

[**DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2000-50,**
June 21, 2000]

**RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING SANITATION CUTTING
ON PEST-INFESTED FORESTS**

Pursuant to P.D. No. 705, as amended, E.O. No. 192, and in order to sustainably manage and develop the country's forest resources towards the rational utilization of resources to achieve economic growth and to protect the forest from destruction by man and/or natural destructive agents, the following rules and regulations are hereby promulgated regarding sanitation cutting in pest-infested forests.

SECTION 1. Objectives

- a) To prevent further spread and damage of the pest(s) to/on the greater part of unaffected natural forest or forest plantation when other control methods are not feasible or available;
- b) To maximize benefits from natural forests and forest plantations through a rational utilization of infested trees; and
- c) To sustain the healthy condition of the forest ecosystem.

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms - For the purpose of this Order, the following terms are accordingly defined:

- a) **Bark beetles** — Insects belonging to the family Scolytidae; small beetles that cause considerable damage to trees by tunneling between the bark and the wood.
- b) **Infested trees** — Trees that are attacked and infested by either bark beetles, woodborers and/or root rotting fungi, or any other organisms that are potential pests capable of spreading the infestation/infection to other trees and/or larger areas.
- c) **Pests** — Bark beetles, wood borers and root rotting fungi causing biophysical and economic damage to trees.
- d) **RFPSM** — The Regional Forest Pest Surveillance and Monitoring Team that was trained on forest entomology, forest pathology, forest pest management and quarantine procedures by the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB).
- e) **Root rot fungi** — Root inhabiting fungi characterized by an expanding parasitic phase on the living host plant and by declining saprophytic phase after its death.

f) **Sanitation cutting** — A direct control measure, which involves the rapid removal of all infested trees containing the brood or attacking adults or disease inoculum from an infested area to reduce the source of infestation/infection and prevent further build up and spread of pests at the fastest possible time to minimize the economic and ecological impact/damage on the natural stand/plantation.

g) **Wood borers** — Insects belonging to the family Platypodidae; small beetles that do considerable damage to trees by tunneling through the wood.

SECTION 3. Scope and Coverage - Sanitation cutting shall be undertaken in forest areas, whether natural or plantation, infested with bark beetles and in limited scale with wood borers, Phellinus root rot fungus, and other related organisms.

It shall be allowed in areas such as, but not limited to, Benguet pine forests, dipterocarp forests, mangrove forests, plantation forest, protected areas and in park/roadside areas where infestation have been observed/detected.

SECTION 4. Factors to Consider Before Conducting Sanitation Cutting - The ultimate objective of sanitation cutting is to stop and prevent further development/spread of pest infestation. The following factors must be strictly met in order that an infested/infected forest area is considered qualified for sanitation cutting:

- a) The danger/risk/potential of the infestation spreading into the more valuable portions of the forest;
- b) The potential area of the forest cover to be affected/destroyed and its relation to the protection of the area, e.g. watershed;
- c) The possible production/creation of fire hazards; and
- d) The value and merchantability of the trees that will be cut. This is necessary to at least recover the minimum expenses incurred in the sanitation cutting operation.

SECTION 5. Procedure for the Processing and Approval of Sanitation Cutting Permit

- a) For privately owned forest plantations, sanitation cutting permit is not required. The owner shall inform the nearest CENR Office and/or PENR Office about the infestation where sanitation cutting should be done. Such information shall be transmitted to ERDB.
- b) Timber License Agreement (TLA), Industrial Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) and Socialized Industrial Forest Management Agreement (SIFMA) Holders, etc.