

2003 Fuels Treatment Projects on the Boulder and Clear Creek Ranger Districts Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests

Fuel Reduction Implementation Projects

Project Name	Treatment Acres	Treatment Type	Ranger District
Winiger Ridge	500	Mechanical Thinning and Slash Treatments	Boulder Ranger District

** 2003 Accomplishments – 540 acres were completed or are currently under contract to be completed.*

The purpose of the Winiger Ridge Ecosystem Management Pilot Project is to work collaboratively to reduce the potential for catastrophic insect, disease and wildfire events while improving overall ecosystem health in the project area. This project is designated as a “Reinvention Pilot Project” for the National Forest System lands within the project area. It is one of the projects specifically funded to demonstrate a “boundariless” approach to natural resource management, and to use different and new techniques in contracting and applied vegetation management. Emphasis is on cooperation between land management agencies and interested landowners and stakeholders.

Project Planning was complete during the summer of 2000 and provided for approximately 2,475 acres of treatments over a 5-year period. Actual treatment acres will be approximately 1000 acres due to implementation challenges. Implementation began in the fall of 2000 and continues today. During the 2003 operating season, approximately 500 acres will be treated using a variety of thinning prescriptions designed for the site. Out of the 500 acres, approximately 390 acres will be implemented using Forest Service contracts and crews, and the Colorado State Forest Service will administer 110 acres.

Community involvement with this project has been exceptionally extensive and challenging. Public field trips to monitor activities are scheduled periodically and have been well attended. Concern has been expressed over slash pile burning and other biomass treatments. Implementation costs have been a concern with this project. Contracting costs have been approximately \$600. per acre, activities accomplished with Forest Service crews have been about \$200. per acre.

Key Contact: Amy Krommes, Forester, 303-245-6406

Project Name	Treatment Acres	Treatment Type	Ranger District
Gross Reservoir Prescribed Burn	400	Prescribed Fire	Boulder Ranger District

**** 2003 Accomplishments – Approximately 50 acres burned***

The Gross Reservoir Prescribed Burn Project has been waiting for an appropriate burn window for over 3 years. Weather conditions and smoke have been the roadblocks to implementation. An attempt was made to initiate the project during the fall of 2002 and was shut down when it appeared that project objectives would not be met.

This project is located within the Winiger Ridge Project Area just east of Gross Reservoir. The primary objective is fuel reduction. The area contains a variety of open and dense forest conditions with significant old bug killed trees. Burning would be accomplished with a variety of cooperators that will include volunteer fire departments, Americorps crews, National Park crews and Forest Service crews. Implementation costs are expected to be about \$200. per acre.

Key Contact: Ed Guzman, Boulder Fire Management Officer, 303-541-2520

Project Name	Treatment Acres	Treatment Type	Ranger District
Santa Fe Fuel Reduction Project	180	Mechanical Thinning and Slash Treatments	Clear Creek Ranger District

**** 2003 Accomplishments – Approximately 137 acres were completed or put under contract***

The Santa Fe Project is located immediately south of I-70, overlooking Idaho Springs. The primary emphasis is on fuel reduction and the construction of safety zones in the event of wildfire. Planning was completed in 2002 and implementation is scheduled to begin this summer. The primary objective is to enable a safe and effective response to wildfire ignitions and reduce the probability of a large crown fire. Limitations to treatment acres are due to steep and erosive soils in the project area and a difficult access route into the area. A major concern with burning slash is with smoke dispersion and the risk of putting excessive smoke in the I-70 corridor. Implementation costs are expected to range from \$200. to \$600. per acre (not including road improvement costs).

Key Contact: Amy Krommes, Forester, 303-245-6406

Project Name	Treatment Acres	Treatment Type	Ranger District
Columbine Fuel Reduction Project	400	Mechanical Thinning and Slash Treatments	Clear Creek Ranger District

**** 2003 Accomplishments – Approximately 400 acres were completed or are under contract***

The Columbine Fuel Treatment Project is located to the north of Idaho Springs. It is characterized by rolling topography containing a sea of lodgepole pine forest with islands of aspen and limber pine. The project area is used heavily by off-road vehicles. Lynx habitat and old growth forest conditions are key points to the environmental analysis that was completed in 2002. Smoke impacts and the risk of an escape fire are concerns heard from the adjacent landowners.

The treatments will form a north-south band across the project area to create a fuel-break for a housing sub-division to the east of the project. The treatments include a combination of thinning and mastication to reduce ladder fuels. Other treatments include slash burning, meadow enhancement by removing encroaching conifers, conifer removal to encourage aspen regeneration and thinning of small trees in regenerated stands. Costs are expected to be the same as above projects.

Key Contact: Amy Krommes, Forester, 303-245-6406

Project Name	Treatment Acres	Treatment Type	Ranger District
Pedee Creek	100	Prescribed Burn	Clear Creek Ranger District

The Pedee Creek Project is part of a cooperative effort with the Colorado State Forest Service. It is being developed in conjunction with activities in the Mount Evan State Wildlife Area. Thinning and burning on State Land and prescribed burning only on National Forest land are the major activities associated with this wildlife enhancement and fuel reduction project. Some pretreatment of fuels on FS land would be done prior to implementation of the burn. Some prescribed burning has already taken place on the State lands, mechanical treatments may occur this summer. Planning is scheduled to be complete for the National Forest System land portion this year and burning would occur in 2004 depending on having an appropriate burn window.

Key Contact: Wendy Magwire, Wildlife Biologist, 303-567-3027

Project Name	Treatment Acres	Treatment Type	Ranger District
Lakeshore Good Neighbor Project	25	Mechanical Thinning and Slash Treatments	Boulder Ranger District

The Boulder Ranger District and the Colorado State Forest Service are working together to plan and implement the Lakeshore Good Neighbor Project located adjacent to the Lakeshore sub-division and near Gross Reservoir in Boulder County. The small community has been working together with their Fire Departments and the State Forest Service to complete defensible space treatments on private land adjacent to National Forest land. Their work is nearly complete.

The Lakeshore Project consists of thinning and slash removal on about 25 acres of National Forest land located between two parcels of private land. The primary objective is fuel reduction and to continue the defensible profile from private land to NF land. Planning is complete and the decision was signed in November 2003. A public concern has been raised concerning access to the project area. The issue concerns the opening of an existing road and the potential for increased and inappropriate use in the area. The Colorado State Forest Service will facilitate this project under the Good Neighbor agreement and implementation may begin this winter.

Key Contact: Mark Martin, Planning Team Leader, 303-245-6409

Fuel Reduction Planning Projects

Project Name	Treatment Acres	Treatment Type	Ranger District
Sugarloaf Fuel Reduction Project	4,500	Mechanical Thinning	Boulder Ranger District
	1,200	Prescribed Fire	

The Sugarloaf Fuel Reduction Project is a landscape scale project currently in the planning phase of development. An environmental assessment document is expected around the first of June with a decision by mid-July. It is located due west of Boulder and includes one of the more populated areas within the Forest boundary. Planning began during the summer of 2002 and has included mailings to over 2,500 property owners and other interested members of the public, several public meetings and presentations at various town meetings. The Planning Area contains approximately 25,000 acres with over 11,000 in other ownerships. The project is designed to reduce the threat of crown fire ignition and spread in the wildland-urban interface. Key issues identified during analysis include the risk of escape fire during prescribed burns, increased use and abuse from opening the forest by thinning, impacts to wildlife and impacts to scenery.

This project proposes to reduce fuels by thinning over-dense stands, restoring natural firebreaks such as meadows and aspen habitats and restoring fire within the fire-adapted, ponderosa pine ecosystem. The project area includes many communities and scattered homes adjacent to treatment areas. The landscape ownership pattern is incredibly fragmented due to the historic mining district claims from as far back as the mid to late 1800's. Today this land contains many high-value, year-round homes and sub-divisions.

This project is expected to produce a significant amount of biomass that will require treatment or disposal. The environmental assessment was completed in October 2003. The decision is expected this winter. Implementation is expected to begin in the summer of 2004.

Key Contact: Mark Martin, Planning Team Leader, 303-245-6409

Project Name	Treatment Acres	Treatment Type	Ranger District
James Creek Fuel Reduction Project	6000	Mechanical Thinning and Prescribed Burning	Boulder Ranger District

The James Creek Fuel Reduction Project is a project at the very beginning of development and design. It is located just north of the Sugarloaf Project Area and includes the communities of Jamestown and Ward. This project is in the initial stages of development with public scoping just underway. Approximately 2,500 letters were sent to landowners within the project area and to interested stakeholders. A public meeting was held on May 20th to introduce this project to the public. Other meetings have been held in Jamestown and Ward.

The James Creek Fuel Reduction Project is a landscape scale project similar to Sugarloaf. An environmental assessment document is expected around the end of March with a decision in May of 2004. It is located northwest of Boulder and is another populated area within the Forest boundary. The Planning Area contains approximately 38,000 acres with just over 14,000 in other ownerships. This project is being designed to reduce the threat of crown fire ignition and spread in the wildland-urban interface.

This project will propose to reduce fuels by thinning over-dense stands, restoring natural firebreaks such as meadows and aspen habitats and restoring fire within the fire-adapted, ponderosa pine ecosystem. The project area includes many communities and scattered homes adjacent to treatment areas. The landscape ownership pattern is fragmented near the community of Jamestown and along Lefthand Canyon due to historic mining claims.

This project is expected to produce a significant amount of biomass that will require treatment or disposal. Implementation is expected to begin in 2005.

Key Contact: Mark Martin, Planning Team Leader, 303-245-6409

Project Name	Treatment Acres	Treatment Type	Ranger District
Evergreen Fuel Reduction Project	500-1000	Mechanical Thinning and Slash Treatments	Clear Creek Ranger District

Planning and design of the Evergreen Fuel Reduction Project is scheduled to begin this winter. A public meeting is scheduled for December 8 in Evergreen to introduce this project to the public. This project may be planned through a partnership agreement with the Pike-San Isabel National Forest. The South Platte Ranger District is planning a fuel reduction project in the Harris Park area adjacent to the Evergreen project area. We are currently exploring the opportunity to complete the planning and environmental analysis, including public involvement, together and through the use of a service contract. The contract would begin this fall with completion in approximately 12 months.

The Evergreen portion of this project would focus on thinning and slash removal within the wildland urban interface areas near private land. Treatments would be accomplished using a variety of techniques and equipment suitable to stand conditions. The project area is about 3,000 acres and treatments are expected to cover 500 to 1000 acres. This project will be designed to reduce the threat of crown fire ignition and spread in the wildland-urban interface. Key issues have yet to be identified for this project.

This project is expected to produce a moderate amount of biomass that will require treatment or disposal. Implementation is expected to begin in 2005.

Key Contact: Mark Martin, Planning Team Leader, 303-245-6409