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(Wyo.)-Buttes Forest Health Project Proposes to Reduce Mountain Pine Beetle

By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 01/23/2013 02:09 PM

(Sundance, WY) –The Black Hills National Forest has completed analysis of the Buttes Forest Health Project. The environmental assessment (EA) is available for public review.

The purpose of the project is to reduce the risk of mountain pine beetle infestation and maintain a diverse and resilient forest. "Beetle populations are rapidly increasing in this part of the Forest, and risk of additional infestation is high," said Steve Kozel, Bearlodge District Ranger. "By thinning these dense pine stands, we can reduce the chance that infestation will reach high levels or spread to other areas." The project will also reduce the potential for severe wildfire that could spread to adjacent lands.

The proposed project is located in Crook County, Wyoming, in the Black Buttes area south of Sundance. Activities would include thinning, removal of mountain pine beetle infested trees, prescribed burning and other fuel reduction, and watershed restoration projects.

Following a 30-day administrative review period, Kozel will make a decision on whether and how to implement the project.

-Courtesy of U.S Forest Service