



GNA



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dangerous trees at Bogus Basin will be removed

(Boise) – Diseased and infested trees that are a hazard to those who ski and recreate at Bogus Basin will be removed beginning this month through a timber sale administered by the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) as part of the U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) Bogus Basin Forest Health Project.

According to the Forest Service, almost 80 percent of the tree stands within the Bogus Basin project area are infected with Douglas-fir dwarf mistletoe. The mistletoe is found under the bark of trees and grows into dense clumps of branches called “brooms.” The mistletoe deprives trees of water and nutrients, weakening them and making them susceptible to Douglas-fir beetles and western bark beetles, which can kill the trees.

These trees present a safety hazard as the large “brooms” may fall, especially under the weight of heavy snow. There are also dead and dying trees that need to be addressed. Most of the trees that need removal are located on ski slopes, around ski lifts, and along groomed cross-country ski, mountain bike, and hiking trails. A total of 1,050 acres has been identified as needing tree removal at Bogus Basin, and will be harvested through several timber sales. The most critical safety areas will be addressed first.

On August 5, Sims Wood Inc. entered into an agreement to harvest the first 133 acres of damaged trees on the Boise National Forest through a state timber sale contract. Tree removal is planned to start next week. The wood is expected to eventually be sold as firewood and saw logs. This sale was made possible because of the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA). GNA is a federal law that enables the Forest Service to partner with the IDL to achieve restoration and resilient landscape objectives across ownership boundaries in Idaho.

Crews will start on the north portion of the ski area near the Superior chairlift. Areas around the logging operation will be closed and posted with signs. Logging trucks will haul logs down Bogus Basin Road between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. with a maximum of five loads a day.

After the tree harvest, a diversity of tree species will be planted to improve forest resilience to uncharacteristic insect, disease and wildland fire disturbance, making the area a safer forest for recreation.

“This is the second GNA project that we have partnered with IDL on the Boise National Forest,” said Cecilia Seesholtz, Boise National Forest Supervisor. “This partnership allows both agencies to meet common goals in restoring landscapes.”

“The Good Neighbor Authority is an important tool, in this situation it allows the Forest Service and the IDL to partner together to take care of significant forest health issues that create potential public safety problems,” IDL Director Dustin Miller said. “The improved forest health will make a difference for those who enjoy this popular recreation area.”

“Bogus Basin supports these essential efforts to improve the health of our forests for the enjoyment of future generations,” said Brad Wilson, General Manager of Bogus Basin. “We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the collaborative Forest Health Project initiative.”

The Bogus Basin Forest Health Project was developed in collaboration with the **Boise Forest Coalition**.

GNA PROGRESS IN IDAHO

Revenues generated from GNA sales offset state costs for projects like the one at Bogus Basin. This timber sale and other planned GNA projects elsewhere in Idaho are the result of three years of work between the State of Idaho, Forest Service, timber companies, forest partners, and local communities.

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