

Northslope Uinta Mountains Insect Suppression Project

Introduction:

Currently mountain pine beetle populations are at outbreak levels in much of the lodgepole pine stands along the Northslope of the Uinta Mountains. Pockets of mountain pine beetle induced mortality are expanding on private lands within Manor lands, Uinta Lands, Pine Plateau Estates, Wilderness Acres 20, and other surrounding areas. Most lodgepole pine stands within these developed areas have characteristics, which place them at a high hazard to bark beetle attack.

Recommendations:

The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL) suggests thinning high hazard stands, as part of a long-term management plan for the area. However, considering the large number of landowners and their disparate views on silvicultural treatments, a large scale thinning operation is not likely to occur. With increasing populations of mountain pine beetle in the area, and the possibility of considerable lodgepole pine mortality, FFSL is also recommending removing currently infested trees to reduce beetle populations, and preventative spray treatments containing Carbaryl, to protect uninfested high value trees from attack. If done properly, Carbaryl spray treatments mixed at the label rate for bark beetle, should protect individual treated trees from attack for 16 to 18 months. FFSL recommends treatments continue until the outbreak collapses or until a large scale thinning project can be implemented. The Division will review the situation in the fall, and provide annual recommendations.

Landowners who had trees treated last year, and treatments were overseen by FFSL (those done by All Around Spraying and Tree Service), then you need not re-treat the same trees this year. If your trees were treated, but you did not have FFSL oversee the treatment for proper application and quality assurance, then you may need re-treatment this year. Trees not properly treated may still be susceptible to beetle attack.

Grant Funding:

The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands has acquired grant funding from the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection to assist private landowners defer some of the cost associated with preventative spray treatments. The division will cost share with landowners wishing to participate in the insect suppression program. Cost share is fifty percent of the cost of treatment, **up to a Maximum Reimbursement Limit. Due to the grant amount for the entire project, the Maximum Reimbursement Limit per landowner/lot is dependent upon the number of participants.** The grant requires that the reimbursement amount be matched by the landowner at a minimum of 50%, either by hard cash or in-kind/sweat equity. Sweat equity or in-kind means that you work on your lot doing things like removing infested trees before the end of June, or time spent helping to mark trees for treatment etc... Each adult will be credited at a rate of \$17.19/hour, which can be used as part, or all of the 50% match. Other things may also count toward in-kind, contact the Division of Forestry, Fire and State lands for more information about in-kind/sweat equity.

Technical Assistance:

The Division of Forestry, Fire and State lands, with assistance from the USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection, will survey and mark lots for which permission is given. Trees will be surveyed and marked within approximately 100 feet of a structure or clearly observed camping site. Most lot boundaries are not clearly defined on site and therefore, survey and marking could cross lot boundaries. Clearly marked boundaries and lot identification signs at driveway entrances will be extremely helpful and appreciated by survey crews.

The survey/marketing of trees that are at risk and may be protected from beetle attack by proper chemical spray treatment will be marked with one color flagging (colors of flagging will be named at a later date). Trees that are currently infested by beetles and will not survive, are marked with another color flagging—these trees should be removed before the end of June and properly disposed of to reduce the beetle population. Trees that are partially infested or lightly infested will be flagged with both colored flagging, this will indicate that the tree may be protected from further attack by treating with a chemical spray. This tree may survive if treated, but may die anyway because they are partially infested.

The Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands and the USDA Forest Service has limited personnel to conduct the survey. There are a significant number of possible landowners who may wish to participate in this program. Time to conduct the survey will be limited, as treatments must be completed by the end of June, because the beetle will begin to infest new host trees in early July.

We will begin the survey as soon as the area can be safely accessed (hopefully late-April or early-May) and completed by the first week in June. Spray treatments must begin the first or second week in June in order to be completed by June 30, 2006. Weather conditions may also play a factor in access and treatment, affecting the ability to accommodate all landowners within the allotted time. Therefore, there is the possibility that we may be unable to accommodate all interested landowners. Individual landowners who wish to help with the survey and marking of trees should contact Colleen Keyes at the phone numbers or e-mail listed below. If enough landowners are interested, training sessions on how to identify infested and susceptible trees could be planned, and trained landowners can be included in the survey and marking process.

If you had your lot(s) surveyed last year and your trees treated, then you may not need to re-survey this year. If you did not treat or treatments were not overseen by FFSL to insure proper treatment, then you may need to have your lot(s) re-surveyed and your trees re-marked for treatment. If this is the case, please send in the permission to access form and make a note to indicate whether you did not treat or if treatments were not overseen by FFSL. If treatments were done, but not overseen by FFSL—please indicate who applied the treatments and when. I can then discuss said treatments with you and determine if re-treatment may be advisory.

Request to Participate:

Included in this introductory packet is a permission to access form. If you wish to participate in the insect suppression program please complete the form and return it to the address given on the form. Landowners who return a completed permission to access form will be contacted again (via the method marked preferred on the form) with more specifics and directions on what you will need to do next. Lots where permission is not provided (via the form) will not be surveyed. Therefore, this program is completely elective. If you do not wish to participate please feel free to ignore this invitation. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me either by phone or e-mail.

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State of Utah
Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
1594 W. North Temple, Suite 3520
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5703
Attn: Colleen Keyes

Insect Suppression Project
Permission to Access Form

Name:	
Address:	
Daytime Phone#(s):	
Community:	
Lot number(s):	Acres:

Please check the appropriate boxes.

Future contact preference: Contact mode for the Division of Forestry to provide additional notification/information or directions and treatment details.

- Regular mail
 E-mail (address) _____

Treatment plan:

- I will definitely treat to prevent beetle attack
 I will probably treat to prevent beetle attack
 I might treat to prevent beetle attack
 I most likely will **not** treat to prevent beetle attack

I hereby grant permission for personnel employed by the State of Utah, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands or USDA FS, Forest Health Protection to access my property for the purpose of evaluating and/or marking trees currently infested with bark beetle for removal, and/or preventative chemical treatment of uninfested high value trees for protection against attack by bark beetle.

Owner signature

Date

Please return completed and signed form to Colleen Keyes (see above address) by no later than March 31, 2006. All personal information will remain confidential and be used only for project purposes.