



THE CENTRAL PLANT BOARD

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October 17, 2012

Tony Ferguson
USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
11 Campus Blvd. Ste. 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073

Dear Mr. Ferguson,

At this year's Central Plant Board (CPB) meeting there was a discussion on Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) and how CPB states should respond to recent inquiries concerning the movement of MPB-infested logs from Western states. MPB has been identified as the most destructive forest insect in North America. While the CPB understands the desire to find ways to utilize logs from MPB-infested Western states, we are concerned about the potential of moving MPB and other western forest pests to uninfested areas of the Midwest. The CPB believes that a regional approach to evaluating and addressing this issue is necessary, as actions by one state often impact other nearby states. As western forests continue to be impacted by MPB, the pressure and desire to find more avenues for the utilization of this material continues to build.

The CPB requests that a state/federal multi-region working group be created to evaluate and make recommendations concerning the risk of movement of western logs and ways to allow this movement and utilization, while minimizing the risk of the establishment of MPB and other western pests in our region of the country. We recommend membership in the group include: the Central Plant Board, Northeast Area USFS, Western Area USFS, Northeast Area Association of State Foresters, Council of Western State Foresters and potentially other organizations.

A fundamental question in this discussion should be - is the movement of MPB infested wood from one area to another a US Forest Service/State Forestry management issue or a regulatory issue that should be addressed by appropriate state regulatory agencies. Another question is how would work related to this be funded?

We understand the need to provide markets for the utilization of MPB-killed timber but need to find a way to do that without putting our regional forest resource at risk in the process. We look forward to collaborative dialogue on this issue.

Sincerely,



Phil Marshall, President
Central Plant Board

CC: Rebecca Bech, APHIS
Mark Buccowich, USFS
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