Innovative Stand Enhancement and Regeneration Systems to Rehabilitate Mountain Pine Beetle Affected Stands - Administrative Aspects

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Presentation Outline

- Province of Alberta mountain pine beetle strategies
- Role of Forest Resource Association of Alberta (FRIAA)
- Status of the MPB infestation in northwest Alberta
- Project overview
- Administrative aspects
  - Financial arrangements
  - Delegation of liability/responsibility
  - Assignment of authority
Addressing the Infestation: Alberta’s Short Term Strategy

▶ Objectives:
  – Contain infestations
  – Prevent spread eastward

▶ Management zones:
  – Leading edge
  – Active holding
  – Inactive holding

▶ Treatments:
  – Level 1 – single tree or group (led by ESRD)
  – Level 2 – block or patch (led by industry)

▶ Detection and population assessment
Alberta’s Long Term “Healthy Pine” Strategy

- Identify stands most susceptible to MPB infestation
- FMA holders directed to amend forest management plans to remove 75% of the most susceptible pine by 2026
- 16 Healthy Pine Strategy amendments have been approved
- Since 2011, GOA funding has been allocated for rehabilitation of stands damaged or destroyed by mountain pine beetle
Role of Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA)

FRIAA administers a grant program on behalf of ESRD

- Level 1 control
- Aerial and ground surveys
- Containment baiting
- Seed collection
- Protection of progeny sites
- Stand rehabilitation
  - Focus on damaged stands that can’t be rejuvenated promptly without intervention
FRIAA MPB Rehabilitation Program Call for Proposals

- First call September, 2013 with October 31, 2013 closing
- Eligibility: FRIAA members only
- Proposal adjudication criteria:
  - Priority for stands in Inactive Holding Zone
  - Minimum 50% of canopy trees killed by MPB
  - Pine must comprise minimum 50% of canopy closure
  - No C or D density treed understory
  - Minimum 15 metres canopy height & at least 60 years old
  - Area must have been withdrawn from the active land base (i.e. must not support a commercial timber harvest)
FRIAA Call for Proposals Project Objectives

- Proposals to demonstrate how MPB impacts being addressed (in order of priority):
  - Reduce wildfire risk
  - Restore watershed intactness
  - Support the recovery of species of special concern
  - Mitigate the recovery of values such as
    - recreation
    - soil stabilization or
    - riparian zone function

- Research projects to demonstrate applicability broadly in managing MPB rehabilitation activities
MPB Impacts in Northwest Alberta
Canfor FMA Area and Species Mix

Figure 5. All Species Percentage

Figure 3. Coniferous Species Percentage
Project Proposal

- Applicant: Canfor
- Partners: Canadian Wood Fibre Centre (CWFC) University of Alberta
- Service Provider: Spectrum Resource Group
- Overall Objectives:
  - Remove infested green attack stems and space retained stems to reduce MPB susceptibility and wildfire risk
  - Establish a vigorous juvenile crop of pine or pine-spruce mix in conifer and mixed wood stands
  - Increase the understanding of post MPB infestation dynamics and test management options and techniques to rehabilitate non commercial stands
Financial Arrangements & Delegation of Liability/Responsibility

- Grant Agreement between GOA & FRIAA
- Project Acceptance Agreement between FRIAA and Canfor
- Research and Development Agreement between Canfor and NRC
- Funding Agreement between Canfor and UofA
- General Services Agreement between Canfor and Spectrum
Assignment of Authority

- Canfor removed project area from FMA net landbase
- Spectrum granted authority through issuance of Commercial Timber Permit (CTP):
  - Annual operating plan describes activities:
    - Road plan
    - Harvest plan
    - Silviculture prescription (site preparation & planting)
    - Site restoration
    - Debris disposal
- Reforestation obligations waived
- Canfor will maintain ARIS records
- Spectrum responsible for road use and utility crossing agreements
Process for Sale of Logs and Biofuel

- Estimated volume of sawlogs, pulp logs and biofuel will be offered for sale by Spectrum to local forest industry companies before commencement of harvesting.

- If bids are not received, products will not be produced.

- If bids are received:
  - Logs will be processed at roadside
  - Biofuel will be baled at roadside

- Purchasers are responsible for:
  - Load and unload
  - Transportation
  - Road use agreements
  - Weigh and sample scaling
  - Payment of crown dues

- All revenue received from sale of products will be credited to Canfor by Spectrum and Canfor will credit FRIAA equivalently.
Questions