

Utah Forest News

Utah Forest Landowner
Education Program Newsletter

Utah State
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Fall 1997 Volume 1, Number 1

[Welcome to Utah Forest News](#)

[Timber Harvesting Concerns](#)

[Assistance is Available](#)

[Utah Forest Facts](#)

Welcome to Utah Forest News

If you are a forest landowner or are interested in Utah's forests, this newsletter is for you.

This is the first issue in a series that will provide Utah forest landowners with information on managing their forests and keeping them healthy. It is part of the Private Forest Landowner Education Program, a program funded by the Utah Legislature to provide education, information, and assistance to private forest landowners. Utah State University Extension will conduct this program in cooperation with the Utah Farm Bureau, the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, and others. This program was suggested by the Utah Forest Practices Task Force as a way to address concerns from private forest landowners and others about timber harvesting activities and the health of Utah forests.

Pressure to harvest timber on private lands has increased in recent years due to the rising value of forest products and reductions in harvesting on public lands. Because Utah forests take generations to mature, many of today's landowners have little or no experience with timber harvesting. Promises of substantial financial returns for timber resources are tempting. When considering timber harvest on your lands, it is important to plan carefully and consider long-term management goals for your land and resources.

Forested lands are an important natural resource in Utah. Carefully managed forest lands provide substantial benefits not only to the landowner, but also to the community.

Landowner benefits include:

- income from timber production
- enhanced wildlife habitat
- enhanced recreational opportunities
- improvements to livestock forage areas
- land management cost-sharing options
- increased inheritance or resale values
- lessened tax burdens
- some protection from legal liabilities

Community benefits include:

- jobs
- business opportunities
- watershed protection
- aesthetics
- overall improved forest health

Timber Harvesting Concerns

While some landowners have been satisfied with timber harvest practices on their lands and many good timber operators exist, other landowners have reported unforeseen and unwanted consequences that have resulted in lost income and degraded site conditions, in some cases leaving the landowner with a nonproductive forest of little remaining value. Specific problems that have been reported include:

- landowners accepting offers for their timber that are much less than the current market value.
- landowners accepting offers for their timber that are much less than the current market value.
- lack of payment for harvested timber because of poor oversight, weak contract provisions, or the inability to accurately determine how much timber was on site and how much was removed.
- lack of payment for valuable timber that is left on site or damaged during harvest.
- poor or no treatment of logging debris or slash, causing fire and insect problems and restricting livestock movement.
- poorly designed and constructed roads and skid trails that lead to erosion and represent potential liability for impacts on downstream water quality.
- "high-grading" of timber - removing (and paying for) only the most valuable trees while leaving a stand of poor trees or undesirable species that are unlikely to make a valuable forest in the future.

Assistance is Available

Utah State University Extension's new Private Forest Landowner Education Program is committed to helping Utah forest landowners make informed decisions about resource management on their lands. Program services include this newsletter, fact sheets, workshops, and other educational materials and activities covering such topics as forest health and regeneration, harvesting, water quality guidelines, contracts, taxes, and wildlife management.

If you are interested in being on a mailing list to receive educational materials and notification of program activities, please complete and mail the enclosed business reply card. If you are not interested in receiving information, but know someone who is, please pass this newsletter on to them and notify us so we can remove you from our mailing list. For questions about the Private Forest Landowner Education Program, contact [Lisa](#)

[Dennis-Perez](#), Forestry Extension Associate, at 435-797-0560 or e-mail lisadp@ext.usu.edu. Also, visit the program web site at <http://extension.usu.edu/natres/forests>.

Additional Assistance

The [Utah Farm Bureau](#) is an organization dedicated to assisting Utah landowners in agricultural interests, including forestry. For information, please call 801-233-3005 or visit their home page at: <http://www.fb.com/utfb/>.

The [Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands](#) offers technical assistance to private forest landowners. If you are interested in developing a comprehensive forest management plan or a timber sale plan for your land; obtaining information relating to forestry cost-sharing options, forest management, or agroforestry; or need technical assistance inventorying your resources or entering into a timber sale contract, please contact the Division foresters in your area, listed below. Also, you can visit the Division's web page at: <http://www.nr.state.ut.us/slf/slfhome.htm>.

BEAR RIVER AREA

Cache, Rich, Box Elder, and Weber Counties

Craig Pettigrew, Area Manager
Blaine Hamp, Area Forester
Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands
1780 North Research Parkway, Suite 104
North Logan, Utah 84341-1940
801-752-8701

NORTHEASTERN AREA

Wasatch, Summit, Duchesne, Uintah, and Daggett Counties

Dale Jablonski, Area Manager
Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands
152 East 100 North
Vernal, Utah 84078
801-781-5463

SOUTHEASTERN AREA

Grand, San Juan, Carbon, and Emery Counties

Stan Baker, Area Manager
Bill Zanotti, Area Forester
Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands
1165 South Highway 191, Suite 6
Moab, Utah 84532
801-259-3766

WASATCH FRONT AREA

Morgan, Davis, Salt Lake, Tooele, Utah Counties

Dick Buehler, Area Manager

Barbara Gardner, Area Forester

Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands

1594 West North Temple, Suite 3520

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5703

801-538-5555

CENTRAL AREA

Millard, Wayne, Piute, Sevier, Juab, and Sanpete Counties

Kelley Allen, Area Manager

Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands

115 East 900 North

Richfield, Utah 84701

801-896-5697

SOUTHWEST AREA

Washington, Garfield, Kane, Iron, and Beaver Counties

Ron Larsen, Area Manager

Clint Reese, Area Forester

Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands

585 North Main

Cedar City, Utah 84720

801-586-4408

Utah Forest Facts

Nearly one third of Utah's 53 million acres is occupied by forest. Utah's forests are located throughout the state, mostly in areas of higher elevations (above 5,000 feet). These forests are often described as timberlands, areas that support commercial timber species, and woodlands, areas that support less commercially valuable species. Timberlands represent about 21% of Utah's forests. Commercial forest types found in Utah include ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, aspen, lodgepole pine, and spruce-fir.

Noncommercial woodlands include oak-maple and pinyon- juniper communities. About 20% of the timberland in Utah is privately owned. The other 80% is found on public lands. While private ownership of Utah timberlands was equally divided between farmer/ranchers and non-farmer/ranchers in the past, it appears that much of the private forest lands are being divided into smaller tracts and purchased by non-farmer/ranchers. Overall, recreation is the dominant land use for Utah's forests, regardless of ownership Other forest land uses include livestock grazing, hunting, timber and firewood harvesting.

Contribution from public lands to the state's timber harvest has decreased in recent years. Harvest contribution from private lands has increased from about 6% in 1966 to 12% in 1970 to 17% in 1992. The exact percent of the timber harvest coming from private lands today is not known, but it is expected to continue to rise because timber demand is high and supply from public lands continues to decline.
