Peer Review Plan

Title of Review:	The effectiveness of vegetation management practices for prevention and control of bark beetle infestations in coniferous forests of the western and southern United States	[x]	**Influential Scientific Information**
Agency:	USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, Davis, CA; Southern Research Station Pineville, LA; Texas Forest Service, College Station, TX; Forest Health Protection, Ogden, UT, Dept. of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Mississippi State University, MS; Rocky Mountain Research Station, Fort Collins, CO; Forest Health Protection, Asheville, NC	[ ]	**Highly Influential Scientific Assessment**
Agency Contact:	Christopher J. Fettig; Kier D. Klepzig; Ronald F. Billings; Steven A. Munson; Evan T. Nebeker; Jose F. Negron; John T. Nowak.		
Subject of Review:	Insects are major components of forest ecosystems, representing most of the biological diversity and affecting virtually all processes and uses. In the USA, bark beetles (Coleoptera: Curculionidae, Scolytinae) heavily influence the structure and function of these ecosystems by regulating certain aspects of primary production, nutrient cycling, ecological succession and the size, distribution and abundance of forest trees. We describe the current state of our knowledge and identify gaps for making informed decisions on proposed silvicultural treatments. This review draws from examination of 498 scientific publications (many of which are cited herein) on this and related topics.		
Purpose of Review:	**The purpose of this report is to review tree and stand factors associated with bark beetle infestations and analyze the**		

effectiveness of vegetation management practices for mitigating the negative impacts of bark beetles on forest ecosystems.

Type of Review: [ ] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers

[ ] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: **April 1, 2006** End: **June 1, 2006** Completed: **July 2006**

Number of Reviewers: [ ] 3 or fewer [X] 4 to 10 [ ] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: **Forest entomology, forest ecology, silviculture, Forest Health Protection**

Reviewers selected by: [x] Agency [ ] Designated Outside Organization

Organization's Name: **USDA Forest Service**

Opportunities for Public Comment? [ ] Yes [**x**] No

If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How:

When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [ ] Yes [**x**] No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [ ] Yes [**x**] No

Other:

USDA