

LEGAL NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION

Billies Mountain Mechanical Fuels Reduction USDA Forest Service – Uinta National Forest Spanish Fork Ranger District

The Spanish Fork Ranger District, Uinta National Forest, is requesting comments on the proposed action for the Billies Mountain Mechanical Fuels Reduction project. The purpose of this project is to improve oak/maple age class/structural diversity and reduce hazardous fuels in the Billies Mountain Area. The proposed area is located in Utah County T9S R4E SLM, Sections 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28. The proposal is to mechanically treat up to 980 acres within a 2,260 acre area. The treatment would be in a mosaic pattern to benefit the wildlife in the area. Openings would be created within the continuous oak/maple overstory (approximately 880 acres). This treatment would reduce the brush up to about 8 inches diameter at breast height (dbh). Encroaching junipers would also be cut and chipped/masticated. Approximately 90 acres of young junipers (whips) would be lopped and scattered on site. Stumps would be cut as close as possible to ground level. Brush will be chipped and scattered on site. A four-wheeler or pickup truck pulling a chipper/shredder, chainsaws, or a Bullhog/masticator may be used in the project area. This treatment would remove ladder fuels. User created roads/trails (about 6.5 miles) will be blocked using rock/fence, ripped up and reseeded. About one and a half miles of roads used for administrative use (power line maintenance) will be gated. Road 116 will be gated for seasonal use. Fences around springs will be rebuilt. The existing wildlife guzzler will be fixed and the fence around it will be rebuilt.

This project is expected to be categorically excluded following FSH 1909.15 31.2(10) and is subject to appeal. Project implementation is scheduled for 2008.

The public is invited to comment on the proposed action. 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. Send comments to the Responsible Official, Doug Jones, Uinta National Forest, Spanish Fork District Ranger, 44 West 400 North, Spanish Fork, UT 84660; phone (801) 798-3571; fax (801) 798-3050; or you may hand deliver your comments during normal business hours from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. Comments may also be e-mailed to: comments-intermtn-uinta-spanishfork@fs.fed.us, and must be submitted in rich text (rtf.) or Word (doc.). Documents in other formats (tiff, jpg etc) should be mailed in hardcopy. Comments must be submitted within 30 days of publication of this notice in the *Provo Daily Herald*.

For further information, please contact Lans Stavast, Uinta National Forest Supervisors Office, 88 West 100 North, Provo, UT 84601 at (801) 342-5151.