

File: 22000-20/DFAM

November 26, 2003

To: Regional Managers
District Managers
DFAM Lead Licensees

From: Robert G. Clark
Provincial Bark Beetle Co-ordinator
Northern Interior Forest Region

Re: Emergency Management Unit (EMU) Designations

Further to the notes from Tim Ebata, Forest Health Project Specialist, Forest Practices Branch, regarding changes to Beetle Management Unit (BMU) objectives within districts, this correspondence is intended to clarify the separate EMU designation process.

First, as per Tim Ebata's email of October 28, 2003, each Defined Forest Area Management (DFAM) group must take a lead in deciding whether the BMU objectives are appropriate given this year's level of infestation, and ability to manage by harvesting and/or single tree control activities. It is anticipated that the Ministry of Forests and BC Parks will participate in these discussions. The provincial technical guidelines for BMU objectives should be followed for this exercise, which is used by the DFAM Group to propose funding for detection and single tree treatments.

Second, a change in BMU strategy does not necessarily mean that the EMU designation has also automatically changed. The latter is a separate legal process of the provincial bark beetle co-ordinator.

Third, following the BMU objective exercise, establishment of EMU designations within the Emergency Bark Beetle Management Areas (EBBMA) will follow. The EMU exercise enables the use of the *Bark Beetle Regulation* (BBR).

Fourth, BMU objectives of suppression, holding, salvage, or monitor, will be aggregated into aggressive and/or containment. However, EMU redesignation will not be undertaken where it has not been shown that the BMU objective setting exercise has taken place first.

Fifth, given the time of the season, the EMU designation may include a time lag from BMU objective setting, where it is deemed appropriate. This could be the case where a licensee has proceeded with BBR cut block layout and would be in jeopardy of losing investments, if the EMU designation were downgraded too soon. As such, districts must advise where this may be the case and be prepared to discuss in further detail upon request of the provincial bark beetle co-ordinator or assistant provincial bark beetle co-ordinator.



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Sixth, under current legislation, the Minister of Forests approves additions or deletions to the EBBMA. This year's overview surveys are presently under review to assess whether such changes are necessary. Where a district or DFAM group feels it is necessary to make changes, they are again encouraged to undertake first the procedures outlined by Tim Ebata in BMU objective setting, then provide a case to the provincial bark beetle co-ordinator for recommendation to the minister on the EBBMA area. Once a change to the EBBMA has been made, the necessary EMU designations will follow accordingly.

Finally, the EMU designation should be done twice annually, first in late fall, then in the spring following the winter harvest season. To that end, changes not made by the end of December will be scheduled to the spring update.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Barry Dobbin at (250) 565-4115 or myself at (250) 567-6363.



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pc: Barry Dobbin, Assistant Provincial Bark Beetle Co-ordinator, Northern Interior Forest Region