



## Mountain Pine Beetle Education Field Day

A Mountain Pine Beetle Education Field Day will be conducted at the Natrona County Nordic Ski Lodge located on Casper Mountain on Thursday June 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 am thru 2:00 pm.

The Mountain Pine Beetle has been steadily increasing on Casper and Muddy Mountains, as well as other lodgepole pine forests of the state. This is especially apparent in the lodgepole pine forests of southeastern Wyoming where mortality estimates are projected at nearly 100 percent. It is the intent of this workshop to educate and provide the necessary tools to forest landowners, contractors and resource professionals, so they can adequately apply these identification, control and prevention techniques on their respective properties or areas of in responsibility in the case of governmental unities.

The workshop is free and lunch will be served to all participants. Learn from resource professionals in a hands on workshop: Mountain Pine Beetle life cycles, identification, direct control and prevention spraying techniques. Following a short presentation in the lodge, the workshop will then move outside where a resource professional will, on site, cut down and implement a solar treatment on the infested tree. A solar treatment is where infested trees are cut down and infested portions are: cut into manageable pieces, scoring areas through the bark with a chainsaw and covering in a 6 mil thick clear plastic. This technique utilizes solar rays to heat and kill larvae under the bark of the tree. Next participants will begin an MPB identification exercise. They will be given marking ribbon and will fan out in a pre-inspected area, marking any infested trees they find. This will indicate to the presenters whether participates have learned or understand the MPB identification techniques presented, if not more time will be spent on this topic. Natrona County Weed & Pest personnel will address MPB preventative spray chemicals and their applications and how landowners can acquire them. The Casper Mountain Forest Stewardship Association will have their sprayer and will mix a batch of preventative spray and demonstrate spraying some mature trees. The spraying exercise will show what equipment will be needed and the proper rate of application. The resource professionals will be available to all participants to answer any questions throughout the workshop. There will be 4 ISA certified arborist CEUs available for resource professionals.

**All participants must RSVP No later than Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> 2008.** Contact Deena McDaniels, Natrona County Conservation District at (307)234-4022 or [deena.hood@wy.nacdnet.net](mailto:deena.hood@wy.nacdnet.net) to register or for additional information. The workshop is sponsored by Natrona County Conservation District, RC&D Historic Trails, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Natrona County Weed & Pest, UW Cooperative Extension Service, Wyoming State Forestry Division, Casper Mountain Forest Stewardship Association & Natrona County Road, Bridge and Parks Department.