

**For Immediate Release:**

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Steamboat Springs, Colorado

**The Next Forest – A Community Tree Planting Day**

When you think of beetles, what first may come to mind is the famous band from Liverpool England. But today, on the western slope in Colorado, what's on most people's minds is dead red trees across the hillsides caused by the Mountain Pine Beetle.

Back in 1999, the Bark Beetle Information Task Force (BBITF) formed in Routt County to share information about the impending spruce beetle epidemic, triggered by the Routt Divide Blowdown. The current pine beetle epidemic was unforeseen at the time, but the group easily transitioned its education efforts from one beetle to the other. The group is comprised of representatives from a diverse list of agencies including the US Forest Service, Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado State University Cooperative Extension, Colorado State Parks, City of Steamboat Springs, Steamboat Springs Chamber Resort Association, Routt County, Community Agricultural Alliance, and the Public At Large.

Now ten years later, the BBITF is still going strong and celebrating its 10th anniversary by hosting a community tree planting day to foster awareness and participation in helping create the next generation forest. The entire community is invited to plant a tree and watch it grow throughout the years. The event has a special focus on youth participation. The Steamboat Sustainable Business Program participants are also supporting the event by providing volunteers.

Go Alpine Taxi and the City of Steamboat Springs have generously donated people movers to transport volunteers from Steamboat Springs to Steamboat Lake State Park to plant trees. If you drive, volunteers are asked to park at the Marina, and will not need to purchase a park pass. Every one is welcome!

**IF YOU GO:**

**When:** Friday, June 26, 2009, 10:30am-2:00pm

**Where:** Meet at Steamboat Lake State Park – Park at the Marina. Volunteers will not need to purchase park pass.

**BUS RIDE: ALPINE TAXI and the CITY OF STEAMBOAT SPRINGS** have generously offered to donate people movers to transport volunteers to the tree planting event. Meet in Steamboat at 9:30 at USFS Office on HWY 40 (across from the Holiday Inn) – and return at approximately 3:30.

**A RSVP is required** to retain a seat on the bus - first come first served by calling 879-6323

**Agenda:**

10:30 Welcome

10:45 A Few Words About Beetle Infestation and our Next Forest – Oscar  
Martinez, Yampa District Ranger

11:00 Gather teams and walk to tree planting site

**What to Wear:** Dress for the weather and for being outside and getting dirty, rugged boots suggested

**What to Bring:** A water bottle and a snack. Tools will be provided. Bring a spade if you have one.

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