

## ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT - SEPTEMBER 8, 2007

### **Trees**

Mountain pine beetle flew about three weeks ago. They have attacked new target trees and a new cycle is starting. This is a good time to identify the trees that have been newly attacked so plans can be made how to get rid of them before July/August of 2008. There is a tree on a property on Bulwark Ridge Dr. that has been attacked by more beetles than I have ever seen on one tree. It had been attacked by Ips beetle and the upper third of the tree was already dead which attracted mountain pine beetle.

Reminder – Don't give beetle-kill firewood to anyone unless the wood has been treated in some way to kill the developing beetle. Many Limber, Scots and Austrian pine have been destroyed by mountain pine beetle all the way from Fort Collins and Windsor down to Colorado Springs. Most of these pine deaths have been traced to contaminated firewood brought in from the mountains. Many people still have the misconception that the beetle won't continue to develop in a tree that has been taken down and cut up. Don't spread the beetle to the urban setting.

### **Weeds**

We are developing a real problem with Canada Thistle in The Retreat. I have noticed some this summer along most of our roadways. It is a big problem on Dunraven Glade. The County Weed Control won't be much help for this year. They have almost total new personnel and are still getting reorganized. They will still issue citations to homeowners who have a big problem and are not doing anything to try and control it. Next year the County Weed Control hopes to host community meetings and set up work groups within separate areas to try and get the problem under control.

### **Bear**

Bear will be heading for winter hibernation shortly. During the remaining time until they do, they will be extremely hungry and will be hunting for food constantly. Be aware.

### **Wildfire**

We have had three wildfires in the area this summer. The GHVFD has done a great job in putting these out. It is up to all of us to be vigilant, especially during lightning storms, and report these fires as soon as spotted. Also watch for people smoking on Miller Fork trail. There are many cigarette butts thrown in the grass.

### **Hunting Season**

Hunting season is here. Hunters will be using the trailhead frequently. Last year, we had problems with poachers. Lets all watch for cars and trucks that are in areas where they shouldn't be and seem to be looking for game. We need to report any suspicious vehicles.

Peggy Burch