



News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &
Thunder Basin National Grassland
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>

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High Winds Topple Trees on the Medicine Bow National Forest

(LARAMIE, WY. - November 22, 2010) – After high winds took down large numbers of trees in parts of the Medicine Bow National Forest over the past week, the public is reminded to be aware of this hazard as they plan their activities on the Medicine Bow and Routt National Forests.

“With Christmas tree cutting season upon us and the start of ski and snowmobile season nearing, visitors need to be aware that the mountain pine beetle epidemic has increased the risk of falling trees,” said Phil Cruz, Medicine Bow-Routt Forest Supervisor.

“Please be aware of your surroundings while visiting areas affected by the epidemic.”

Trees impacted by beetles have red or no needles. Green trees left after fuels reduction or hazard tree removal treatments are also susceptible to windthrow due to removal of the trees around them.

When visiting areas affected by the epidemic, the public is reminded of the following guidelines to reduce risks:

- Be aware of your surroundings and avoid dense patches of dead trees.
- Stay out of the forest when weather forecasts call for strong winds. If you get caught in the forest when winds kick up, head to a clearing out of reach of any potential falling trees.
- If winter camping, place tents in areas where they will not be hit if trees fall.
- Snowmobilers may want to bring an ax or chainsaw to remove fallen trees from trails to avoid being trapped.
- Do not rely on cell phones for safety as there is no coverage in many areas of the forest.

For more information on the mountain pine beetle epidemic, contact the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest at (307) 745-2300.

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