

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

**USDA Forest Service
Uinta National Forest
Heber Ranger District
Wasatch County, Utah**

Lodgepole Timber Sale

The Heber Ranger District of the Uinta National Forest is seeking public comment on the proposed Lodgepole Timber Sale on National Forest system lands in the area of Daniels Summit on the Heber Ranger District. Lodgepole Campground, included within the proposed treatment, is along Highway 40 approximately 15 miles south of Heber City, Utah.

Mountain pine beetle has infested over 100 lodgepole pines within Lodgepole Campground and surrounding timber stands since 2005. In the fall of 2006, approximately 120 dead and beetle-infested lodgepole pines were cut within the campground. In May of 2007, over 1,350 mature lodgepole pines were sprayed inside the campground with the preventative insecticide Carbaryl 4L to protect them from mountain pine beetle attack. Mountain pine beetle populations remain high around the campground and pose a significant threat to remaining uninfested trees. The spruce bark beetle has been active and aggressively causing hundreds of acres of tree mortality across the Strawberry Watershed since 2003. The beetle has migrated steadily northward and is currently infesting a 71-acre stand of mature Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir located upslope from the campground.

The project would involve using a commercial timber harvest to sanitize selected stands of insects and disease, remove overstocked, suppressed and hazardous trees, and reduce stand densities to create healthier forest conditions. Logging slash would be chipped and scattered or removed from the campground, and lopped and scattered in other stands. Piling and burning may be utilized in stands outside the campground where concentrations of logging slash are heavy and could lead to an infestation by the pine engraver beetle (*Ips pini*). Up to one half mile of temporary road would be required to access the spruce-fir stand, but would be ripped or re-contoured and seeded using a native seed mixture. Actions would be designed to avoid or minimize potential impacts to scenery and vegetation, soil, water, wildlife, and fisheries resources.

The public is invited to provide comments on this proposal. Each individual or representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or otherwise verify identity in order to attain appeal eligibility. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project. The public is invited to provide comments on this proposal. Comments should be as specific as possible and have a direct relationship to the proposal. Please send written comments to: Julie King, District Ranger, Heber Ranger District, P.O. Box 190, Heber City, UT 84032; phone: (435) 654-0470; FAX: (435) 435-654-5772; or e-mail: comments-intermtn-uinta-heber@fs.fed.us. Comments need to be postmarked or received within 30 days beginning the day following publication of this notice in the *Provo Daily Herald*. Comments

may also be delivered to the above address during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, excluding federal holidays. Pursuant to 36 CFR 215, this legal notice provides an opportunity to comment on this proposal. If you would like additional information please contact Shawn Martin at (435) 654-0470.