

# **Bark Beetle Information Task Force**



The Bark Beetle Information Task Force was formed in the Spring of 1999 to help residents of Routt County and surrounding areas understand potential effects of bark beetles on National Forests and private land. The Task Force includes representatives from the State Forest Service, the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests, Colorado State University Cooperative Extension, City of Steamboat Springs, Routt County, Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation, Steamboat Chamber Resort Association, Inc., Community Agriculture Alliance and Colorado State Parks.

The Task Force's mission is: To provide the public with information about bark beetles and potential tree mortality so they can make informed decisions regarding protection of their private property and provide meaningful input regarding proposed actions on public lands.

In 2001, the Task Force expanded its mission to include education about the role of fire in the ecosystem, fire prevention for homeowners, and fuel reduction projects in wildland urban interface areas.

Members of the Task Force are available to participate in discussions with civic groups, homeowners' associations and other gatherings of people interested in bark beetles.

The Bark Beetle Information Task Force has distributed bark beetle information to citizens in Routt County. It has aired numerous public service announcements, produced interpretive signs, participated in media interviews, public and Congressional tours, and published "Bark Beetles, Blowdown and Your Backyard" and "What's Eating the Trees." Other informational campaigns are underway to help people understand the effects of beetle epidemics.

Task Force members have provided guidance and expertise to local municipalities, counties and individuals regarding beetle epidemics, and wildfire mitigation and prevention.

Please call the State Forest Service at 970-879-0475, CSU Extension Service at 970-879-0825, or the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests at 970-870-2187 for more information.