

## International Year of Forests celebrates woodlands

GOLDEN, CO— The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to bolster efforts to promote sustainable management, conservation, and development of forests worldwide. The official campaign will be celebrated on national, regional, and local levels. Using the tagline "Celebrate Forests...Celebrate Life," the celebration will increase awareness and understanding of the value of America's forests. The connection of forests to health will be communicated through four major themes: clean air and water, ecosystem health, economic health, and community and personal health.

In support of this declaration, the U.S. Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Region, in partnership with its sister federal land management agencies, state agencies, and private and other partner organizations, will host a number of activities to celebrate the International Year of Forests.

"The International Year of Forests is a great way to increase awareness and understanding of healthy forests and how they affect people in the Rocky Mountain Region," said Rick Cables, regional forester for the Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Region. "Our forests are being impacted by encroachment, disease, and insects. This increased awareness will highlight the work that our partners, scientists, managers, and specialists are doing right here in the region to promote sustainable

management and keep our forests healthy."

The Forest Service will incorporate the International Year of Forests theme into many of the Forest Service's annual public events such as Earth Day, Arbor Day, National Get Outdoors Day, National Public Lands Day, Weeks Act 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations, and other appropriate

community gatherings during 2011.

Forests across the region will host various activities throughout the year. For more information on the International Year of Forests and upcoming events see these websites:

United Nations— [www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011](http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011); U.S. Forest Service— <http://www.fs.fed.us>; National Association of State Foresters— [http://stateforesters.org/issues/issues\\_and\\_policy/2011-year-of-forests](http://stateforesters.org/issues/issues_and_policy/2011-year-of-forests); National Association of State Foresters/Forest Service— [www.celebrateforests.com](http://www.celebrateforests.com); American Forest Foundation— [http://www.forestfoundation.org/international\\_year\\_of\\_forests.html](http://www.forestfoundation.org/international_year_of_forests.html)— Steve Segin, U.S. Forest Service.

