



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Feb. 25, 2016

Contact: Kyle Sullivan, Public Affairs Specialist, 719-269-8553

BLM Finalizes Environmental Assessment to Treat Bark Beetle Infested Areas in Fremont County

CANON CITY, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management Royal Gorge Field Office has approved and signed a final Environmental Assessment to implement the Bark Beetle Salvage project in northwest Fremont County.

“The purpose of the project is to reduce the threat to public safety and infrastructure posed by beetle-killed trees in travel corridors and other high-risk areas, provide for resilient forests and diverse wildlife habitats,” said Field Manager, Keith Berger. “The project will also help us reduce the risk of severe wildfires and subsequent erosion and watershed damage.”

The Northwest Fremont Bark Beetle Salvage Project will take place on approximately 2,900 acres in northwestern Fremont County near Stoney Face, Waugh, and Jack Hall Mountains. The project will include commercial timber harvest, non-commercial timber management, prescribed fire, and related activities.

The final Environmental Assessment for the project, including maps of the project area are posted on the BLM’s website at: <http://blm.gov/h4ld>.

Questions on the project may be addressed to Jeremiah Moore at 719-269-8500, 3028 East Main Street, Canon City, CO 81212, or jlmoore@blm.gov.

This decision is subject to appeal in accordance with 43 CFR, Subtitle A, Part 4. Information on filing an appeal is contained in BLM Form 1842-1, which is attached to the Decision Record.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM’s mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2014, the BLM generated \$5.2 billion in receipts from public lands.

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Proposed tweet: @BLM_CO to improve public safety and forest health, reduce wildfire risk by removing beetle killed trees in Fremont Co <http://blm.gov/h4ld>

Tweet 2: @BLM_CO trying to prevent wide scale beetle kill through proactive forest management by removing beetle killed trees in Fremont Co



Photo Caption: The BLM Royal Gorge Field Office is implementing a plan to remove spruce beetle killed trees in Northwest Fremont County in order to prevent beetle kill similar to Wolf Creek Pass, pictured here. Reducing tree density can limit the rate and extent of the spruce beetle epidemic, resulting in improved forest health, resiliency and reduced fuel loads.