



Utah Farm Bureau Federation

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January 26, 2004

Dayle R. Flanigan, District Ranger
Beaver Ranger District
PO Box E
Beaver, Utah 84631

Dear Mr. Flanigan,

We have received your letter regarding the South Park Vegetation Treatment Project proposal. We have reviewed the document and make the following comments.

In the proposed action it states that dead trees would be removed on approximately 2000 acres through salvage and sanitation treatments. The purpose of this action is to reduce hazardous fuels around private property and reduce tree densities thus lowering the risk of beetle infestation. There is a high tree mortality on the south end of the project area because of beetle infestation that could spread to the entire area. There appears to be a significant need for this project.

The Utah Farm Bureau supports forest health. We support projects like these as a way to improve forest health. Two actions that have been lacking in recent years on forest lands are fire and logging. Fires and logging have traditionally lowered fuel buildup and disease potential. Without these two actions beetle infestation and fuel buildup have been on the increase. This project is necessary to help maintain forest health.

The impacts to the land and wildlife would be minimal for this project. Road construction would be minimal and the roads would be decommissioned and a natural state would be restored. Treatments would be designed to maintain or improve nesting for the Northern Goshawk and treatments would not be conducted within active nesting sites during specified times.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

John B. Keeler
Southern Regional Manager
Utah Farm Bureau Federation