



Forest Health Annual Aerial Survey

January 16, 2009

Mountain Pine Beetle Mitigation Accomplishments

The primary goals of the US Forest Service mountain pine beetle (MPB) mitigation efforts are to reduce the impacts of potential wildfire to communities and watersheds, and to make areas safer by removing dead and dying trees in recreation sites and along roads. Collaborating with our partners to educate the public, determine our course of action and treatment priorities has been the key to success. As treatment progresses, another priority is to keep a full range of recreation opportunities open while logging and hazard tree removal occurs, and reopen areas as quickly as possible after work has been completed.

What the USFS did in 2008 to Mitigate the Effects of the MPB:

Projects in 2008 were aimed at reducing falling tree hazards, fuel reduction and protection of high-valued trees in campgrounds and picnic areas including:

1. Preventative spraying of lodgepole and ponderosa pine for safety and aesthetic purposes in recreation sites
2. Removal of hazard trees in recreation sites
3. Fuel treatment addressing potential fire hazards (In the table below, core projects are fuel projects, and integrated projects include activities that produced multiple benefits for other resources such as wildlife)
4. Timber salvage: to produce lumber, wood pellets for heating, and firewood from beetle-killed trees

| | Spray | Tree Removal | Fuels: | | Timber Salvage | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Acres | Acres | Core | Integrated | Acres | CCF |
| Arapaho Roosevelt Nat'l Forest (ARNF) (Front Range) | 291 | 588 | 484 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ARNF (Sulphur RD) | 383 | 643 | 3,115 | 895 | 895 | 21,392 |
| White River Nat'l Forest | 100 | 130 | 3,940 | 1,558 | 3,158 | 35,000 |
| Routt Nat'l Forest | 291 | 382 | 325 | 3,607 | 3,282 | 73,774 |
| Medicine Bow Nat'l Forest | 323 | 254 | 350 | 2,230 | 1,030 | 27,796 |
| TOTAL | 1,388 | 1,997 | 8,214 | 8,290 | 8,365 | 157,962 |

The Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Department of Corrections Inmate Crews, Interagency Hotshot Fire Crews, initial attack crews, and other fire and recreation crews removed hazard trees from 31 campgrounds last summer. The accomplishments were significant, and resulted in cost-efficient, effective, and safe operations. Contact: Clint Kyhl at 307-745-2323 or Jim Krugman 303-275-5228 or visit www.fs.fed.us/r2/bark-beetle

Working with our partners is the key to reducing hazards associated with the MPB!

- The Colorado State Forest Service and the USFS work together with local communities and landowners to reduce hazards and inform the public. Contact: Katherine Timm, Colorado State Forest Service, at 970-491-7698.

- The USFS and the Wyoming State Forestry Division sponsored a MPB workshop in February in Laramie, Wyoming, where 150 people attended. Contact: Lee Koche 307-777-7586, State of Wyoming Forestry Division
- We continue to work with the Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative (CBBC) in many areas. Contact: Gary Severson at 970-468-0295 x 110, CBBC, email GJS@nwc.cog.co.us.
- The Forest Service jointly sponsored workshops about the MPB with the Northern Front Range MPB Working Group. Contact: Therese Glowacki 303-678-6206, Boulder County, email tglowacki@bouldercounty.org
- The Bark Beetle Information Task Force in Routt County is celebrating 10 years of educational efforts. This year they are working with engineers and architects to promote the use of blue-stain wood. Contact: Diann Ritschard at 970- 870-2187 or e-mail dritschard@fs.fed.us.

Watch Out!

The US Forest Service is very concerned about the falling tree hazards that the MPB poses. Red and dead lodgepole pine trees can fall at any time because of their shallow roots. Watch the weather before leaving and stay away from red and dead trees on windy days. Get to an open area if the wind kicks up and you are near dead or dying trees. For more safety tips, visit www.fs.fed.us/r2/bark-beetle.