Welcome and Introduction: A State in a Tight Spot

Mike Eckhoff, PhD Candidate
Department of Forest, Rangeland, and Watershed Stewardship
Colorado State University
21 February 2008
Common (Mis)Perceptions

Forest Health
(14-Jan-08)

Stories, such as this one from Monday, are occurring more frequently as evidence of the epidemic becomes more apparent.

Source: http://www.denverpost.com/ci_7967666
Environmentalists Get Antsy Over Pine Beetle Surge

By Steven K. Paulson, Associated Press Writer

FRISCO, Colo. (AP) — Firefighters in the mountain resort town of Frisco love to tell the story of the couple from Texas who wanted to know where they could buy one of those beautiful red evergreens that surround Lake Dillon.

They offered the couple a chain saw and told them to take as many as they wanted. The trees aren’t red, they’re dead.

Source: http://cbs4denver.com/local/pine.beetle.2.560869.html
Graph showing real retail prices for residential natural gas (per thousand cubic feet) from June 2000 to April 2007.

Source: US Energy Information Administration
Common (Mis)Perceptions

Energy Trends

Graph showing real retail prices for regular gasoline for both Colorado (blue) and the U.S. (red) from June 2000 to June 2007.

Source: US Energy Information Administration
Common (Mis)Perceptions

Energy Trends

According to the Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute, approximately one out of every five families is living below the Self-Sufficiency Standard and Federal Poverty Level in 2000. Rising energy costs force families to decide between necessities.

Table 2
County Households by the Self-Sufficiency Standard and Federal Poverty Level: Colorado 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Households</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent of Households</th>
<th>Percent of Total</th>
<th>Percent of Total</th>
<th>Percent of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Below Self-Sufficiency Standard</td>
<td>Below Standard and Below Poverty</td>
<td>Below Standard and Above Poverty</td>
<td>Total Below Standard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Total</td>
<td>Percent of Total</td>
<td>Percent of Total</td>
<td>Percent of Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,234,029</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: http://www.cclponline.org/ccs/documents/CCLPBooklet_FINAL.pdf