

San Luis Valley
Bureau of Land Management



San Luis Valley Public Lands



Rio Grande
National Forest



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News Release

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

March 2, 2009

Forest Seeks Input On Big Moose Vegetation Project

DEL NORTE – The Divide Ranger District of the Rio Grande National Forest is seeking public input for the Big Moose Vegetation Management Project. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is being prepared to analyze the potential effects of this proposed project. Public input will help the Forest Service identify issues and develop alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS.

The District proposes to salvage approximately 3,775 acres of beetle-infested Engelmann spruce in the Love Lake and Fern Creek areas, which is located about 15 miles southwest of Creede. This area has been hit particularly hard by spruce bark beetle. Thousands of acres of spruce trees have been infested and trees as small as five inches in diameter are dead or dying.

The proposed salvage activities would remove commercially valuable dead and dying trees from areas identified for timber management. An existing transportation system already provides access to the project area. To safely facilitate harvest activities, an estimated three miles of new temporary road (to be closed following harvest) would be needed while an estimated 42 miles of roads would receive maintenance.

In addition to the proposed salvage harvest, mechanical treatments and prescribed burning would be used to help promote aspen regeneration and healthy stands of young aspen on approximately 10,200 acres. Aspen stands are important because they add to the diversity of the forest landscape, provide habitat for a variety of plants and animals, and are beautiful to view, especially in the autumn.

Comments would be most useful if received by close of business on March 31, 2009. Information regarding the project will be posted as it becomes available on the Rio Grande National Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/r2/riogrande/projects/forcomment/index, or please contact Paul Hancock at 719-657-6009 for more information.

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