



Battle with the Beetle in the Arapaho National Recreation Area

Spring 2009

The ANRA Landscape is Changing

The Sulphur Ranger District has been battling the beetle since 2001. Our primary goal in this battle has been to reduce the impacts of potential wildfire to communities and watersheds.

In the Arapaho National Recreation Area we have been focusing on preventative spraying and hazard tree removal to ensure public safety, keep the recreation opportunities available and the wildlife habitat flourishing.

We have been spraying high valued trees since 2002. Despite these efforts minor amounts of successful beetle attacks occur each year. Some of the beetles have managed to infest trees above the area where they are sprayed, and kill them.

As trees have been hit by the beetle we have continued to remove them. This has resulted in low density stands of lodgepole pine in many areas. Lodgepole pine, which is the dominant species in the ANRA, normally grows in high densities. These high densities protect this shallow rooted species from high winds. When the density is low

(after removing more than 50 percent of the trees) the healthy lodgepole that remain may be blown over by wind. As a result it was necessary to remove almost all the trees in the Stillwater Campground, Green Ridge Campgrounds, Arapaho Bay's Moraine Loop Campground, Cutthroat Group Campground, and Point Park Picnic Area. Select hazard trees were also removed in Arapaho Bay's Roaring Fork and Big Rock Campgrounds, Hill Top Boat Launch, Pine Beach Picnic Area and Meadow Creek Reservoir. More trees will be removed this spring by Forest Service crews.

This work has resulted in these areas being a lot more sunny, and the views have opened up. In Greenridge campground volunteers planted 3,000 seedlings last year. We have begun to grow our next forest while we continue to address the beetle. We hope you will continue to enjoy the area and help us protect the next generation of trees.

As we continue this battle there may be work occurring throughout the summer to remove hazardous trees and eliminate slash.

Firewood is Available

Removing hazardous trees has resulted in a large amount of woody debris commonly known as slash. This slash has created firewood that is available to the public in various sites. You can obtain this firewood by con-

tacting the Sulphur Ranger District in Granby for a firewood permit. For more information on firewood availability, contact our front office at (970)-887-4100.

Falling Trees are always a hazard when traveling in the Forest

Following these guidelines will help you 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 in the road you may be trapped.
- Bring 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.

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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www.fs.fed.us/arnf/conditions/srdbarkbeetle.shtml

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

Sulphur Ranger Districts Battle with the Beetle Map

2009 Projects:

Designed to reduce the impacts of potential wildfire to communities and watersheds.

Protecting High Valued Trees in Campgrounds and Recreation Areas:

- 226 acres (8,000 trees)

Hazard Tree removal from developed recreation sites:

- 150 acres

Roadside Hazard Tree Removal:

- 100 acres

Cabin Creek Salvage Timber Sale:

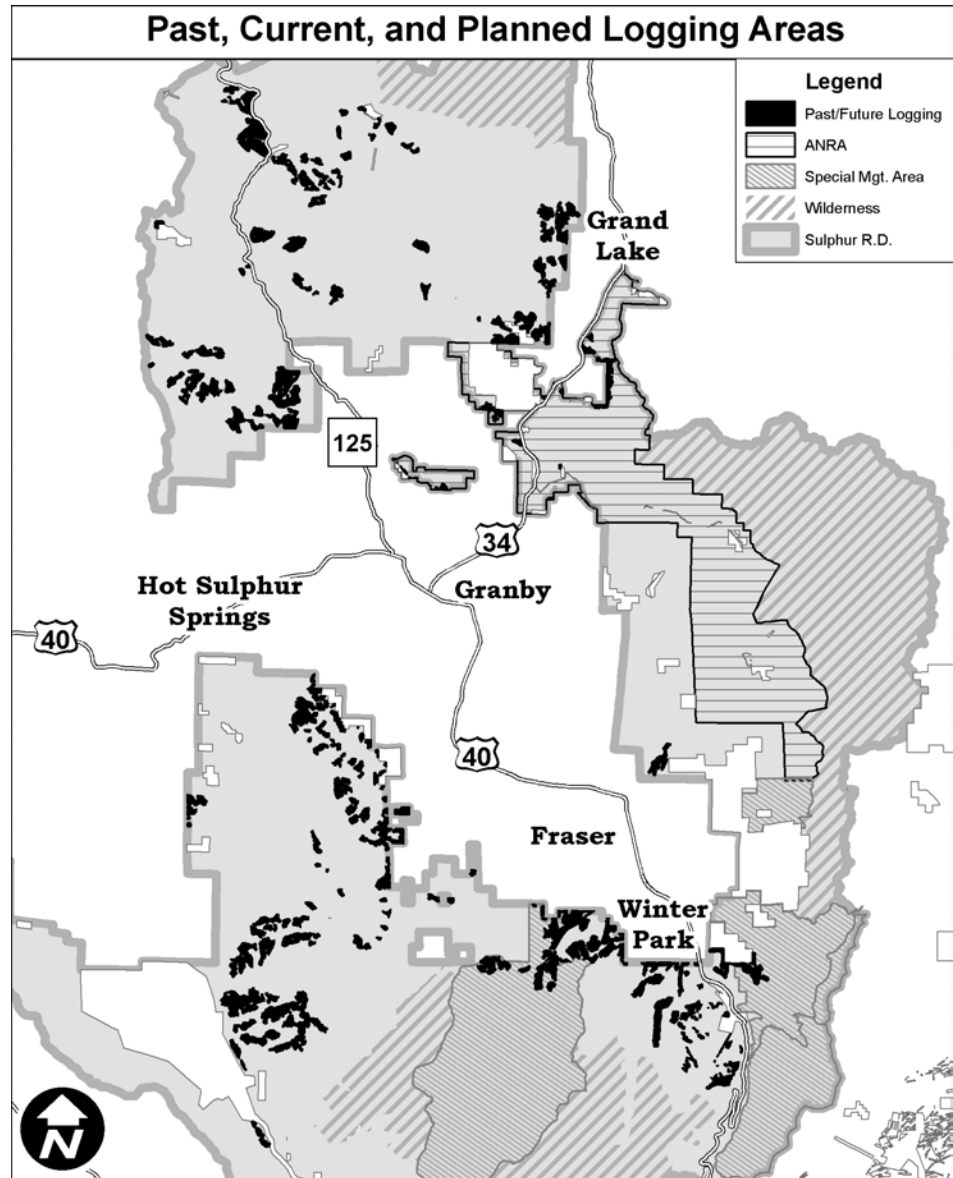
- 1000 acres

Blue Ridge Prescribed Burn:

- 400 acres

Seven ongoing timber sales: Arapaho National Recreation Area, Upper Fraser 1 and 2, Arrow, Tabernash, Blue Ridge, Conveyor and Sundance (Winter Park Ski Area)

- 3,338 acres



Projects being proposed.

Willow Creek Salvage and Fuel Reduction Project: Expect decision in May 2009 to authorize 3,200 acres of timber salvage and fuels reduction.

Roadside Hazard Project: Proposed removal of hazard trees and hazardous fuels along open Forest Roads. Expect decision in May 2009.

For the latest see our website at: www.fs.fed.us/r2/arnf/conditions/srdbarkbeetle/index.shtml

*Remember to be careful with every fire as you enjoy the ANRA and the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests.
Thank you!*