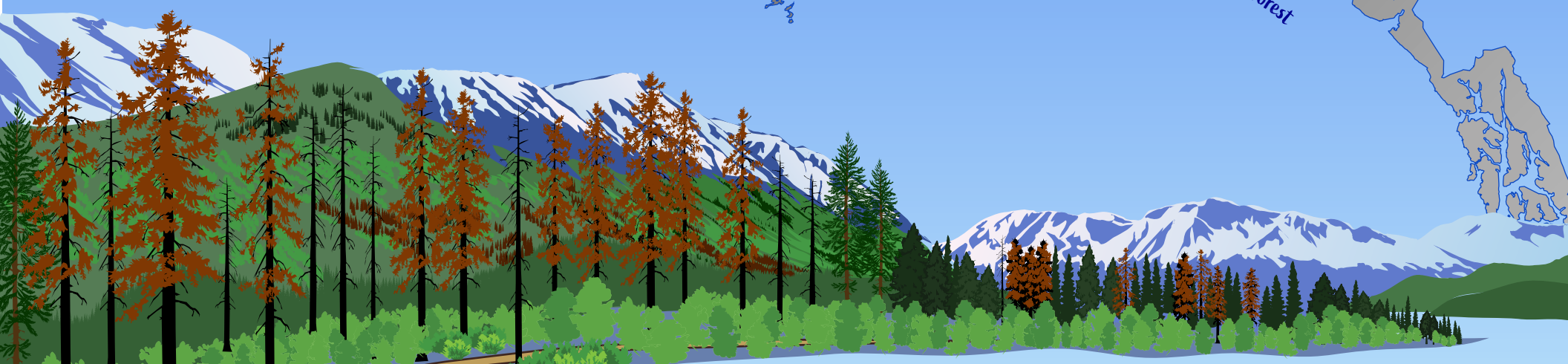




CHUGACH National Forest

SPRUCE BEETLE RESPONSE FACTSHEET



Quartz Creek
CAMPGROUND
CHUGACH
National Forest
U.S. DEPT OF AGRICULTURE

Spruce beetle outbreaks have consumed nearly 2 million acres of spruce forest in Southcentral Alaska since 2016. Milder winters allow some spruce beetles to complete their life cycles in one year instead of two. In addition more juvenile and adult beetles survive the winter, reducing the natural decline in population each year. Warmer winters combined with drought, make trees more vulnerable to infestation. On the Seward Ranger District on the Kenai Peninsula, the Chugach National Forest is combatting outbreak impacts by removing hazardous trees and accumulated fuels to improve forest health, reduce wildfire risk, and ensure the safety of visitors and wildlife.

GOALS:



Reduce fuel loads



wild harvest, and recreation



PHASE I:

focused on improving safety and visitor experience in some of the most popular recreation sites. Hazardous trees and excess fuel was removed from 250 acres along the Seward Highway, including the most heavily impacted campgrounds and trailheads on the forest. Phase 1 was completed in 2024 through a combination of contracted services and partnerships with local organizations.

PHASE II:

aims to expand these mitigation efforts to a broader landscape scale to minimize the spread of the spruce beetle outbreak. Authorities under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA), Healthy Forests Initiative (HFI) and Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) are being used to expedite cross-boundary collaboration and implementation to treat these larger areas. This phase targets 3,000 acres within the 12,581-acre footprint identified for treatment on the Seward Ranger District by 2028.

The Chugach National Forest is taking this opportunity to provide free firewood to community members and facilitate commercial firewood sales. The forest is also strategizing to explore economically viable ways to utilize biomass beyond firewood harvest.

[MORE ON SPRUCE BEETLE IN AK](#)

[REDUCING SPRUCE BEETLE ON THE CHUGACH](#)

