

# Urgent Community Message

## Urgent Subject: Douglas-fir Beetle Outbreak in Summit Park – Action Required!

Dear Summit Park Homeowners,

Summit Park is currently experiencing an aggressive outbreak of the Douglas-fir beetle, which is causing a rapid localized die-off of large, mature Douglas-fir trees. At present, an estimated 50 - 60 trees are either dead, or in severe decline, have been discovered on several private vacant lots within Summit Park and a small area of adjoining land located in the Summit Park Open Space. Unfortunately, there is no indication that the infestation will remain limited to its current location.

A Douglas-fir beetle outbreak can cause significant damage to community forests by killing large numbers of trees, leading to widespread mortality in local and community forests. This mortality affects forest health, leading to an increase in wildfire risk due to dead wood buildup and significantly disrupts local ecosystems.

Given the seriousness of the situation, it is imperative that each homeowner take proactive steps to inspect all Douglas-fir trees on their property for signs of infestation. **Early detection and response are critical to limiting the spread and minimizing damage.** If you are not able or confident in your ability to inspect, please reach out to Summit County, or a local tree arborist for help.

The Summit Park HOA is actively working to contain the outbreak, in collaboration with the Department of Forestry Fire and State Lands, Summit County Lands and Natural Resources Department, and Snyderville Basin Special Recreation District, to develop both short and long-term strategies to address this significant ecological threat. While the Douglas-fir beetle infestations usually begin when trees are weakened by stressors like drought and overcrowding, these outbreaks are often intensified by warm, dry conditions and forest management practices that lead to dense, unhealthy stands. If the infestation continues to expand unchecked, the potential impact on our forest and community could be devastating.

### What You Can Do:

- Learn how to identify Douglas-fir trees from other conifer trees. If you need help identifying a Douglas-fir tree, please visit <https://extension.usu.edu/forestry/tree-identification/douglas-fir>, or contact the Summit County Lands and Natural Resources Department by emailing [countylands@summitcountyutah.gov](mailto:countylands@summitcountyutah.gov)
- Review the attached photographs showing signs of infestation and the current outbreak location.
- Inspect the Douglas-fir trees on your property for symptoms such as boring dust, pitch tubes, or browning needles.
- If you identify signs of a mass beetle infestation, contact the HOA immediately!

The HOA is currently providing a **non-toxic pheromone repellent to homeowners**. The repellent is proven effective at protecting healthy trees from beetle attacks. These packets are already being distributed in and around the outbreak area in an effort to contain the spread.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact: [summitparkutah@gmail.com](mailto:summitparkutah@gmail.com) or [summitparkfirewise@gmail.com](mailto:summitparkfirewise@gmail.com)

Together, we can work to preserve the health and beauty of our private and community forest.

# Known outbreak sites in Summit Park







