

2017-2019 Beaver Mountain Timber Harvest Project

Fact Sheet

The Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, SITLA, is working with a private contractor to protect the forest and recreation opportunities it provides by:

- Reducing wildfire risk
- Protecting resort facilities
- Improving long-term forest health by:
 - Harvesting mature trees prone to disease
 - Promoting growth of young, disease-resistant trees
 - Reducing pine beetle devastation
 - Preserving and promoting the forest understory
 - Creating conditions that will allow the forest to renew itself



Frequently Asked Questions

Why are you harvesting timber? Is it better to leave the forest as it is?

Timber harvesting is an important part of sustainable forest management. These methods mimic natural fire cycles to promote healthy forest regeneration. This project is also important to protect the forest from the bark beetle, pine beetle, and other pathogens, which have ravaged forests throughout the western United States. Reducing fuel loading in this area will help protect resort facilities from wildfire.

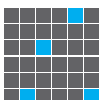
While leaving trees in place may be more aesthetically pleasing for the short-term, long-term forest health will suffer from stagnant mature stands, beetle-kill, and intense wildfires, which can make forest regeneration difficult, if not impossible. These types of projects are necessary so that our children and grandchildren may enjoy the forest for generations to come.

How will the timber harvest impact forest health?

Forests throughout the western U.S. have been severely impacted by outbreaks of several beetle species, which have reached epidemic levels in many locations. In some infected stands, up to 90 percent of trees have been killed. Beetle-killed trees not only reduce the visual appeal of the forest, but greatly increase wildfire danger and intensity. The beetle epidemic is already presenting itself in this area, therefore it is imperative that mature, disease-prone trees be harvested while they are still healthy and producing good seed stock, offering the best potential for regrowth.

What will the forest look like when the harvest is finished?

This harvest is being conducted according to a timber harvest plan, which was developed carefully using scientifically-proven silviculture techniques. Depending on species and age composition, and other factors, management prescriptions have been put in place to dictate how many trees will be removed. In order to obtain the proper conditions for regrowth, it may be necessary to harvest a majority of trees in some areas, leaving behind only young, disease-resistant trees. All roads, landings and other disturbed areas will be reclaimed and reseeded.



How long will it take the forest to recover?

While it may be 20 years or more until you see mature tree stands again; seedling reproduction should start within one to three years. Once the forest canopy is removed, the understory (underlying seed cones) has access to light and nutrients, providing an environment where saplings can take root and eventually grow into a new forest canopy. In the not too distant future, you will likely see saplings beginning to emerge and grow as the forest renews itself.

How long will timber harvesting operations last?

This timber harvest project may last through 2019. Logging operations may occur year-round, even during winter months. However, logging operations will not be in progress constantly. Depending on ground and weather conditions, and contractor scheduling, you will see periods of activity and inactivity throughout the contract period.

Is this U.S. Forest Service land?

This project is not located within the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, which is managed by the U.S. Forest Service. It is located on state trust lands, managed by the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA). SITLA manages a 3,000-acre block of trust lands in this area, which includes the entire timber harvest project and Beaver Mountain Ski Resort.

What is SITLA?

The State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) is a quasi-independent state agency tasked with managing the state's 3.4 million acres of trust lands. Unlike public lands, trust lands are parcels of land held in trust to support 12 state institutions, primarily public schools, but also state hospitals, teaching colleges, and universities. At the time of statehood, Congress granted trust lands to Utah and created permanent endowments to support these institutions. SITLA is constitutionally mandated to generate revenue from trust lands to build and grow these endowments on behalf of trust beneficiaries.

How does this project benefit local schools?

Proceeds generated from the sale of this timber are deposited into Utah's Permanent School Fund. Income generated from the investment of this fund is distributed annually to public schools. Last year, \$64.25 million was distributed to K-12 schools statewide, including \$1.89 million to schools in Cache and Rich counties.

How will resort operations be affected?

Beaver Mountain Ski Resort will continue to operate as normal during the project. The timber harvest contractor will conduct only minimal weekend work to minimize any inconvenience.

Is this part of a real estate development project by the resort or another developer?

This project is not part of any resort expansion or other real estate development.

May the public continue to access the timber harvest area?

For your safety, we ask you to stay out of active timber harvesting areas. Dangerous conditions may exist even when equipment is not operating. Please use extreme caution when traveling near these areas.

This is already a busy area, how will traffic be impacted?

The timber contractor will limit daily loads to minimize impacts. Please watch for logging trucks on the main roadways. Use extreme caution around logging trucks and always yield to the driver.

Will the public have recreational access to the national forest?

Beaver Creek and Sink Hollow roads will remain open as usual throughout the timber harvest. While there may be brief periods where access is interrupted or detoured, the timber contractor, in conjunction with SITLA and the U.S. Forest Service, will work to minimize any inconvenience to the recreating public.