

Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests Pawnee National Grassland

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News Release

USDA Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Region

Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland

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DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE ARAPAHO NATIONAL RECREATION AREA FOREST HEALTH PROJECT IN GRAND COUNTY COLO. RELEASED FOR REVIEW

Ft. Collins, Colo. (Sept. 9, 2003)—Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee Grassland Forest Supervisor, James Bedwell is asking for comments on a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) analyzing alternatives designed to moderate the mountain pine beetle infestation, reduce fuel buildup, foster a healthy forest, and preserve the scenic values in and around the Arapaho National Recreation Area (ANRA). The Notice of Availability for the DEIS was published in the Federal Register on August 29, 2003, with the 45-day comment period beginning the day after publication. The last day to comment is October 14, 2003.

"We will be using these comments to prepare the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Decision," Bedwell said.

The proposed project would mean forest management activities, including timber removal and slash clean-up would occur in developed recreation sites, along roads within or adjacent to the ANRA and Green Ridge roadless area (Indian Peaks Adjacent Area B), and adjacent to private property where forest health is declining or at risk.

"We can't eradicate the mountain pine beetle but we can slow them down in this area with this project," Rick Caissie, the project's leader, said.

The DEIS is available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/arnf/districts/srd/arapaho-national-recreation-area/forest-health/index.htm> Send comments to: James S. Bedwell, Forest Supervisor, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland, 240 W. Prospect Rd., Fort Collins, CO 80524; FAX to (970) 498-1086; or electronic mail (e-mail), to: comments-rocky-mountain-arapaho-roosevelt-sulphur@fs.fed.us. Comments must include your name and mailing address. For more information concerning this project, or to request a hard copy of the DEIS, contact Rick Caissie, Sulphur Ranger District, 9 Tenmile Drive, Box 10, Granby, CO 80446 Phone: (970) 887-4112, e-mail rcaissie@fs.fed.us.

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