



## **The Wrangler**

### **June 16, 2008**

### **Rocky Mountain Pine Beetle Edition**

Well, it appears that we have made it through the long cold winter, a wildfire in March and high water looks like it will not be the threat many of us had anticipated. So, now we will turn our focus to the Rocky Mountain Pine Beetle. We can see the damage they have done in the Summit and Vail valleys. The Board of Director's, individual property owners and staff have contacted several area firms as well as the County Agricultural Agent, Colorado State Forest Service and we have identified several trees that must be removed, several that have been attacked but have repelled the beetles and many common area trees that need to be protected.

All have said the trees should be removed and treated by July 1 no later than July 15<sup>th</sup>. The Ranch will be contracting to have the damaged trees removed, the stressed trees treated and all common area Scotch, Ponderosa, Lodgepole and Austrian pine trees for the pine beetle protected.

Individual property owners can have their trees treated along with the Ranch common area trees for less than \$30 each. Please contact the office by Tuesday June 24<sup>th</sup> if you wish to have your trees treated and we will send you a bill when the work has been completed

Here is a summary of their findings:

Aspen Tree Service performed a courtesy inspection of the golf course pines and found 3 pines that had pitch tubes and informed Tom Vail that the trees needed to be removed.

While conducting the Fire Investigation Natural Resource Consultants examined the scotch, ponderosa, lodgepole and Austrian pine trees for the pine beetle, in the common recreational, common residential, condominium, golf course and residential properties (without entering closed back yards). They identified several trees that had been infested by the beetles, 4 trees were killed and 5 trees repelled the beetles (the 3 on the golf course).

Earth-Wise inventoried the condominium and residential common areas and provided a quote for treating all of the pine trees and recommended that all trees with the pitch tubes should be removed.

Mountain Lawn recommended that only the Scotch pine trees be sprayed.

Western Tree was recommended by Natural Resource, they have dealt with the pine beetle in Steamboat and Summit counties. They physically inspected the trees with pitch tubes and evaluated that the 3 on the golf course, two residential trees indeed repelled the beetles. They said that the health of the tree's and natural defenses repelled the beetles. Their recommendation was not remove these trees and treat them and reevaluate them in a year.

CSRS inspected the trees, they reported that the trees were healthy and strong; they agreed that the scotch pines should be treated and any trees that appear to be stressed. Small diameter trees and healthy trees are less susceptible to the beetles and might not need treatment.

Again, please contact us by Friday the 20th if you do want your trees treated; 970-963-3500 or [rrf\\_doc@comcast.net](mailto:rrf_doc@comcast.net)

Have a great week,