



Sulphur Ranger Districts Battle with the Beetle

Spring 2008

Attacking the mountain pine beetle (MPB) is nothing new for the Sulphur Ranger District. It is a battle we have been engaged in since 2001 with the primary goal of reducing the impacts of potential wildfire to communities and watersheds. We began collaborating with several cooperators, partners and experts in 2001 to determine both our course of action and treatment priorities. Since that time we continue to work hard to make as much progress as we can as quickly as we can to address this outbreak.

This has required us to plan and implement the largest vegetative management projects in the SRD's history. Most recently we implemented several projects (Upper Fraser 1 and 2, Tabernash, Green Ridge, ANRA, Ranger Gulch and Crimson) on 8,000 acres. We have completed 5,500 acres of this work and continue to work on completion this winter as conditions allow. The purpose of these projects ranges from

hazardous fuels reduction to individual hazard tree removal in developed sites.

We are constantly working new projects through the planning, contracting and implementation phases to address every acre possible. We plan to begin implementing four new timber removal projects in the near future covering 2,500 acres, as well as a new program of fuel reduction through prescribed fire.

Additionally, we are proposing a project along State Highway 125 to Willow Creek Pass potentially treating 4,000 acres through timber removal and more than 5,000 acres with a multi-year prescribed fire program. We continue to identify new projects for timber removal and fuels reduction related to this outbreak.

Although the most visible part in our efforts has been tree harvesting we have also continued to spray 10,000 trees annually to try to prevent the bark beetles from attacking high value trees in campgrounds, picnic areas, boat launches, trailheads and islands in the ANRA.

Another component of our treatment is the use of prescribed fire in eight locations to remove tree branches and other material piled as a result of timber removal. These piles will be burned as weather conditions allow.

We know the public is concerned about this outbreak and what it might mean to the forest and recreation opportunities. We have worked hard to keep the full range of recreation opportunities open while logging and hazard tree removal occurs and have re-opened areas as quickly as possible after work has been completed. Our treatment has also been focused on increasing the diversity of the emerging new forest.

For the latest information on our bark beetle efforts visit our website at www.fs.fed.us/r2/arnf/conditions/srdbarkbeetle/index.shtml. If you need help planning your recreation activities please contact our visitor information staff at 970-887-4100.

How Many Acres Can Be Treated?

- There are 408,000 acres within the Sulphur Ranger District
- 183,000 of these acres have lodgepole pine at risk for mountain pine beetle
- Only 73,000 acres are potentially treatable.
- 85 percent of these areas have been examined for treatment and 25 percent or 18,000 acres have been proposed for treatment.

Contact us:

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Phone: 970-887-4100
Fax: 970-887-4102
www.fs.fed.us/arnf

Office Hours:
Monday thru Friday
8 a.m.—5 p.m.

WATCH OUT!

Falling trees are always a hazard when traveling in the forest.

Following these guidelines will help recreationists avoid risks.

- Be aware of your surroundings. Avoid dense patches of dead trees. They can fall without warning.
- Stay out of the forest when there are strong winds that could blow down trees. If you are already in the forest when the winds kick up, head to a clearing out of reach of any potential falling trees.
- Place tents and park vehicles in areas where they will not be hit if trees fall.
- When driving in remote areas of the forest, park close to a main road, rather than on a spur or one-way section. If trees fall across the road you may be trapped.
- Bring an ax or a chainsaw to remove fallen trees from roads in case you become trapped.
- Do not rely on cell phones for safety as there is no coverage in many areas of the national forest.

Sulphur Ranger Districts Battle with the Beetle Map

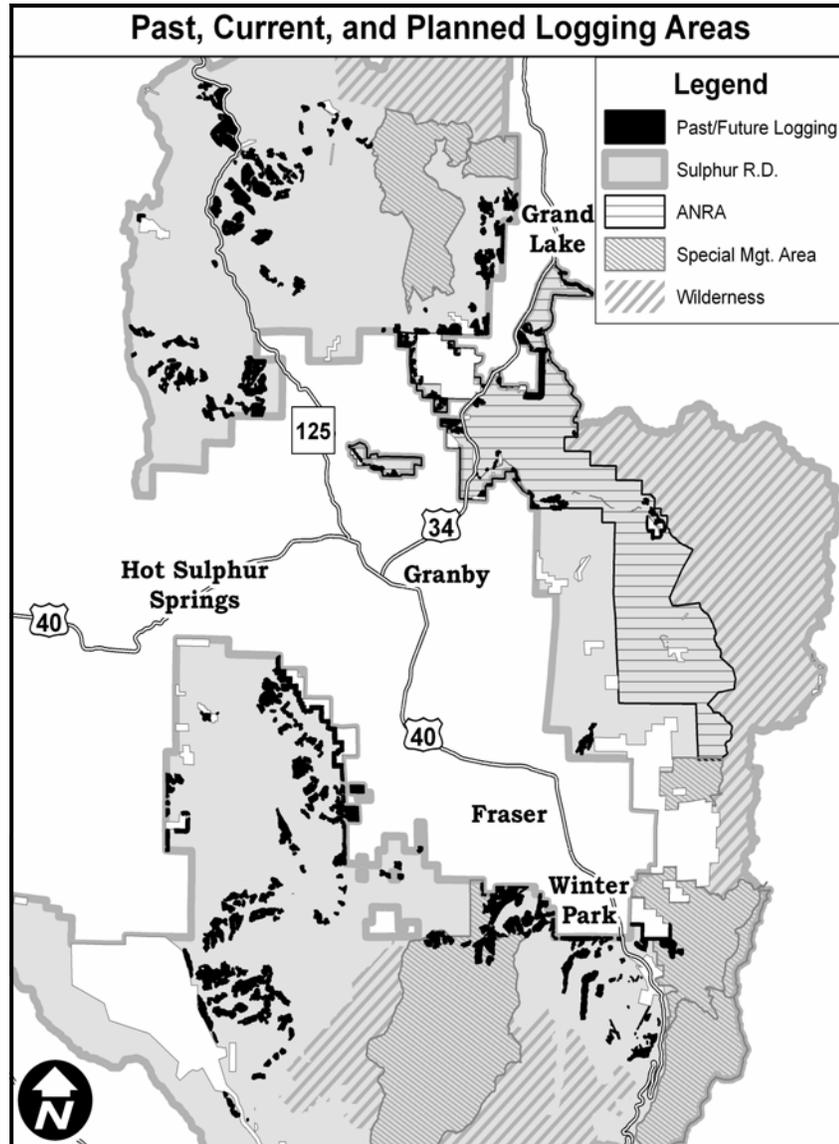
Where we are working in Spring 2008

Arapaho National Recreation Area

- ANRA:
Total Acres: 1,750
Completed acres: 1,048
- Green Ridge Good Neighbor Project:
Total Acres: 135
Completed Acres: 135

Fraser /Winter Park Area

- Upper Fraser 1:
Total Acres: 1,083
Completed acres: 366
- Upper Fraser 2:
Total Acres: 793
Harvest to begin soon
- Tabernash:
Total Acres: 138
Completed acres: Just began



Where are we headed next?

Blue Ridge: 2,400 acres of timber harvest. Additionally, approximately 10,000 acres will be treated with prescribed fire over the next several years.

Arrow: 239 acres of timber harvest if the sale is sold.

Kinney: 73 acres of timber harvest if the sale is sold.

Conveyor: 55 acres of timber harvest, to begin soon.

Projects being proposed:

Willow Creek: Along highway 125 from Cabin Creek to Willow Creek Pass. Approximately 4,000 acres of timber harvest and a multi-year 5,000 acre prescribed fire program are proposed.

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