

# Utah Forest News

Utah Forest Landowner  
Education Program Newsletter

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## Utah Forest Practices Act Signed into Law

After passing through the House and Senate, The Utah Forest Practices Act (FPA) was signed into law by Utah Governor Mike Leavitt in a ceremonial signing on April 18 at the state capitol. The first of its kind, the act provides the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (DFF&SL) a means for tracking forestry activity in Utah.

The act requires operators to 1) register with the DFF&SL, and to 2) notify the DFF&SL 30 days prior to starting a forestry practice. Operators are loggers and others that work in the woods. Practices include harvesting trees, building roads to harvest trees, preparing sites for regeneration, planting trees, and managing logging slash. Practices not requiring notification include noncommercial personal use by landowners, Christmas tree harvests, and harvests smaller than 10 acres.

To register, an operator must submit the name of the company, the state in which the company is incorporated, and the name, address and telephone number of a company officer and an on-the-ground company supervisor. The act calls for the development of minimum standards for operators, which will be outlined in upcoming meetings with industry representatives.

To notify, an operator must submit the name and

address of the operator,  
the name and address of  
the landowner, a legal  
description of the property,  
and a description of the  
forest practice.



To promote awareness and understanding of these new requirements the Utah Forest News (UFN) interviewed Ron Gropp (RG), Stewardship Coordinator with the DFF&SL.

UFN: What is the intent of this legislation?

RG: The intent of the FPA is to provide the Division with a mechanism to gather information on who is

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**“This act requires the registration of operators and notification by operators of intent to conduct forest practices.” – Utah Forest Practices Act**

## Forest Practices Act Interview

conducting timber operations in Utah, and where those operations are occurring. Our biggest frustration has been not knowing who is operating in Utah, where operations are occurring, and the amount of timber being removed. The information that we collect will allow us to identify harvesting trends in Utah. It will also allow us to provide private landowners, who are contemplating a timbersale, a list of operators that meet minimum requirements in the state. Another important part of the FPA is the direction to make landowners and loggers aware of Utah's Forest Water Quality Guidelines.

UFN: The act indicates that the Division may establish the minimum requirements for registration of operators that you mentioned, what will those minimum requirements be?

RG: At this point, we cannot say. The process outlined in the FPA involves assembling a committee of industry representatives, and based on our discussions, putting in place rules for enforcement, penalties, requirements, and so forth. Industry involvement is vital, as we hope that this will become an industry self-policing mechanism.

UFN: The act makes reference to the voluntary Forest Water Quality Guidelines (FWQGs), does this make them mandatory?

RG: No, it does not. Implementation of the FWQGs is still voluntary and the responsibility of the landowner. The FPA directs us to implement the FWQGs through technical assistance and education. We're hopeful that our voluntary approach will reduce the likelihood of federal regulations.

UFN: How does this act effect private landowners and private property rights in Utah?

RG: The Forest Practices Act places no conditions upon landowners. The requirements have been placed on the shoulders of the operators.

UFN: Does this act give the DFF&SL foresters access to private land?

RG: No, the Division must still ask for permission for access onto private land, just like it always has.

UFN: How and when do operators need to register and notify?

RG: Although the act became effective on May 1, we really don't have procedures in place to begin collecting this information. Those details must be worked out with industry representatives in upcoming meetings.

UFN: The act also directs the DFF&SL to provide technical assistance to landowners regarding forestry practices, is this something new?

RG: Not really. The original code, written in 1953, directs the Division to protect non-federal forests and watersheds using conservation principles. It also directs us to encourage private landowners to preserve, protect and manage their forests and other lands. The FPA simply strengthens the Division's position with providing technical assistance to private landowners.

If you have questions or would like a copy of the bill contact Ron Gropp (801) 538-5457 or by email at [nrslf.rgropp@state.ut.us](mailto:nrslf.rgropp@state.ut.us).



## Forest Insect and Disease Activity in the Intermountain West

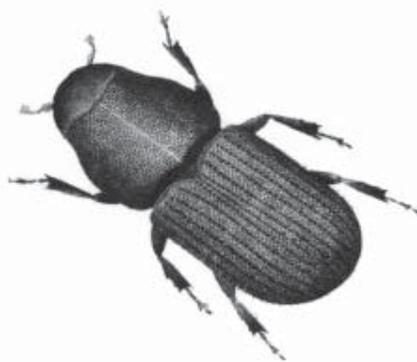
Insects and diseases are always present and killing trees in the forest, but when land owners lose significant numbers of trees on their property, these natural agents of disturbance become cause for alarm. This report provides an overview of insect and disease activity in our region.

Bark beetles have been and continue to be the most notable cause of widespread tree mortality in the Intermountain Region (Utah, Wyoming, Nevada, southern Idaho) for the past several decades. In 2000, spruce beetle populations were responsible for more tree mortality than any other insect. The largest spruce beetle infestations are on the Manti-LaSal and the Dixie National Forests in Utah. Increasing levels of spruce beetle caused tree mortality can be observed in the Fishlake National Forest in central Utah. The spruce beetle is present wherever spruce are common in Utah. A significant increase in spruce beetle activity was noted on the Bredger-Teton National Forest in western Wyoming.

Mountain pine beetle caused tree mortality has increased within the Intermountain Region from 11,000 affected trees in 1998 to 43,000 trees in 2000. The largest outbreaks have been recorded on the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and the Salmon-Challis National Forest in Idaho. Although mountain pine beetle caused tree mortality was lower in 2000 from 1999 levels in the ponderosa pine type of southern Utah, lodgepole pine tree mortality has increased as a result of mountain pine beetle attacks in northern Utah and western Wyoming. Increasing mountain pine beetle activity in southern Idaho, combined with a blister rust and other factors has increased the loss of whitebark pine, a high elevation

tree species that is important to grizzly bears and other wildlife species.

Douglas-fir beetle activity in 2000 was similar to activity in 1999 in Utah, southern Idaho, and Wyoming. Fir engraver beetle activity was heavy on the Ely Ranger district in Nevada with endemic populations recorded in Utah and southern Idaho.



mountain pine beetle

Defoliation caused by the Douglas-fir tussock moth (in Utah, Nevada, and Idaho) and the western spruce budworm (in Utah and Idaho) increased in 2000 compared to 1999 levels.

The European gypsy moth continues to be a concern in Utah. Intensive aerial treatments of existing populations with *Bacillus thuringiensis* a biological control agent, from 1989 to 1993 and again in 1998 and 1999 have effectively suppressed this non-native defoliator.

Native diseases are present throughout Intermountain forests and continue to be active. Dwarf mistletoes (parasitic plants) are found in most pine and Douglas-fir forests, with 46% of lodgepole pine forests surveyed showing some infection. Rood diseases are present in many stands, acting as weak pathogens or saprophytes causing little direct mortality in most locations. Rust diseases are also present in many sites causing tree mortality in some locations. Black stain root disease affects pinion causing periodic mortality in Utah, southern Idaho, and Nevada.

*Submitted by Steve Munson, USDA Forest Service Entomologist, Ogden, Utah.*  
*A more detailed report is available on the web at: [www.fs.fed.us/r4/health](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/health).*

## Temporary Stream Crossing Options:

### Minimize the Impact and Cost of Harvest

Timber harvesting and hauling equipment can damage water quality by stirring sediments and harming fish and other aquatic organisms when crossing streams. However, operators can use special stream crossing options to minimize the impact. Many of these options are temporary and can be reused at another crossing.

Survey the area and plan the harvest to minimize the number of stream crossings. Then determine which stream crossing option to use for each crossing. Generally, avoid crossing streams when fish are spawning, incubating eggs or migrating. Some states require permits for crossing both permanent and intermittent streams. Check with the appropriate regulatory of natural resource agencies.

Many stream crossing options work best with a proper foundation. Logs, railroad ties or similar abutments help level the structure. They also minimize stream bank disturbance and make removal easier. PVC or HDPE pipe bundle crossing and some fords work best with a porous fabric mat called geotextile under them.... Geotextiles support the option and separate it from the soil, making removal easier.

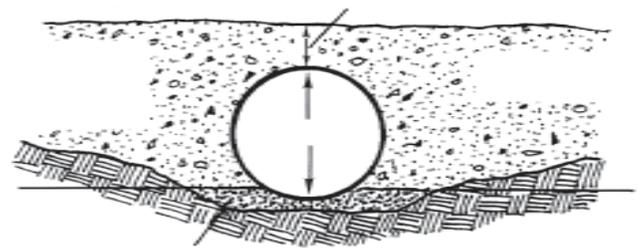
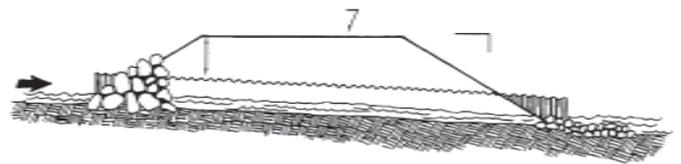


Geotextile ford

Choose from among the following temporary stream crossing options:

**Ford** – A crossing in which vehicles drive directly through a stream. Use fords only when crossing infrequently or for short periods. Clean rock on top of the Geotextiles can strengthen the ford and the approaches leading up to it.

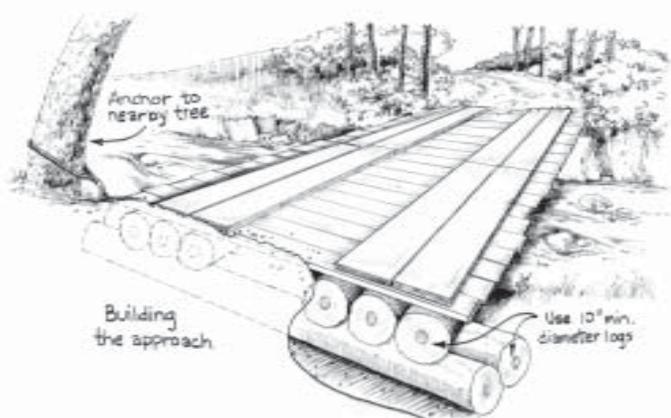
**Culvert** – A pipe or other round or oblong object that diverts water under the crossing. Culverts work well in streams which will-defined, deep channels. Operators can install and remove them quickly. Culverts are very portable.



**Ice Bridge** – Packed snow that is iced over with water. It is useful on streams with low water flow. Operators may need to pack and ice the structure for several days to build a strong structure.

**Timber bridge** – Built from logs, railroad ties, demolition materials or lumber. To build, cable the materials together and nail over them with lumber. This gives the structure stability and strength and allows it to control sediment from passing vehicles.

A solid-sawn stringer is similar in construction. A panel bridge is built using stress-laminated, glued-laminated, dowel-laminated or nail-laminated materials. Firmly anchor timber bridges at one end – it should be able to swing away during flooding. Install curbs or guardrails at bridges designed for truck traffic to help the driver position the vehicles safely. Most timber bridges are temporary and reusable.



Railroad cars, truck flatbeds, steel bridges and pre-stressed concrete panels – Commercial options that are often used to span wider streams. Operators generally can reuse them again.

PVC or HDPE pipe bundle crossing – Consists of pipes cabled together with galvanized steel to form mats. Place the mats on top of geotextile. Use wood

mats, wood panels or pallets or other materials on top of the pipe bundles to increase traction. Securely anchor pipe bundles so they don't move downstream.

To maintain, keep culverts and pipe bundles clear of debris. Re-ice bridges as needed. Check bridges and pipe bundle strengthen and wear during and between uses.

*By Charles R. Blinn*

*Reprinted with permission of the American Forest Foundation from **Tree Farmer: The Practical Guide to Sustainable Forestry**, March/April 2001.*

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## Oak Voted National Tree

The National Arbor Day Foundation recently hosted a nationwide vote to elect a national tree on their Web site [arborday.org](http://arborday.org). People were invited to vote for one of 21 candidate trees, based on broad tree categories that included the state trees of all 50 states and the District of Columbia, or to write in any other tree selection. The redwood, maple, pine, and dogwood rounded out the top five choices.



## Roundwood Kiosks for 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics

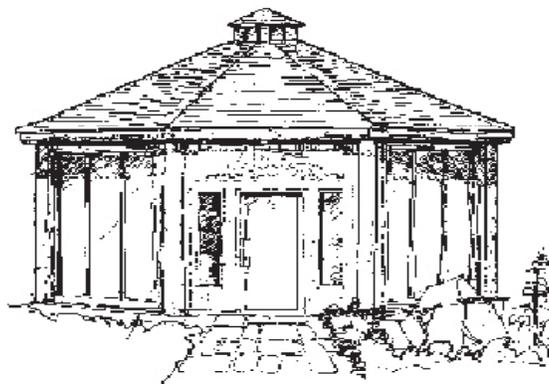
A constant challenge in forest management is to find economic incentives for removing small-diameter and low-value timber in forest stands. Not only would those incentives reduce the necessity of high-grade harvests, but the thinning would also decrease risk of wildfire and increase forest diversity. Without economic incentives, however, forest restoration projects are terribly costly.

The USDA Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) out of Madison, Wisconsin has perhaps discovered a viable and efficient economic use of small-diameter timber for construction. The lab has conceptualized roundwood structures built of low-grade timber.

Cutting small-diameter timber into boards is not cost efficient and the wood loses its strength because the weak juvenile core is exposed. FPL's idea is to keep it in the round form for construction purposes. Using this method, the wood retains its strength, and processing costs are minimized.

Currently, FPL is working with national forests and rural communities to build six structures to demonstrate the uses of roundwood in components like I-beams and trusses. These demonstration structures will be informational kiosks at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. Each kiosk will be enclosed and heated, and will highlight community stewardship efforts using descriptive exhibits.

The material and pre-fabrication of the components to build each kiosk will come from Montana, Oregon, California, Arizona, New Mexico, and an Eastern state.



Contact for sponsorship and partners: Susan LeVan-Green, USDA Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, WI: (608) 231-9518, [slevan@fs.fed.us](mailto:slevan@fs.fed.us)

Contact for building construction: Mark Knaebe, USDA Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, WI: (608) 231-9422, [mknaebe@fs.fed.us](mailto:mknaebe@fs.fed.us)

Contact for publicity: Jean Livingston, USDA Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, WI: (608) 231-9242, [jlivingston@fs.fed.us](mailto:jlivingston@fs.fed.us)

### Utah Forest Landowner Education Program Wins Awards

The Utah Forest News was awarded a Silver Metal in the annual Educational Materials Awards, a national competition hosted by the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (ANREP). Over 40 nominations in 11 categories were nominated for these awards.

In the video category, a Silver Metal was awarded to The Missing Fires, a prescribed fire video USU Extension has helped to produce and distribute. The Missing Fires video was also honored with an Outstanding Achievement award in the Spirit of the Land competition, hosted by the Salt Lake Organizing Committee, a national competition for conservation education programs.

## Certified Aspen Used for Flooring

A Forest Stewardship Council Certified forest management company in Wisconsin called Timbergreen, that “works with other forest owners to grow large high quality crop trees” recently installed 1500 square feet of character grade aspen flooring in a log home on an island in northeast Wisconsin.

Jim Birkemeier, owner of Timbergreen Forestry, exclaimed that the richness, depth, colors, and character of the wood were exceptional. Birkemeier went on to point out that “Aspen is not as hard as oak, but it is 30% more dense than white pine, and it is a lot prettier. Also, at \$7/sqft - installed, it is about 100 times the original value of the trees. This has been very rewarding to see our wood in it’s final use.” He also said that they had recently installed other rustic grade floors, using species such as paper birch, red maple, red elm, gray elm, walnut, hard maple, white oak, and red oak. Birkemeier highly recommends this experience to forest owners, partly because it provides a great incentive to manage their timber.

Eric Broderson, the owner of the log home, was very pleased “I believe that the floor added value to the home that is double what I paid for it. I think the wood is very attractive and is the perfect choice for our home,” stated Broderson.

The wood came from Birkemeier’s family farm in Wisconsin, which is certified through the Smartwood Program of the Rainforest Alliance, which is one of several sustainable forestry certification programs available. This may be the first ever certified aspen flooring.

Given that approximately 60 percent of Utah’s private forest land is aspen, and the availability of portable sawmill contractors in the state, this may be an option for some Utah forest landowners.

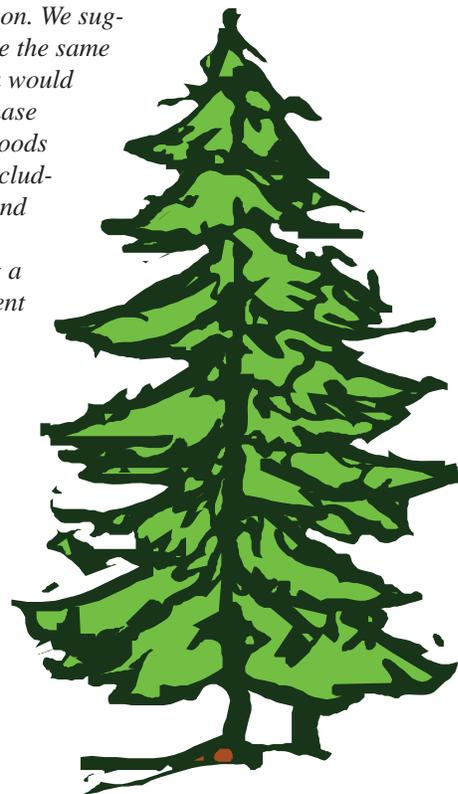
## Classifieds

Do you have forest resources you want to sell? Are there specific timber resources you want to buy? Do you offer services useful to forest landowners? This is the place to advertise your needs! Advertisement is free. If you would like to place an ad, call Darren McAvoy at 435-797-0560 or e-mail [darrenm@cnr.usu.edu](mailto:darrenm@cnr.usu.edu).

### Classified

The Nelson Paint Company, founded in 1940 by Charles and Evan Nelson, has been a family operated business for over 60 years. We take great pride in manufacturing premium forestry products and being a leader in the forestry industry. For more information please call (800) 869-2629

*This classified section is a service for forest landowners. Listing of these services, companies and individuals here in no way implies endorsement by USU Extension. We suggest that you use the same precautions you would use in the purchase or sale of any goods and services, including asking for and checking references and using a written agreement to clarify the obligations and responsibilities involved in a sale or service contract.*



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## Utah Forest News

### For More Information:

Regarding any of the information presented in this newsletter, please call Darren McAvoy at Utah State University, 435-797-0560, or write to the return address on this newsletter.

State of Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FF&SL) service foresters for your area can be contacted by calling 801-538-5555.

Ideas and written contributions to this newsletter are encouraged. Send your comments to the return address above or call 435-797-0560.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- The Circle of Stewards, a meeting of woodland owners in Randle WA, hosted by the National Woodland Owners Association, June 21-24, 2001, call (703) 255-2700.
- Cedar Mountain Aspen Field Tour, visit aspen harvest sites in the Cedar City area this summer, at a date to be announced. For information call Chad Reid, USU Extension Agent, Iron County, (435) 586-8132.