

PEST CONTROL

5023

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The forest manager is responsible for reducing damage and losses in the state forests from insects, diseases, and animals, thereby increasing net timber growth. Silvicultural practices or direct control may accomplish this. Indirect control by silvicultural measures to keep the timber stand healthy often is the best method of preventing insect and disease epidemics. The forest manager will arrange for prompt salvage of infested or infected trees, whenever it is practical to utilize the wood and reduce the spread of insects or disease. Care must be taken in the disposal of slash (on timber sales and other projects) to prevent the buildup of forest insects.

The forest manager at all times will be vigilant in trying to discover damage caused by forest pests in state forest and adjacent lands and will report such damage to the director. Work within a state forest to control or eradicate a biological hazard usually will be handled in one of the following ways:

- Through incidental jobs performed by local work crews.
- Through planned projects for special work crews or fire crews that do not require special funds.
- Through projects requiring special funds because of the size of the projects, which therefore locate them within zones of infection or infestation.

It is important that work effort and accomplishment of this nature be recorded in the forest's historical records, regardless of the project's size or the method of financing. Whether the effort to control a mild pest nuisance is to be calculated as a necessary expense for maintaining state forestland economically is a matter which must be judged from the circumstances at the time. The first important act in making that determination is accurate record keeping.

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