

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT – JUNE 11, 2011

This past winter was very hard due to some very cold weather, harsh drying winds and very little snow cover. This weather was hard on our vegetation and drought stress is now becoming apparent, especially in high wind areas. Some evergreens pushed new growth prematurely due to the abnormally warm days, only to have the new growth frozen by very cold weather which followed.

The stress may cause some shrubs and trees to be more subject to insects and disease problems. There is already lots of branch and twig dieback showing up in the poplar family which includes cottonwoods and aspen. Conifer aphids will probably be a problem this year. Leaf distortion is appearing on mountain mahogany. The cause is unknown at this time but may be due to an insect called a psyllid.

Some pines are experiencing copious resin flows. Some of this may be caused by borers. On other trees, there does not appear to be any outside cause.

A new boring insect has been found on junipers in Denver. Hopefully this insect will not get into the mountains.

If you intend to spray or install pheromone patches, it should be done within the next month. We have moved into this wonderful area and it is our responsibility to take care of our properties.

Wildfire is always out there. Be vigilant.

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