



NEWS RELEASE

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests & Thunder Basin National Grassland

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Forest Service warns about falling trees

(Steamboat Springs, Colo, June 21, 2007) – Falling trees are always a hazard when traveling in the forest. The Forest Service wants to make sure you and your vehicle are not in the way when trees fall.

“With the drought, beetle epidemics and afternoon winds, there are more trees falling than usual and people need to be vigilant about where they hike, bike, drive and camp,” said Jamie Kingsbury, Hahns Peak/Bears District Ranger.

Kingsbury said crews are working to remove these “hazard trees” at recreation sites, and on roads and trails, but it’s not possible to remove them from all areas of the forest. Following these guidelines will help recreationists avoid risks.

- Be aware of your surroundings. Avoid dense patches of dead trees. They can fall without warning.
- Stay out of the forest when there are strong winds that could blow down trees. If you are already in the forest when the winds kick up, head to a clearing out of reach of any potential falling trees.
- Place tents and park vehicles in areas where they will not be hit if trees fall.
- When driving in remote areas of the forest, park close to a main road, rather than on a spur or one-way section. If trees fall across the road you may be trapped.
- Bring an ax or a chainsaw to remove fallen trees from roads in case you become trapped.
- Do not rely on cell phones for safety as there is no coverage in many areas of the national forest.

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