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## **Legal Notice**

**North Flank Vegetation Management Project  
U.S. Forest Service  
Ashley National Forest, Flaming Gorge Ranger District  
Daggett and Summit Counties, Utah**

General Location...Township 2 North, Range 17, 18 and 19 East (northern portions),  
Salt Lake Meridian.

The Flaming Gorge District Ranger is seeking your comments on the proposed North Flank Vegetation Management Project. This project proposes to utilize commercial salvage, thinning and harvesting techniques, tree cutting without salvage or harvest, and fire to achieve project objectives. The project would occur within the Flaming Gorge Ranger District of the Ashley National Forest (The project area is located within both Summit and Daggett Counties, Utah. The objectives for this project are; 1) To capture the value of dead trees killed by Douglas fir beetles on 1,296 acres through commercial salvage; 2) To promote the health and vigor of residual trees within the total acreage salvaged above (524 acres within the Cow Hollow area) through commercial thinning; 3) To restore and maintain aspen within 510 acres through commercial salvage/harvest techniques and mechanical treatments without salvage or harvest; and 4) To promote species composition and age class diversity within 4,100 acres of Douglas fir dominated stands through the reintroduction of fire. A substantial increase in aspen is expected following the reintroduction of fire since aspen is currently a remnant component of these stands. One section of new temporary road would be constructed (up to ½ mile). Upon project completion this road would be obliterated. The implementation of this project may begin in 2009 and would continue until project objectives were met.

This proposal is in response to substantial Douglas fir mortality within the project area caused by the Douglas fir beetle. It is also in response to the loss of species composition and age class diversity in these forests due to the lack of disturbance (fire). This indicated by the existing and ongoing loss of aspen stands to a Douglas fir forest.

### **Request for Comment and Legal Notice of Proposed Action**

You are invited to comment at this time. Comments that are specific to and include supporting reasons that the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision are most helpful.

Send your written comments to: Jeff Schramm, District Ranger, Flaming Gorge Ranger District, P.O. Box 279, Manila, Utah 84046. Jeff Schramm is the Responsible Official for this project. He can also be reached at (435) 781-5263. Comments may also be hand delivered to the Flaming Gorge Ranger District, 25 W. Hwy. 43, Manila, Utah, during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, excluding federal holidays. Electronic comments should be sent to [comments-intermtn-ashley@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-intermtn-ashley@fs.fed.us). It would be most useful to receive your electronic comments in Microsoft word (\*.doc) or rich text format (\*.rtf). Those using electronic means may submit a scanned signature. Otherwise, another means of verifying the identity of the individual or organizational representative may be necessary for electronically submitted comments or comments received by phone. This is pursuant to 36 CFR 215.6(a)(3)(B). The

opportunity to comment ends 30 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in the newspaper of record which is the Vernal Express. Only those who submit timely comments will be accepted as appellants. Comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project.

For further information concerning this proposal, please contact Ross Catron by phone at (435) 781-5268. Thank you for your interest and participation in the management of the Ashley National Forest.