

## ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT, December 10, 2011

Trees – The mountain pine beetle marches on. Trees in the retreat were hit by the beetle as early as June and as late as the last half of September. Some of the tree experts are now thinking that there might be two separate flights of MPB during the season. In lower elevations, beetle attacks have happened as early as May and as late as October. At this point, two flights of MPB in one season are just anecdotal and would be difficult to prove scientifically. There have been fewer reports of trees attacked at lower elevations this last fall.

The extreme weather conditions that we have experienced lately are hard on our trees. This will have the tendency to weaken the trees and make them more susceptible to beetle attack next year. Don't cut trees or limbs from April/May to October time frame as the fresh sap can draw the beetles. It is OK to cut entirely dead trees or limbs at anytime.

There is a new beetle in Colorado, the brown marmorated stink bug. First identified by CSU in the middle of October, it is a foreign invader that damages fruit and invades home in the fall. It gives off a very obnoxious odor when disturbed and is difficult to eliminate from homes. It was first identified about 8 years ago on the east coast and has now spread to the midwest and the west coast of the U.S.



It resembles some stink bugs that are often seen but the characteristics of the black and white markings are very different. As it is new to Colorado, it is not known if it will spread to higher elevations. We hope not.

Invasive Weeds – It has been noticed by several people that we have areas in The Retreat where noxious, invasive weeds are becoming well-established. These types of weeds are illegal in Larimer County. We all need to work on the elimination of these weeds. For further information see:

[www.larimer.org/weeds](http://www.larimer.org/weeds)

Submitted by: Peggy Burch 577-1912