

# Save the Date!!! August 4, 2016

## Rio Grande Basin Wood Utilization Workshop

Since 2005, eighty-five percent of the spruce forests in the Rio Grande Basin have been infested with spruce beetles. Today, an estimated 500,000 acres of standing dead trees create a wildfire and travel corridor safety hazard. Forest and watershed health could be improved by removing these dead trees and thinning non-spruce stands.

However, removal and thinning are costly activities. Unless nearby businesses can buy the harvested material and process it into a saleable product, mitigating hazards through salvage, thinning, and restoration activities are limited by high removal and thinning costs.

Currently, only a few businesses in the region utilize trees. Therefore, a key objective of this workshop is to foster development of wood utilizing businesses in the area. The agenda is still a work in progress, but it will be aimed at meeting the preceding objective and is expected to include:

- An overview of the current status of the region's forests presented by the U.S. Forest Service
- A review of the various mechanisms by which the U.S. Forest Service and other public agencies can provide forest products based businesses with the raw material needed (i.e., timber sales contracts, stewardship contracts, permits, etc.)
- Two to four case studies of small diameter wood utilization success stories, including key information about business planning for capital expenses, operating expenses, raw material requirements, product sales values, management and labor needs, etc. Note that the case studies presented will be selected based on their applicability to the forests and conditions of the Rio Grande Basin
- A panel of existing forest products based businesses in the region will offer a description of their experiences
- Presentations from local, state, and national economic development groups containing information about how entrepreneurs can obtain funding to begin planning and developing forest products based businesses in the region

### **Where & When:**

The workshop will be held on August 4, 2016 in the meeting room of the new Rio Grande Water Conservation District Building: 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101. Registration is \$10 per person, with lunch, snacks, and beverages being provided. Please call Bonnie Asplin at 719-657-2827 to register. This will be an all day event—schedule details will be provided as they are developed.

### **Who:**

The event is open to the public—so anyone with an interest in forest and watershed health, forest restoration, forest products utilization, and business and economic development is welcome to attend.

### **Sponsored by:**



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