

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

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

Mill Hollow Timber Sale

The Heber Ranger District of the Uinta National Forest is seeking public comment on the proposed Mill Hollow Timber Sale on National Forest system lands in the area of Mill Hollow Reservoir on the Heber Ranger District. Mill Hollow Campground, included within the proposed treatment, is located near the junction of Forest Roads 70054 and 70283, approximately 14 miles southeast of Woodland, UT and 1.7 miles southwest from Highway 35.

There are active beetle-infestation pockets affecting both Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine trees within the proposed project area. In addition, several windthrown and beetle-infested Engelmann spruce trees were discovered scattered along the Mill Hollow hiking trail which loops south and east of Mill Hollow Campground. The blown down trees will be debarked and/or bucked into small pieces to facilitate drying and kill infesting spruce beetles prior to snow accumulation. Many spruce trees in the campground are overmature, have dead tops, dwarf mistletoe or severe camper damage and are susceptible to beetle attack. Mill Hollow Campground will be closed to the public through 2008 for dam maintenance, providing a unique window to implement vegetation management without disrupting recreational opportunities.

The project would involve using a commercial timber harvest to sanitize approximately 230 timbered acres of insects, disease, and hazardous trees. Additionally, light thinning in the stands surrounding the campground would reduce stand densities to create healthier forest conditions. A precommercial thinning (PCT) would be implemented within the campground to reduce competition and improve vigor of residual trees. Logging slash would be chipped and left on site or removed from the campground, and lopped and scattered in other treated stands. Up to one half mile of old, existing logging roads that are not on the Uinta Travel Map will require light reconstruction/maintenance and would be counted as temporary road. 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. 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.