



Colorado State Forest Service
5060 Campus Delivery
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060
970.491.6303; FAX 970.491.7736
<http://csfs.colostate.edu/>

NEWS

For Immediate Release

October 29, 2014

Contact for Reporters: Ryan Lockwood

970.491.8970

ryan.lockwood@colostate.edu

Forestry experts to offer pine sawfly informational meeting in Kiowa

FRANKTOWN, Colo. – Forestry, extension and entomology experts will host a Nov. 15 public meeting in Kiowa to discuss the pine sawfly outbreak underway in Elbert and El Paso counties. The meeting is intended to provide information to local landowners about how to prepare and manage for next spring's emergence of this native insect.

In July, the pine sawfly, which defoliates ponderosa pines, reached epidemic levels in Elbert County and the northern edges of El Paso County. Residents in the area witnessed heavy defoliation of impacted pine trees and large numbers of sawfly larvae.

Currently the Colorado State Forest Service Franktown District, in partnership with the USDA Forest Service and local entomology experts, is conducting a broad-scale pine sawfly egg survey in Elbert and El Paso counties to help determine if landowners can expect to see another severe outbreak of the insect in the spring/summer of 2015.

The November meeting is intended to provide a review of the biology and habits of the sawfly, describe the egg survey process and its results, and help residents better prepare and manage for next year's outbreak. Presenters will include experts with the CSFS, Elbert County Extension, Forest Health Management International and the USDA Forest Service.

The meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Elbert County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall, 95 Ute Ave., Kiowa, Colo. Those interested in attending the meeting are asked to RSVP to reserve a seat, by calling the CSFS Franktown District at 303-660-9625.

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