

# PESTICIDE ALERT

## Boulder/Nederland water, wildlife, & people at risk

**Eldora ski area and the U.S. Forest Service are planning to spray 1000 trees with a very toxic pesticide (~5000 gallons of carbaryl)** sometime between June 27<sup>th</sup> and July 11<sup>th</sup>. Immediately following their 2008 carbaryl spraying several people living in the valley community right below became ill with symptoms typical of carbaryl exposure. Some were sick for many weeks; two have yet to fully recover. Additionally, after three years of these large scale sprayings directly above the Boulder Creek watershed, Boulder recently reported finding carbaryl in their municipal water supply.

Carbaryl, used to repel the Mountain Pine Beetle away from select trees, has been banned in five countries due to safety concerns. The EPA lists it as a "likely human carcinogen" and it has been linked to miscarriage; DNA damage; lowered sperm counts; respiratory problems; and liver, kidney, and immune system damage. It is highly toxic to bees, *beneficial insects that eat the Mountain Pine Beetle*, and the aquatic insects that the trout eat. Some of these effects can be seen at very low levels of exposure.

Eldora area winds are notoriously erratic. Since **air concentrations of pesticides peak between 8 and 24 hours after application**, it is impossible to guarantee that the wind direction and speed will not change and cause toxic pesticide vapor to drift into the community and potentially harm its many high-risk residents.

In addition to the joint Eldora Mtn. Resort/USFS spray project, the USFS has been spraying carbaryl at area campgrounds and USFS work areas (12,000 gallons of solution since 2007). Some are very close to neighborhoods and pose a potential risk to campers, hikers, and residents

Nearby Grand County has been spraying carbaryl heavily for several years; now their water is contaminated, their forests are dead and brown, and their residents are angry. Why are we going down the same road? The consensus among foresters and researchers alike is that the beetle problem is natural, cyclical, and unstoppable. The mass spraying that is being done cannot save the destruction of the forest. It can only save a relatively few high value trees. Yet businesses and government officials continue to make decisions that cause long-term human suffering and environmental damage in exchange for negligible short-term gain. In the case of the USFS, our tax dollars are supporting this poisoning of our environment.

Please contact the following people immediately (example form letter attached) and demand a halt to all future pesticide spraying in the Eldora/Nederland area.

- Glenn Casamassa: Arapahoe, Roosevelt, and Pawnee Forest Supervisor: 970-295-6603  
[gcasamassa@fs.fed.us](mailto:gcasamassa@fs.fed.us)
- Jim Spenst, General Manager, Eldora Mountain Resort: 303-440-8700 extension 226  
[Jim.spenst@eldora.com](mailto:Jim.spenst@eldora.com)

THANK YOU!