



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Shasta-Trinity  
National  
Forest

2400 Washington Avenue  
Redding, CA 96001  
(530) 244-2978  
(530) 242-2237 – TDD  
<http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/shastatrinity>

**File Code:** 3420  
**Route To:** \*

**Date:** June 21, 2000

**Subject:** Evaluation of Pole Plantation (FPM Rept. No. N00-4)

**To:** District Ranger, Trinity River Management Unit

The Pole Burn Plantation consists of about 40 acres near the Alpine View Campground on Trinity Lake. The plantation resulted from a wildfire in the 1960's. The area is currently designated Late Successional Reserve, although it is located between a designated Campground and a boat launch.

The plantation was evaluated for insects and diseases on May 8, 2000. The evaluation was done by Dave Schultz and Pete Angwin from Forest Pest Management, and Jeff Teall and Jon Wideman from the TRMU.

The plantation consists primarily of planted ponderosa pine which is approximately 35 years old. There is also some natural Douglas-fir and a few incense-cedar and sugar pine. There was some pre-commercial thinning done in the plantation, but the basal area is now approximately 220 square feet per acre. Increment cores indicate a steadily declining growth rate over the last 20 years.

The current stocking and growth rate indicate that the plantation will stagnate, and the pines will be subject to attack by *Dendroctonus* bark beetles in the future. The characteristic attack pattern of *Dendroctonus* bark beetles in pines results in groups of dead trees, interspersed in the densely stocked stands. The outcome of this scenario is unlikely to result in the type of stand structure desired for a Late Successional Reserve. Because there is high human use of the area, a stand with a lot of dead fuel would probably result in another fire.

*Dendroctonus* bark beetle attack can be prevented in pines by thinning to appropriate levels for the age and site quality. It would be desirable to save the well-formed natural trees which have seeded into the plantation, both from the standpoint of beetle prevention, as well as to achieve the objective of providing Late-Successional Habitat. Limited amounts of funding may be available to assist with the bark beetle prevention project, if other funding isn't available.

As discussed with Jeff and Jon in the field, requests for prevention/suppression funding need to be submitted to the FPM Service Area office in Redding by November 1. The complete request package consists of form FS-3400-2, a simple narrative of the intended project, and an economic production function. We will work with Jeff and Jon if they want to pursue this project.

/s/

David E. Schultz  
Entomologist

