



# Operational Considerations for Removing Beetle Killed Douglas-fir

AND

SELLING AND MARKETING TIMBER

# Prioritizing Areas

- ▶ Working with BLM planners and managers to identify target areas
- ▶ Field calls and requests from private landowners adjacent to BLM
- ▶ Road systems with higher concentrations of mortality
- ▶ Recreation sites with higher use
- ▶ Areas with Land use allocations that allow for more widespread treatment. LSR vs HLB
- ▶ Areas with higher fire and fuels concerns

# Mechanisms Under BLM Authorities for Removing Dead Trees and Associated Timber

- ▶ Programmatic Categorical Exclusion (CX)
  - ▶ Roadside hazard tree removal CX.
  - ▶ Road Maintenance CX.
  - ▶ Salvage CX.....Hopefully soon.
- ▶ Standalone CX
  - ▶ Project specific
  - ▶ Better for larger scale projects
  - ▶ More time intensive
  - ▶ Limited to 250 acres per project

# Mechanisms Under BLM Authorities for Removing Dead Trees and Associated Timber

- ▶ Environmental Assessment
  - ▶ More time consuming, longer process
  - ▶ More people involved
  - ▶ Larger scale

# Process for Designing and Implementing a Hazard Based Project

- ▶ Identifying units within a proposed area
- ▶ Establishing prescriptions and tree marking guidelines
- ▶ Marking and cruising trees
- ▶ Appraising the timber and other activities (Tricky part)
  - ▶ Attaching a value to less desirable logs, with structural or aesthetic issues
  - ▶ Marketing a sale of mostly dead trees
  - ▶ Negotiating a sale, or go to auction?
  - ▶ Keeping a short timeline due to rapid deterioration

# Evaluating and Marking Trees

- ▶ Three different strata or cruising categories.
  - ▶ Class 1 - Mostly Green, showing beetle indicators, but fading.
  - ▶ Class 2 - Half of needles in crown have fallen off or faded, tree may be fully yellow or red, could be dead for at least one year.
  - ▶ Class 3 – All needles are gone, bark sluffing off, may have missing top.

Typically in Class 1 we assign 10% defect, class 2 is 25% defect and most of class 3 is given a marginal log value and sold as chip wood, If a tree has no value, it is cut to remove the hazard ,and left on site or yarded for firewood cutters.

\*Aggressive Marking makes for less work later in the process, due to constantly changing conditions.

# Aggressive Marking



# Changing Conditions





# Working with Purchasers and Contractors

- ▶ Both sides must be flexible because of hidden conditions and timelines.
- ▶ Time intensive sale administration to account for changes. More trees are dying all the time and must be added into the sale.
- ▶ Extra considerations
  - ▶ Logging provisions might be different than a green sale
  - ▶ Extra hazard tree cutting
  - ▶ Hauling away cull logs for fiber
  - ▶ Fuels cleanup.....less valuable logs leaves less money for fuels work.

# Sorting and Loading



# Load of Cull Logs for Chip Wood



# Beetle Pinholes



# Desired End Results

- ▶ Hazards are removed, land base is safer for everyone
- ▶ Activity fuels have been properly cleaned up
- ▶ Employed local operators to do a necessary forest management task
- ▶ Each time we become more efficient, and adapt to changes to streamline the process
- ▶ Area replanted with appropriate trees to grow more sustainably