commercial Timber Sales. Specific guidelines and mitigating measures are found in forest plan standards and guidelines and timber sale contract clauses. Direction pertinent to similar activities on State, private, and other Federal lands may also apply.
5. When pile and burn is used to control SPB, the work will comply with the Forest Service Manual directions on air quality management for prescribed fire (Chapters 2120, Air Resource Management; 5140, Prescribed Fire; and 5150, Fuel Management). All Federal and State air pollution laws must be followed.
6. Weather conditions will be closely monitored before prescribed burning activities occur to ensure that atmospheric conditions allow for quick smoke dispersal to maintain air quality. Air quality values for Class I wildernesses and national forest lands will be protected by conducting prescribed burning under a smoke management plan.

7. Existing landscape form, line, color and texture will be used to mitigate effects on visually-sensitive areas that result from SPB control. This is accomplished by adjusting the shape of managed sites to be more natural and by feathering edge lines between disturbed and undisturbed areas. Visual effects are further mitigated by debris disposal, and by reducing the apparent size of the work site.
8. Modifications of control activities similar to those used to protect wilderness resources will also be used on other sensitive areas where existing direction in Forest Land and Resource Management Plans restricts SPB control. Examples may include wild and scenic river corridors, natural areas, or botanical areas.
9. Use existing roads or access ways whenever possible for control activities.
10. Retain selected hardwoods in an uncut or untreated state for wildlife and plant diversity.

Wilderness (General)

1. No SPB control action will be taken in wilderness unless an infestation threatens an essential RCW colony or occurs within 1/4 mile of susceptible host on State and private land or high value forest resources on Federal land and is predicted to spread onto that land causing unacceptable damage on that land. Infestations will be allowed to run their natural course unless the aforementioned resources are threatened.
2. No SPB control action will be taken in wilderness until a site-specific analysis of the infestation and surrounding site conditions is completed and documented. The site-specific analysis must indicate that successful control can be expected, given: (a) the intensity on the infestation; (b) the constraints applied to the control methods for use in wilderness and (c) the resources available to control the spot.
3. IPM control methods for SPB are modified for use in wilderness as follows:
 - a. Cut and Remove - use helicopter, draft animals or cable skidding from public roads, or access, to remove infested logs. In visually sensitive zones such as along hiking trails, remove entire tree if feasible or otherwise remove slash from visual zone. Helicopter flight lines will avoid trails where possible.
 - b. Cut and Leave - no modification for use in wilderness except to cut slash to lay close to the ground or remove slash if feasible in visual zones to mitigate visual impact.
 - c. Cut and hand spray - same modifications as cut-and-leave method.
 - d. Pile and burn - this method will not be used in wilderness.

4. Monitoring, ground checking and tree felling crews will travel to infestations by non-motorized methods. Only under conditions in Item 5., following, will vehicles be allowed.
5. In extenuating circumstances, such as an intense outbreak, or lack of adequate resources to implement the preceding control methods, use of motorized ground vehicles may become necessary to protect essential colony sites or adjacent lands as described under alternative 4. However, use of such to do control work in wildernesses would require complete documentation of the extenuating circumstance and approval in advance by the Regional Forester. This deviation would be used only as a last resort when destruction of an essential RCW colony or unacceptable damage on adjacent lands is imminent.

When the use of motorized ground vehicles is permitted in wilderness by the Regional Forester, the following management requirements apply:

- a. Use only the existing roads or access ways. Limit road improvements to a standard no higher than required for safe passage of equipment and workers, and to protect the soil.
 - b. Return existing roads to as near their pre-use condition as soon as they have served their purpose.
 - c. Close all roads and access ways needed for SPB control to motorized public use. Only use associated with the control of the SPB and administrative use will be allowed.
 - d. Use fords (no structure) where possible, but only under conditions that will not visibly change physical stream characteristics. These conditions are:
 - (1) Bedrock stream bottom and lower banks.
 - (2) Rock or gravel stream bottom and lower banks.
 - e. Install temporary stream crossing structures using the largest fill materials available. Crossings will be removed completely after control operations are completed. Stream banks and bottoms will be reclaimed to approximately the original conditions.
 - f. To the greatest extent possible, schedule control activities when visitor use will be lowest.
6. All practical efforts to protect hardwoods will be made when SPB control actions are implemented. No hardwoods will be cut unless to insure the safety of crews or wilderness user.
 7. The affected and interested public will be informed or involved as appropriate in the decision to control in wilderness. (See Exhibit 2).

General Forest Area and Wilderness (RCW Colony Site Protection)

1. Trees vacated by the SPB will not be cut or chemically treated unless necessary to insure public safety.
2. Inactive and relict cavity trees, if infested, or within a designated treatment buffer zone, may be cut to secure RCW colonies. (Requires evaluation by a Forest Service wildlife biologist.)
3. Uninfested trees within a 200-foot buffer around RCW cavity trees would not be cut or chemically treated unless such control efforts would be likely to prevent SPB infestation of cavity trees.
4. Disturbance in the colony sites will be kept to a minimum especially during the breeding season. No salvage operations will be conducted in active colony sites from March 1 through the time RCW young have fledged (approximately July-August). Control activities would be limited to the felling of trees or chemical treatment, or both, if necessary to secure the colony site during the breeding season.
5. Control activities within 1/2 mile of RCW colonies will conform to the guidelines set forth in the Forest Service Wildlife Habitat Management Handbook (FSH 2609.23R). Where cut and leave and cut-and-remove techniques are not feasible, and cut and hand spray is used, no standing trees will be sprayed. Pile and burn will not be used near active RCW colonies.

General Forest Area and Wilderness (General)

1. Site-specific analysis must be completed for any proposed SPB control action. This analysis will determine if a biological evaluation is necessary to determine if any threatened and endangered species or species being proposed for this status may be affected by the treatment. If the proposed treatment may affect one of these species or its habitat, consultation with the Fish & Wildlife Service is required under the Endangered Species Act. If sensitive species may be affected, coordination with the appropriate Federal or State agencies will occur. If adverse impacts could occur, the site-specific biological evaluation will identify possible mitigation measures.
2. Use control methods that will minimize soil disturbance.
3. Use of erosion control measures as soon as possible after the ground-disturbing, SPB-suppression activities are completed, to prevent or minimize erosion, sedimentation and long-term site deterioration.
4. Cultural resource surveys and coordination before soil-disturbing activities are implemented. Site evaluation and protection will minimize disturbance of significant sites.

5. The cut-and-hand-spray technique must only be used according to general direction set forth in Forest Service Manual Chapter 2150, Pesticide-Use Management. Label instructions for insecticides registered for beetle control must be followed.
6. Standing trees will not be sprayed with insecticides.
7. Insecticides will not be used in a manner that would adversely affect threatened or endangered species.
8. The potential risk to humans and the environment will be minimized by applying insecticides only according to label instructions, Forest Service policies and other Federal regulations. Application will be supervised by a certified pesticide applicator. Areas treated with insecticide will be signed and closed to firewood collection. (See appendix C.)
9. Workers who apply insecticides will be trained to ensure minimum impacts and maximum effectiveness. Only those methods that assure proper application of insecticides on the infested tree bole would be used.
10. Riparian ecosystems that encompass floodplains and wetlands will receive appropriate protection. As a minimum, riparian areas will extend 100 feet from the edge of all perennial streams and other perennial water bodies, including lakes. Site investigations to identify riparian areas and floodplains will consider the soil and plant characteristics of the site, and will be guided by appropriate Forest Service direction and State requirements. Roads that cross riparian areas will be stabilized with rip-rap, vegetative establishment, or other appropriate methods.
11. Logging equipment will be kept out of perennial and intermittent stream channels except on approved, designated crossings. Crossings will be at right angles to the stream or riparian area.