

June 10, 2005

SUCCESS STORY

Subject: Southern Pine Beetle Prevention and Restoration Program

The Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) Prevention and Restoration Program is a cornerstone piece to the Southern Region's effort to institute a comprehensive and integrated approach for managing southern pine beetle on federal, state, and private lands.

SPB is the most economically important forest pest in the southern United States. In recent years SPB outbreaks resulted in unprecedented forest losses, estimated to have exceeded \$1.5 billion in damage. According to the Southern Pine Beetle Risk Map, there are nearly 15 million acres at risk in the Southern Region. There are nearly 2 million acres determined to be "high priority" acres with respect to treatment efforts.

The Forest Health Protection (FHP) Unit has distributed nearly \$30 million to states and National Forests to accomplish prevention and restoration activities since 2003. This funding came in part from Congressional earmarks of \$10 million in 2004 and \$14 million in 2005. Congressman Taylor, NC has been a long time supporter of Forest Service efforts in this program.

In 2004, over 70,000 acres were treated on federal, state, and private lands. In 2005, nearly 100,000 acres are targeted for treatment.

In addition to the acres treated, the Southern Region's FHP Unit has established and strengthened partnerships as part of the success of this program. FHP has worked with the states to develop guidelines for states to use as a guide during program development. They have also developed a cost share program in 10 States which has helped federal funds reach over 1,000 landowners. Finally the FHP Unit has been involved with state managed efforts to educate landowners through workshops, publications, and billboards.