

# Tree Cutting Fall & Winter 2016

Southern pine beetle infestations on Chincoteague NWR have impacted roughly 218 acres of loblolly pine forest. Dead trees left behind increase public safety risks from standing snags and raises the potential for wildfire.

Starting in *September*, contractors will be working around the refuge to cut down live trees infested with southern pine beetles (see image below for locations. Cutting will start South, near Bivalve Trail, and progress north in areas along Beach Road and up the Service Road. Cutting is expected to occur throughout the fall and winter. This project will reduce the spread of southern pine beetles in our maritime forests. You may hear loud noises such as chainsaw cutting throughout the refuge. Be aware of your surroundings and weather conditions, as high winds increase the danger of falling limbs. Periods of low humidity create dry conditions which could lead to forest fires. Maintain a safe distance from heavy equipment and always observe area closures, which we post on our website as they occur.



Supplemental southern pine beetle information can be found in the fact sheet on our website or by visiting [www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth](http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth).

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