



# Southern Pine Beetle Briefing Paper National Forests in Alabama

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Date: October 2, 2017



## National Forests in Alabama Southern Pine Beetle Fast Facts Week of September 25, 2017

The southern pine beetle (*Dendroctonus frontalis*) is the most destructive native forest insect pest. SPB measures only about 1/8 of an inch. They create S-shaped galleries under the bark at almost any height on the tree. After maturing in the tree bark, the SPB will bore their way out and fly off to attack another pine tree. Forest managers use various methods to suppress and control the SPB. The best insurance is to cut a buffer strip of un-infested pines around the active head in the beetle infested area. The practice will interrupt the SPB flow of host trees and stop their advance.

### Bankhead National Forest

**National Forest Location:** Winston, Lawrence and Franklin Counties  
**Congressional Districts:** Congressman Robert Aderholt (R- District 4) – Bankhead NF  
**Approximate Number of Ground Checked SPB Spots (Areas):** 204 spots  
**SPB Spot (Area) Latest Flight Detection (AFC and FS):** 370 spots  
**SPB Treated Acres:** Approximately 20 acres within timber sales and 0 outside of the sale boundary  
**Estimated Percentage of Acres Impacted:** Less than 1/4 percent of district acres  
**Estimated Wilderness Acres Impacted:** Approximately 20 acres  
**Technology Used:** Aerial Detection, GPS, GIS, Portable Data Recorders  
**Response Phase:** Assessment and Treatment Phase



Adult southern pine beetle. Photo by Erich Vallery, courtesy of Bugwood.org

### Talladega National Forest – Oakmulgee District

**National Forest Location:** Chilton, Dallas, Hale, Perry, Tuscaloosa Counties.  
**Congressional Districts:** Congressman Gary Palmer (R-District 6) and Congresswoman Terri Sewell (D-District 7)  
**Approximate Number of Ground Checked SPB Spots (Areas):** 196 spots  
**SPB Spot (Area) Latest Flight Detection (AFC and FS):** 372 Spots  
**SPB Treated Acres:** 3 acres outside of timber sale boundary  
**Estimated Percentage of Acres Impacted:** Less than 1/4 percent of the district acres  
**Technology Used:** Aerial Detection, GPS, GIS, Portable Data Recorders  
**Response Phase:** Assessment and Treatment Phase

### Talladega National Forest – Talladega District

**National Forest Location:** Cleburne, Clay and Talladega Counties  
**Congressional Districts:** Congressman Mike Rogers (R-District 3)  
**Approximate Number of Ground Checked SPB Spots (Areas):** 18 spots  
**SPB Spot (Area) Latest Flight Detection:** 24 spots  
**SPB Treated Acres:** No timber harvesting action to date  
**Estimated Percentage of Acres Impacted:** Less than 1/4 percent of the district acres  
**Estimated Wilderness Acres Impacted:** 20 acres  
**Technology Used:** Aerial Detection, GPS, GIS, Portable Data Recorders  
**Response Phase:** Assessment Phase

**Talladega National Forest – Shoal Creek District**

**National Forest Location:** Calhoun, Cleburne, Clay, and Cherokee Counties

**Congressional Districts:** Congressman Mike Rogers (R-District 3)

**Approximate Number of Ground Checked SPB Spots (Areas):** 15 spots

**SPB Spot (Area) Latest Flight Detection (AFC and FS):** 15 spots

**SPB Treated Acres:** No timber harvesting action to date

**Estimated Percentage of Acres Impacted:** Less than ¼ percent of the district

**Estimated Wilderness Acres Impacted:** 20 acres

**Technology Used:** Aerial Detection, GPS, GIS, Portable Data Recorders

**Response Phase:** Assessment Phase