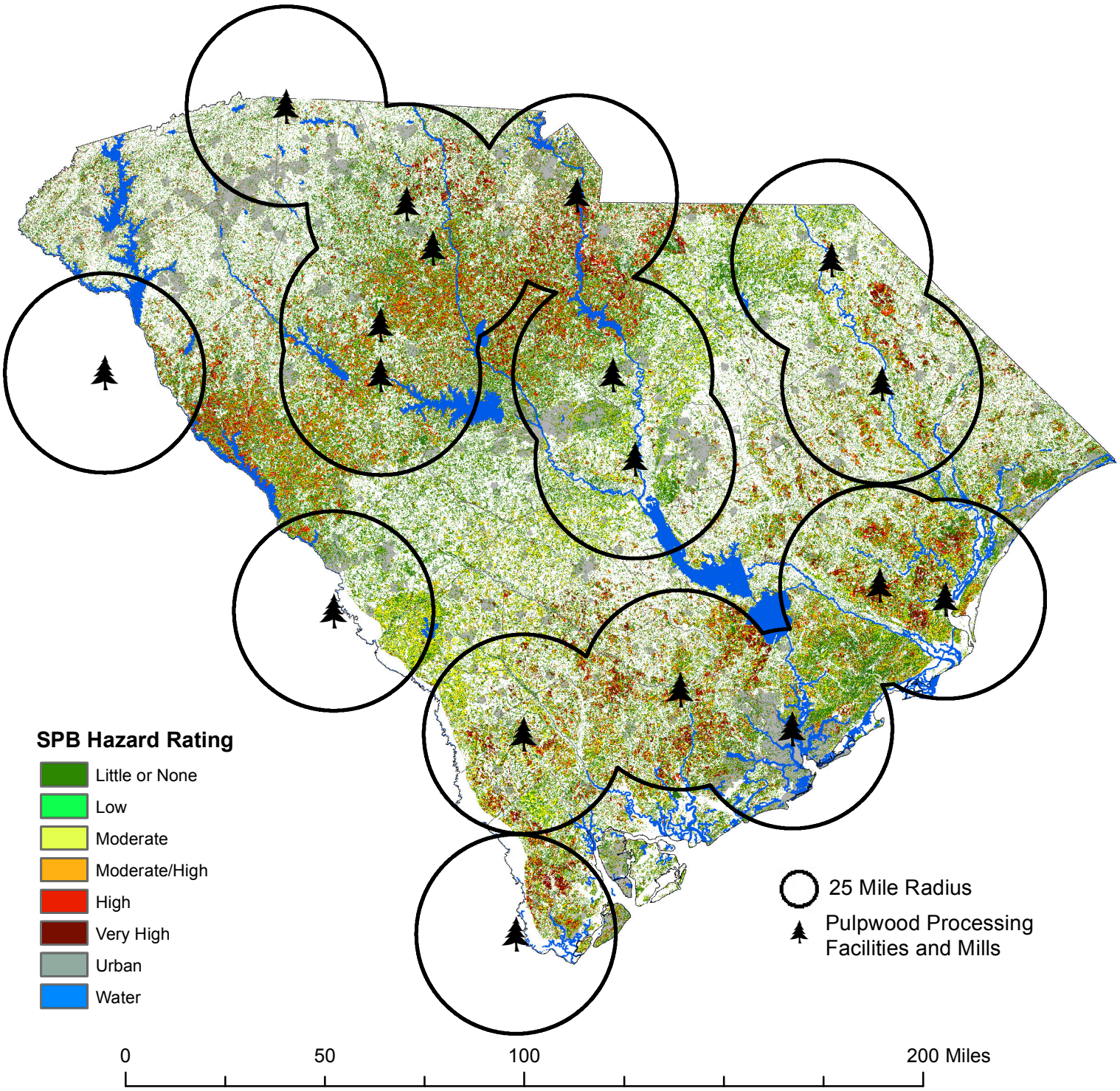
SC Potential Pulpwood Demand Based on Haul Distance in Relation to Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) Risk



In theory, stands within these radii, especially stands within overlapping radii, should have increased demand for pulpwood because of the reduced haul distance when compared to stands outside these radii. Landowners with stands outside these radii may want to consider planting fewer, higher quality seedlings per acre and thinning at a later age to offset the decreased demand for pulpwood and take advantage of additional markets, especially if the stands are smaller, located on poor soils, or near areas at Risk to SPB. Postponing thinning at conventional spacings (8'X10' or closer) may result in smaller, unhealthy crown ratios (crown length/total length) that lead to reduced pine growth and Rate-of-Return on investment and increased Risk to SPB and increased risk to ice storms after thinning. If interested in cost-share assistance with low-density planting or pre-commercial thinning young, over-dense pine stands, please contact your local SCFC Project Forester:http://www.state.sc.us/forest/sc.htm

Data Credits: Pulpwood Processing Facilities and Mills, Georgia Forestry Commission and SC Forestry Commission; SC SPB Hazard Map, USFS' Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team (FHTET).

F. Chisolm Beckham
SC's SPB Program Coordinator
July 31, 2013