



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

November 19, 2009

The City of Steamboat Springs Receives Fuels Mitigation Grant

Steamboat Springs, Colorado—The City of Steamboat Springs has received \$1,000,000 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the Colorado State Forest Service grant process.

The Steamboat Springs Area High Priority Forest Fuels Mitigation project will implement a variety of forest fuels mitigation treatments in order to substantially reduce hazardous forest fuels in high risk (red zone) Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas on both private and municipally owned lands in the Steamboat Springs area. This project, which is expected to start early in December, will encompass land owned by the City of Steamboat Springs, the Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation, several homeowners' associations, and numerous private property owners in the City of Steamboat Springs and in Routt County.

The majority of lodgepole pine trees has been affected by the Mountain Pine Beetle and is already dead, or will be dead within the next three to five years. The tremendous number of standing dead trees in this old-growth forest has resulted in very high to extreme forest fuels loading, as well as increased the risk of injury and property damage from hazard tree blowdown. The treatment of selected properties will help protect the community and neighborhoods of Steamboat Springs from severe wildfires that could occur on private and adjacent National Forest lands.

###

Contact Information:

Ron Lindroth, Fire Chief

(970) 879-4518