Mountain Pine Beetle Suppression Plan
December 15, 2011

The overall goal of this project is to assist Rapid City landowners and homeowners who live in fire-sensitive ecosystems to increase the protection of people and property from wildfires caused by the devastating impact of mountain pine beetle (MPB) infestations. Ponderosa Pine trees that become infested with MPB pose a higher risk to property owners, their property and emergency responders. This project will identify areas of high concentration of MPB within Rapid City and these areas will receive priority control action plans. This project will also help private landowners in Rapid City to identify MPB infested trees (green pine trees infested with MPB), and assist with management costs. The intent of these actions is to slow the spread of fire and MPB on private lands and assist private landowners with the high cost of beneficial suppression and prevention actions. Rapid City will be part of an organized, coordinated, cooperative effort between State and County officials.

Coordinated Management Area(s) (CMA) are areas that have a high percentage of MPB infested trees on public and private land. CMAs will be identified as areas in which coordinated MPB control can be achieved on public and private land in Rapid City. CMAs will be a coordinated effort to control MPB infested trees on private land with buffer areas created on adjacent public land.

Landowners within CMAs will be notified by the Rapid City Incident Command Team. Notification letters will be mailed to private landowners within a specified CMA. The letter will notify the landowner of the intended MPB suppression project and their volunteer compliance will be requested with a signed permission waiver. Up to 100% of the survey costs could be covered for private landowners participating in the project. Private landowners not wishing to participate in the project will be required to control MPB infested trees on their own and at their own expense. Control practices and costs on public land within a CMA will be the responsibility of the land management agency.

Enforcement Actions on CMAs will be implemented by the Rapid City Incident Command Team. The Rapid City Common Council has declared an emergency regarding the invasion within the City of Rapid City. If a landowner within an identified CMA wishes not to participate in the MPB project and the property has a MPB infestation, the Rapid City Incident Command Team will mail a letter encouraging voluntary compliance within a specified amount of time within the provisions of City Ordinance 12.40.105. If a landowner fails to voluntarily comply within the specified time, the Rapid City Incident Command will be requested to file a declaration of infestation on that property, and to identify the infestation as a nuisance.

Surveys on private land within a CMA will be coordinated by the Rapid City Urban Forestry Division. Survey crews will identify MPB infested trees within the identified **City Boundaries.** Surveys on public lands within a CMA will be the responsibility of the land management agency.

Management Practices on CMAs will be determined from data collected by the survey crews. Control practices on private land within a CMA will be negotiated by Rapid City

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Incident Command. Management practices on public land will be determined by the land management agencies. Management practices on public and private land will be a coordinated effort.

Priority Areas are areas within Rapid City that the Urban Forester has identified as MPB areas of high priority for survey and control. Within these areas RCIC will coordinate the landowner mailings and surveys. Landowners with MPB infested trees will be eligible for cost-share on the incurred control costs up to set limits, depending on the methods deployed ~~and methods in the matrix~~. The cost-share will be split as follows:

- 75% will be paid by Rapid City
- 25% will be paid by the landowner.

The cost-share program will end once Rapid City's mountain pine beetle supplemental appropriation funds are depleted. The maximum cost share benefit will be $3,000 paid by the City of Rapid City to any single landowner identified as owning MPB infested real property. Payments will be made on a first come first served basis, based on completed work, as long as there is funding available for cost share payment.

Private Landowners Inside Priority Areas ~~owning three (3) acres or less~~ in Rapid City ~~and inside the MPB suppression project boundary~~ will be eligible to have their property surveyed for MPB infested trees at their request. ~~*Landowners with more than three acres inside the City limits will need to work with the Pennington Country Weed and Pest Division.*~~ Landowners will be notified of the program through mailings and press releases. Surveys on their property will be coordinated by the Rapid City Urban Forestry Division in the order the requests are received, with priority given to properties located at higher elevations. Landowners with MPB infested trees will be eligible for 75% cost share on the incurred control costs up to set limits per property. ~~and methods in the matrix~~. The 75% cost-share will be paid from the Urban Forestry budget for MPB. The cost-share program will end once Rapid City's funds are depleted. There will be a $3,000 total cost-share payment limit per landowner. Payments will be made on a first come first served basis, based on completed work, as long as there is funding available for cost share payment.

Surveys on buffer property outside City limits will be coordinated between Rapid City Urban Forestry and Pennington County Weed and Pest. Where possible, buffer zones will be surveyed adjacent to private landowners within the Rapid City limits.

Reimbursement Procedure

1. Landowner calls Hotline number (605) 791-1675 or fills out on-line form requesting that property be inspected.

2. Property is put on survey list.

3. Survey of property is complete
   - If no infestation is found, no further action is taken
   - If MPB infected trees are found, action continues

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4. Letter sent by Department of Parks and Recreation stating that survey has found mountain pine beetles. List of tree removal business will be provided with letter.

5. Property owner has 30 days to get two quotes from list of approved tree removal contractors. Quotes must be submitted to Department of Parks and Recreation for approval.

6. If quote is approved property owner calls low bidder and makes arrangements for tree removal. (Removed trees must be disposed of at Rapid City Landfill.)

7. Contractor will provide property owner with invoice and copy of landfill receipt showing disposal of trees.

8. Landowner will call Department of Parks and Recreation for visual inspection from Urban Forestry Department and verification that trees have been removed.

9. Landowner will bring or mail copy of invoice and payment to Department of Parks and Recreation. A reimbursment check will be issued within 45-60 days.

~~Matrix for figuring estimated cost-share amount for control costs~~
~~1) MPB Infested Tree Removal:~~

~~Tree Removal - $0 - $507/truck load~~
~~2) On-site Treatments (cutting, chunking, chipping):~~

~~Landowner - $TBD/tree~~
~~Contractor Hired For:~~
~~Cutting & Chunking & Hauling - $ TBD/tree~~
~~Cutting & Chipping & Hauling - $TBD/tree~~

Funding for the Rapid City, SD 2011-2012 Mountain Pine Beetle Suppression Project will come from Rapid City's emergency funding approved by the Rapid City Common Council. Other funding sources may be identified to help carry out the project.

Exceptions or Changes to the plan are subject to approval from the Rapid City Common Council.

DATED this _____day of December, 2011

CITY OF RAPID CITY

_____

ATTEST: Mayor

_____

Finance Officer
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