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Increasing Visitor Safety, U.S. Forest Service Mitigates Hazard in Amphitheater Campground

The Rocky Mountain State and Private Forestry and Tribal Relations staff has announced the completion of root mitigation work, enhancing visitor safety in one of the Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre-Gunnison National Forests' most popular campgrounds.

Good, rapid response by the U.S. Forest Service after finding Annosus Root Rot disease failures in the Amphitheater Campground near Ouray, Colorado has increased the safety of the public using the campsites. Designed for single-family use in this forested landscape, this scenic campground is located at an elevation of 8,400 feet overlooking Ouray, Colorado.



Photo by U.S. Forest Service: Amphitheater Campground

Acting quickly, Todd Gardiner, Silviculturist and Forest CFLRP Coordinator for the U.S. Forest Service on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, formed a project team to mitigate the hazard caused by the root rot. This root disease can be prevalent in many conifers and grows through the heartwood into the roots and causes decay in the root system. This makes the diseased trees subject to breakage and blowdown.

This project included cutting 46 live White fir trees to mitigate the hazard of green tree failures due to root disease. In addition, all stumps were treated with Cellu-Treat® immediately after cutting. Cellu-Treat® liquid solution is used as a preventative treatment and for remedial treatment of infested wood. Some of the cut trees showed obvious signs of disease with rot in the stem. For the others, one cannot be sure that the rot is not already advancing through the roots.

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