



NEWS RELEASE

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests & Thunder Basin National Grassland

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Spruce Gulch Fuels Reduction

(Laramie, April 17, 2009) – – The U.S. Forest Service proposes to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire by removing dead and dying trees near private lands. Three alternatives are considered in detail: (1) the Proposed Action with a forest health emphasis would harvest dead and dying trees from 4,370 acres, (2) Alternative 1 where no action would be taken, and (3) Alternative 2 with a fuels management emphasis would harvest trees from 2,350 acres. The Spruce Gulch area is located on the Laramie District of the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests, approximately 40 miles southwest of Laramie, Wyoming and 25 miles north of Walden, Colorado.

The *Spruce Gulch Bark Beetle and Fuels Reduction Final Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) is available at

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr/projects/foresthealth/index.shtml>. The Final EIS discloses the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts resulting from the proposed action and the alternatives. Objections are now being accepted from those who previously submitted written comments specific to this project during the 45-day formal comment period for the Draft EIS.

For more information, please contact Melissa Martin of the Laramie Ranger District at (307) 745-2371.

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