

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Dave Dickens, Bureau Chief, Administration and Operations

DATE: July 3, 2014

RE: Authorization for the Executive Director to Execute a Contract for the Salvaging of Timber Resources on the Mill Creek North Tract

### RECOMMENDATION

**Staff recommends the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to execute a Contract for the Mill Creek North #3 Timber Salvage Sale.**

### BACKGROUND

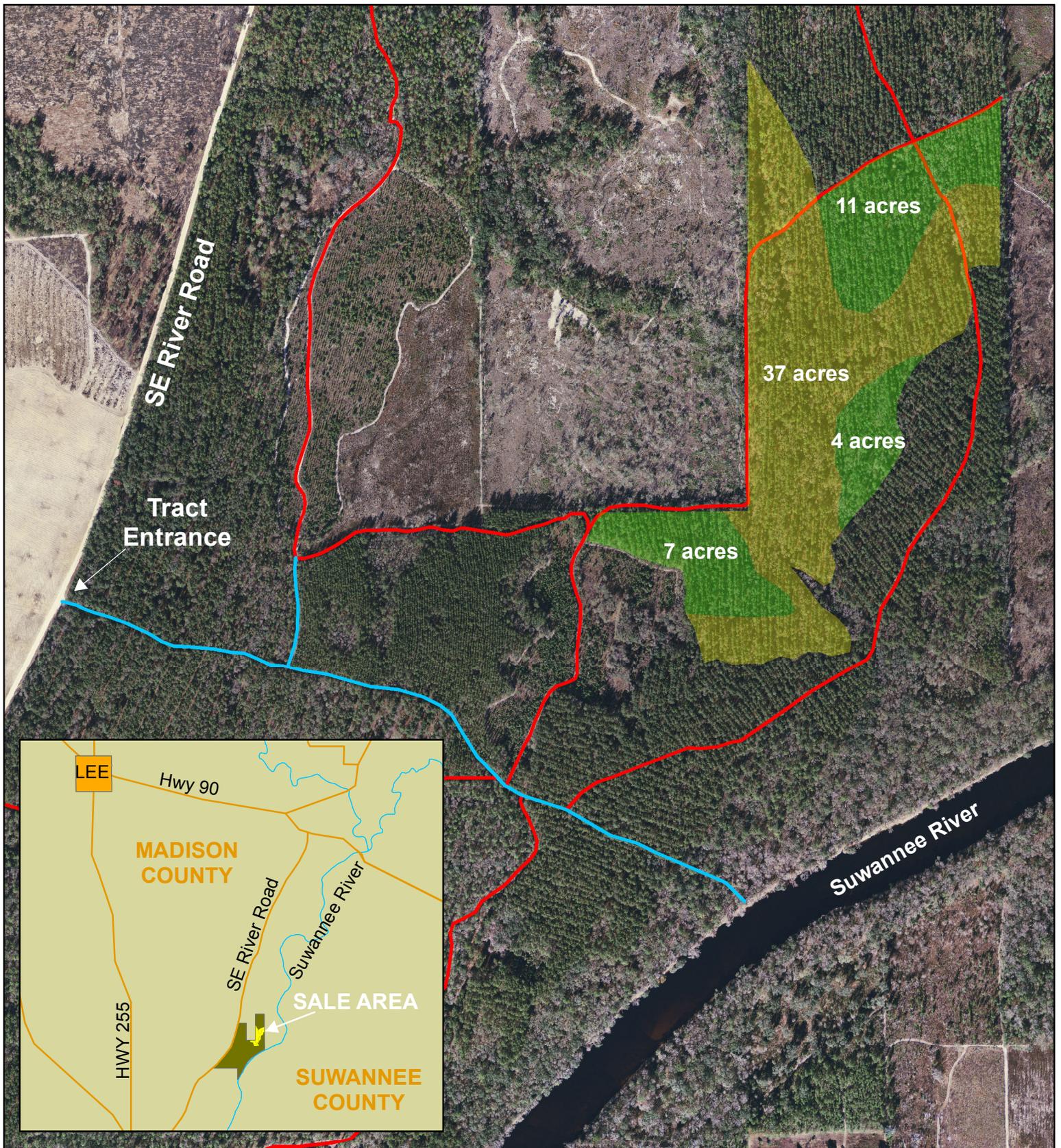
On June 30, 2014, Florida Forest Service (FFS) staff notified the District they had located a significant area of black turpentine beetle activity in the Mill Creek North Tract in Twin Rivers State Forest in Madison County. On July 1, 2014, FFS staff had prepared a footprint of a recommended timber salvage sale on approximately 59 acres of planted loblolly pine (see attached map and photograph). Harvest operations of this type are time sensitive because timber rapidly loses weight and value as the trees die from the beetle infestation. Within weeks the timber could be non-merchantable.

The current value of the proposed timber is unknown because of the timing associated with this type project. Cruising and processing the timber data may not be completed by the July 8, 2014 Governing Board meeting, however, FFS Staff is attempting to complete the cruise prior to the meeting. If data is available in time District Staff will provide the information at the meeting. The timber will be sold as a per unit sale, and harvest standards and security will be maintained during the entire harvest. The buyer will be required to begin harvesting with 14 calendar days of executing the contract. During the course of the harvest the sale area may need to be expanded depending upon the movement of the infestation. FFS staff will monitor the sale to assure that the infestation is removed.

The Mill Creek North #3 Timber Salvage Sale ITB will be issued on July 8, 2014. Bids are due by July 15, 2014. Bid results indicating the highest bidder will be made available to District staff by July 16, 2014. If this recommendation is approved, District staff will work diligently to execute a contract with the highest bidder.



Mill Creek North Bark Beetles



**Salvage Sale Area**

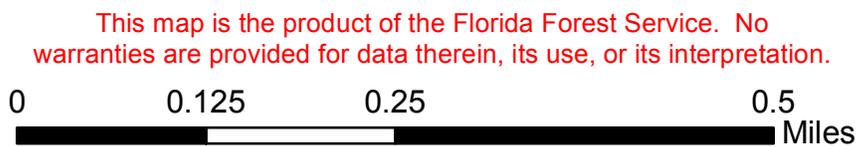
- Bark Beetles + Buffer
- No Beetles

**TRSF Roads**

- Public
- Service

**Mill Creek North Salvage Sale**

**59 acres +/-**



map prepared by  
Steve Carpenter