

NOTICE OF DECISION
USDA - Forest Service
Uinta National Forest, Heber Ranger District
Wasatch County, Utah
Bryant's Fork Spruce Trap Tree Treatment #2

The Heber Ranger District of the Uinta National Forest has completed an analysis of the Bryant's Fork Spruce Trap Tree Treatment #2. On May 12, 2005, the Responsible Official, Heber District Ranger Julie King, approved the decision memo to create approximately 200 to 300 "trap" (spruce) trees in three infested timber units near Bryant's Fork. These trap trees would be green Engelmann spruce trees that would be felled in late May or early June 2005. The trap trees would be left on-site (i.e. where they are felled) during the late spring and early summer beetle flight period, and then bedebarked in place or removed using traditional log skidding equipment in the fall of 2005 or early spring of 2006 to prevent beetles from emerging next year and infesting adjacent healthy trees. Lindgren funnel traps have also been placed in infested stands to trap and remove additional dispersing beetles as well as to monitor the timing and intensity of beetle flight. The project area is located in the Strawberry River Watershed approximately 25 miles south east of Heber City, Utah.

The purpose and need for the decision is to reduce spruce beetle populations within treated stands through creation and removal of trap trees to limit dispersal of the spruce beetle from the affected areas. The proposed treatment is required to limit the spread of the insect to susceptible uninfested spruce within treated sites and to adjacent susceptible spruce stands. Without the proposed action, spruce beetle populations will continue to spread and kill most of the spruce greater than 5 inches diameter at breast height (dbh). Utilization of trap trees in the Bryant's Fork area in 2004 resulted in a significantly lower percentage of attacks.. This trap tree project is a short term strategy to reduce beetle populations and to minimize the number of successfully attacked trees associated with adult beetle dispersal in 2005.

This legal notice provides notification of the final decision associated with this project. Pursuant to 36 CFR 215.12 (f), this decision is not subject to a higher level of review or appeal. Implementation may begin immediately. Please contact the Responsible Official: Julie King, District Ranger, or Shawn Martin, Forester at (435) 654-0470, if you have any questions regarding this project or if you would like a copy of the Decision Memo or associated documents.