



YOU CAN HELP

We appreciate your understanding of the conditions and changes in the Dillon Reservoir area.

- **Don't hack away at living trees for firewood!** Campers often bring an axe or hatchet to cut firewood. Unfortunately, many often hack away at living trees for fun. Little do they know that they are creating doorways for decay fungi to enter the tree which will cause the tree to rot and die.

- **Never pound spikes or nails into trees.** When a chainsaw or lumber mill saw blade hits metal, the operators can be seriously injured, and expensive blades are ruined.

- **You can also help by educating others about the situation.**

DILLON RESERVOIR CAMPGROUNDS



For more information contact Colorado State University County Extension Office at (970) 668-3595, www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05528.html or Colorado State Forest Service Granby office at (970) 887-3121.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington D.C., 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.



PINE BEETLES ATTACK OUR FOREST



WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR TREES?

Victims of mountain pine beetle attack, the lodgepole pine trees in Dillon Reservoir campgrounds are dying by the thousands.

Several years of drought in Colorado have stressed the trees. Lower than normal precipitation affects trees just like not watering a house plant. While a tree may not die from lack of water, it becomes more susceptible to insects and disease.

Mountain pine beetles burrow into the bark of the lodgepole pine. Healthy trees usually have enough water in their system to produce pitch or 'sap' which "pitched out" the beetle when it attempts to

enter the bark. Stressed trees have no defense against the beetles.

Beetles lay their eggs in the inner bark and the larvae eat this layer, weakening the tree. In addition, the beetles carry blue staining fungi which infect the tree and contribute to its demise.

Additionally, there have been no recent wildfires in the campgrounds. Due to this, there has been little new growth on our forest for nearly 90 years. Consequently, the trees are old and more susceptible to infestation. Beetle kill is a natural process among older lodgepole pines.



WHAT THE FOREST SERVICE IS DOING ABOUT IT

A healthy forest is important because it has natural resistance to insects and disease. Professional foresters help maintain healthy forests by reducing the density of trees using both natural and prescribed fire. Foresters also cut and thin trees to improve forest health and vigor, increase diversity of wildlife habitat, provide recreation opportunities, provide wood to the public, reduce fuel hazards and grow new trees. Trees are a renewable natural resource.

Pine beetle spread in the campgrounds is slowed by physically removing the trees that contain beetle larvae. The Dillon Ranger District has contracted with logging companies to cut and remove infested trees. Dead trees are also removed because winds associated with thunderstorms are strong enough to topple them, causing a hazard to campers.

The District is spraying healthy trees with a chemical that repels the beetles. Carbaryl, a non-restricted pesticide commonly used to spray fruit trees, is pumped from a truck-mounted tank and sprayed onto the bark of the pines.



HOW THIS AFFECTS CAMPING

The cool, shady setting of the campground is changing. As trees infected by the beetles are removed, large open areas are created. In areas where many trees have died or have been removed, tree seedlings are planted so future campers can enjoy shade.

The Forest Service knows that campers prefer to set up camp under a thick canopy of pines, but trees must be removed now to avoid future damage.

The campground may be periodically closed to allow pine beetle loggers to do their work without presenting a potential hazard to campers.

