



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

December 21, 2009

Contact: Denise Germann
(406) 758-5252
(406) 249-1714 cell

Flathead National Forest Awards Two Contracts to Salvage Trees

Johnson Brothers of Missoula, Montana and PaveCo of Kalispell, Montana were recently awarded contracts to salvage some beetle-infested and hazard trees on the Flathead National Forest.

Johnson Brothers is harvesting approximately 73,000 tons or 12.8 million board feet (MMBF) of timber from the Summit Mountain Pine Beetle Salvage Project on the Swan Lake District of the Forest. The salvage sale is located on approximately 1,200 acres of National Forest System lands about 10 miles south of Condon, Montana. This sale is designated for winter harvest to reduce impacts to wildlife, specifically grizzly bears.

Swan Lake District Ranger Steve Brady said, "A mountain pine beetle infestation was identified in 2008 and we believe it to be a significant forest health concern." An environmental assessment, including public review, was completed earlier this year with a decision to recover merchantable timber from areas affected by the mountain pine beetle and provide wood products for the local economy.

Brady said, "We made this project a priority on the forest because there is a limited time frame in which the affected trees are economically valuable." Through the harvest of the dead and dying trees, Brady anticipates that the project will also reduce long-term fuel build up, and would assist the local economy.

PaveCo of Kalispell, Montana is removing hazard trees from the Tally Lake Campground on the Tally Lake District of the Flathead National Forest. Approximately 33 thousand board feet (MBF) are being harvested and work should be completed by the end of January.

--END--