

**2004 Fuels Reduction Implementation / Fuels Planning  
Project Narratives  
Arapaho / Roosevelt National Forests  
Canyon Lakes Ranger District/ Sulphur Ranger District**

**Fuels Reduction Implementation Projects**

| <b>Project Name</b> | <b>Treatment Acres</b> | <b>Treatment Type</b> | <b>Ranger District</b> |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Dadd Bennett        | 1,000                  | Prescribed Burn       | Canyon Lakes           |

Progress continues in burning this 7,000-acre project area. Dadd Bennett is bounded by Pingree Park Road, Poudre Canyon Highway, and the Crown Point Road. The area is south of the Poudre Canyon, less steep than the adjacent Cache la Poudre Wilderness but still with marked variations in vegetation and burn windows dictated by slope and aspect. Cover is mostly mixed conifer dominated by lodgepole on north faces but with large areas of ponderosa, Douglas fir and mixed conifer on south aspects. At the south edge of the project area are some old timber sale harvest units including regeneration plantations that will not be burned. Fire crews have largely finished mitigating fuel ladders around the edge of the project. A portion of the remaining area to be burned will require aerial ignition from a helicopter due to steep rocky slopes and the need to provide for firefighter safety. A small area of erosive soil that will be burned at lower intensity is the other key internal concern.

- Acres treated – 1,100
- Key Contact – Chuck Alluisi, Canyon Lakes Ranger District Fire Management Officer (970) 498-1358

| <b>Project Name</b> | <b>Treatment Acres</b> | <b>Treatment Type</b> | <b>Ranger District</b> |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Sheep Creek 1       | 600                    | Prescribed Burn       | Canyon Lakes           |

Key analysis topics included the risk of escape fire, effects to old growth and changes to popular OHV and 4x4 routes. Many of the commercial sale units are also designed with fuels mitigation in mind. The fuels units include both thinning with pile burning, and broadcast burning.

Because the entire Sheep Creek geo area is over 100,000 acres, it was divided into two projects that are more manageable. Sheep Creek 1 is the portion north of Cherokee Park Road, County Road 80C. Much of the area is lodgepole. Toward the eastern and lower quarter of the area, overgrown ponderosa appears on east as well as south aspects. Terrain is mostly rolling and well exposed to upper level winds. George Creek, Eaton Reservoir, and Bull Mountain are some of the historic lodgepole crown fires in the general vicinity. Private lands are moderately developed. In Sheep Creek 1 there is one subdivision of a square mile that is partially built out, and 2 or 3 other scattered individual residences. In the east half of the Sheep Creek 1 project area, Colorado Division of Wildlife land abuts National Forest.

- Acres treated – 0
- Key Contact – Chuck Alluisi, Canyon Lakes Ranger District Fire Management Officer (970) 498-1358

| <b>Project Name</b>                                 | <b>Treatment Acres</b> | <b>Treatment Type</b> | <b>Ranger District</b> |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Cache la Poudre Wilderness Fire Restoration Project | 800                    | Prescribed Fire       | Canyon Lakes           |

The project area for this analysis is located within the Cache la Poudre Wilderness Geographic Area and covers approximately 3,600 acres of the total 9443 acres Wilderness. The project area is bordered by the Cache la Poudre River and Highway 14 to the north, the Pingree Park Road (CR 131) to the west, the Stove Prairie Road (CR 27) to the east, and Forest Road 152 to the south. The elevation within the project area ranges from 6600 feet to 8132 feet.

The project proposes to initiate the restoration of fire into the landscape of the Cache la Poudre Wilderness Area through the application of prescribed fire to approximately 2,100 acres of National Forest Lands. The Cache la Poudre prescribed fire is designed to reduce the high fuel loading under controlled burning conditions where fire intensities and severities can be monitored and managed. The project area was determined based on the need for fuel reduction and resource protection. Boundaries were selected based on topography, aspect and probable anchor points or control points. The successful implementation of the project will support the Forest Plan adopted fire strategy of Prescription Control. The Decision Notice was signed in May 2003. Implementation is expected to begin in October, 2003.

- Key Contact – Richard Edwards, Canyon Lakes Ranger District Planning Team Leader (970) 498-1368

| <b>Project Name</b>           | <b>Treatment Acres</b> | <b>Treatment Type</b> | <b>Ranger District</b> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Dowdy Lake / Seven Mile Piles | 150                    | Prescribed Fire       | Canyon Lakes           |

Activity slash generated from thinning will be burned during the winter. Strict smoke management guidelines and the need to perform this operation with snow on the ground, make this a slow process. Piles will continue to be burned on the entire 150 acre planning area as conditions permit.

- Acres treated – 20
- Key Contact – Richard Edwards, Canyon Lakes Ranger District Planning Team Leader (970) 498-1368

| <b>Project Name</b> | <b>Treatment Acres</b> | <b>Treatment Type</b> | <b>Ranger District</b> |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Crystal Lakes       | 1,000                  | Mechanical            | Canyon Lakes           |

Approximately 1,000 acres of mechanical vegetation management for fuels reduction will be contracted in FY 2004. The planning area contains approximately 10,000 acres of National Forest Lands intermixed with 8,000 acres of private land.

The goals of the project are to:

- Continue the ongoing collaborative effort with Colorado State Forest Service, Larimer County, Crystal Lakes Association and Beaver Creek Association to implement planned Firewise Community concepts
- Maintain / establish a defensible fuel profile to reduce the risk of crown fire
- Maintain patch sizes that mimic naturally occurring patterns.

- Key Contact – Richard Edwards, Canyon Lakes Ranger District Planning Team Leader (970) 498-1368

| Project Name                           | Treatment Acres | Treatment Type | Ranger District |
|--|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Dowdy Lake 2 / Red Feather Work Center | 100             | Mechanical     | Canyon Lakes    |

This project consists of about 250 acres of mechanical fuels reduction scheduled for implementation this year. A mild winter allowed crews to make progress on about 150 acres of “defensible fuel profile thinning” and piling of excess tops and branches (called slash). These piles of slash will be allowed to dry and will be burned next winter. Public firewood gathering will be allowed to clean up the down material remaining from the thinning. The primary vegetation type is ponderosa pine and Douglas fir. Pockets of aspen that are being overcrowded by conifers dot the landscape. In addition to thinning for fuel reduction, this project is also preserving these aspen by eliminating small conifers within aspen stands. Dowdy Lake is located near Red Feather Lakes and is one of the projects on the Canyon Lakes Ranger District where our neighbors express interest in fuels reduction or a similar opportunity arises.

- Acres treated – 20
- Key Contact – Richard Edwards, Canyon Lakes Ranger District Planning Team Leader (970) 498-1368

| Project Name  | 2003 Treatment Acres | Treatment Type | Ranger District |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| South Elkhorn | 100                  | Mechanical     | Canyon Lakes    |

This project consists of about 255 acres of mechanical fuels reduction scheduled for implementation in 2003 and 2004. This area is located in the Elkhorn Creek area west of Red Feather Lakes. Cover consists of mostly young lodgepole pine, although south exposures contain ponderosa pine and Douglas fir. The area was logged previously and is in need of pre-commercial thinning and existing slash modification.

- Key Contact – Richard Edwards, Canyon Lakes Ranger District Planning Team Leader (970) 498-1368

| Project Name | Treatment Acres | Treatment Type               | Ranger District |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Seven Mile   | 960*            | Mechanical / Prescribed Burn | Canyon Lakes    |

Thinning and harvest in the Sevenmile Stewardship project are underway. A total of 960 acres will be harvested and was contracted at the end of fiscal year 2001. Of that, 300 acres will also be non-commercially thinned. The other part of the project is broadcast burning, that partially overlaps the thinned area. A mountain pine beetle outbreak is intensifying in the area, which has been a motivation to thin stands of dead and infested trees.

Sevenmile is between Rustic and Redfeather Lakes on both sides of the Manhattan Road, in the vicinity of Prohibition Mountain. It augments westward the Swamp Lady treatment area that

was implemented as a prescribed burn over five years ago. The stands are ponderosa and lodgepole pine with moderate in-growth of Douglas fir.

Sevenmile is one of the Arapaho/Roosevelt's three stewardship projects. The others are Mount Evans and Winiger. There are 52 stewardship projects nationwide. They are intended to explore procedural methods to accomplish fuels work, especially in recognition that much of the vegetation that needs removal is not commercially valuable.

\* Note – acres not included in FY 2004 accomplishments

- Acres treated – 367
- Key Contact – Richard Edwards, Canyon Lakes Ranger District Planning Team Leader (970) 498-1368

| <b>Project Name</b> | <b>Treatment Acres</b> | <b>Treatment Type</b> | <b>Ranger District</b> |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Stringtown          | 114*                   | Mechanical            | Canyon Lakes           |

The contract has started work and has up to two years to complete it. The units in Stringtown form the narrow south face of an east-west ridge. A dirt road runs up the ridge, near its crest and within the project area. The cover type in this area is predominantly ponderosa with a mix of Douglas fir and lodgepole pine. Approaching the stream at the bottom of the project, there is more Douglas fir. There is no public road access to the Forest in the Stringtown area, and the contractor is utilizing a road with only administrative access. Of the half-dozen residential compounds on the road, two have already undertaken extensive defensible space thinning.

Stringtown is a stewardship project. Of the timber that is excess to project objectives, the contractor is allowed and encouraged to remove as much as possible from the site.

\* Note – acres not included in FY 2004 accomplishments

- Acres treated – 85
- Key Contact – Richard Edwards, Canyon Lakes Ranger District Planning Team Leader (970) 498-1368

## Fuels Reduction Planning Projects

| Project Name                    | Treatment Acres | Treatment Type               | Ranger District               |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Larimer County Fuels Assessment | NA              | Mechanical / Prescribed Burn | Larimer County / Canyon Lakes |

The Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership – Larimer County Coordinating Group (LCCG) is in the beginning stages of a county-wide landscape hazardous fuels assessment. The LCCG is comprised of Larimer County Wildfire Safety, Colorado State Forest Service, Rocky Mountain National Park, and Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests.

The assessment will provide the following products related to hazardous fuels in Larimer County:

- Existing Condition
  - Fuels Hazard
  - Values at Risk
  - Fire Risk
- Reference Condition
  - Pre-settlement conditions
- Desired Condition
  - Strategy to provide maximum protection for values at risk
  - Community involvement – FireWise
- Potential Treatments
  - Identify potential treatment areas and treatment types
  - Identify potential outputs (acres, wood products)
- Planning Areas
  - Develop Site specific planning areas
- Develop Action Plan
  - Prioritize planning areas
  - Develop 10-year Program and 5-year Action Plan
  - Develop Public Involvement Plan

**Key Contacts:**

Tony Simons, Larimer County Wildfire Safety Coordinator – (970) 498-7718

Dave Farmer, Colorado State Forest Service Forester– (970) 491-8445

Jesse Duhnkrack – Rocky Mountain National Park Fire Mgt. Officer (970) 586-1287

Richard Edwards, Canyon Lakes Ranger District Planning Team Leader (970) 498-1368

| Project Name  | Treatment Acres | Treatment Type               | Ranger District |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sheep Creek 2 | 4,200           | Mechanical / Prescribed Burn | Canyon Lakes    |

Progress continues in 29,000-acre project planning area. The Sheep Creek 2 Project Area is located in the Sheep Creek Geographic Area in the northwest corner of the Canyon Lakes

Ranger District. The area is approximately 6-7 miles NNW of Red Feather Lakes CO. The planning area contains approximately 23,000 acres of National Forest Lands intermixed with 4,300 acres of lands managed by the state and 1,700 acres of private land. The environmental analysis for Sheep Creek 2 is expected to be completed in December, 2003.

The goals of the project are to:

- Increase the acreage of early and late successional stages of forest vegetation.
  - Increase the size of forest stands to better represent historic stand conditions and age distributions across the landscape.
  - Maintain patch sizes that mimic naturally occurring patterns.
  - Maintain and promote the population of greenback cutthroat trout.
  - Maintain / establish a defensible fuel profile to reduce the risk of crown fire
  - Increase the representation of aspen on the landscape.
  - Maintain the open corridors and connectivity on the landscape.
- Key Contact – Richard Edwards, Canyon Lakes Ranger District Planning Team Leader (970) 498-1368

| Project Name  | Treatment Acres | Treatment Type               | Ranger District |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Crystal Lakes | 3,500           | Mechanical / Prescribed Burn | Canyon Lakes    |

The project area for this analysis is located within the Red Feather and Deadman Geographic Areas and covers approximately 18,000 acres near Red Feather Lakes. The project area is bordered by Black Mountain and Bear Gulch to the north, Deadman Road (FR 162) to the south, Pearl Beaver Road (FR 169) to the west and Creedmore Lakes to the east. The elevation within the project area ranges from 8,300 feet to 9,800 feet.

The planning area contains approximately 10,000 acres of National Forest Lands intermixed with 8,000 acres of private land. The environmental analysis for Crystal Lakes is expected to be completed in March, 2004.

The goals of the project are to:

- Continue the ongoing collaborative effort with Colorado State Forest Service, Larimer County, Crystal Lakes Association and Beaver Creek Association to implement planned Firewise Community concepts
  - Maintain / establish a defensible fuel profile to reduce the risk of crown fire
  - Maintain patch sizes that mimic naturally occurring patterns.
- Key Contact – Richard Edwards, Canyon Lakes Ranger District Planning Team Leader (970) 498-1368

| Project Name | Treatment Acres | Treatment Type               | Ranger District |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Estes Valley | 8,000           | Mechanical / Prescribed Burn | Canyon Lakes    |

The project area for this analysis is located within the Lion Gulch Geographic Area and covers approximately 51,000 acres between Estes Park and Lyons. The project area is bordered by Panorama Peak to the north, Johnny Park to the south, Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National

Park to the west and Gray Mountain (Forest Boundary) to the east. The elevation within the project area ranges from 5,400 feet to 11,400 feet.

The planning area contains approximately 35,000 acres of National Forest Lands intermixed with 16,000 acres of private land. The environmental analysis for Estes Valley is expected to be completed in December, 2004. This year's emphasis is to begin surveys for Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive plants and animals.

The goals of the project are to:

- Continue the ongoing collaborative effort with Colorado State Forest Service, Larimer County, and Estes Valley Improvement Association to plan and implement Firewise Community concepts
- Maintain / establish a defensible fuel profile to reduce the risk of crown fire
- Maintain patch sizes that mimic naturally occurring patterns.
- Key Contact – Richard Edwards, Canyon Lakes Ranger District Planning Team Leader (970) 498-1368

| <b>Project Name</b> | <b>Treatment Acres</b> | <b>Treatment Type</b> | <b>Ranger District</b> |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Deadman 1           | 2,000                  | Mechanical            | Canyon Lakes           |

The Deadman Project Area is located in the Deadman Geographic Area in the central portion of the Canyon Lakes Ranger District, Larimer County, Colorado. The planning area is approximately eight miles west of Red Feather Lakes. The planning area contains 17,500 acres of National Forest Lands and 500 acres of private land.

Lodgepole pine and spruce-fir forest types dominate the planning area. Mid-seral structural stages are dominant with the predominant size class being small sawtimber and poletimber. Grasses, forbs and seedlings occupy 14 % of the study area, with the majority of this being naturally occurring grass and shrublands.

This planning is not within the wildland-urban interface, but fuels management is still an important landscape strategy to provide effective disruption of large fires approaching Crystal Lakes and Red Feather Lakes

The goals of the project are to:

- Increase the acreage of early and late successional stages of forest vegetation.
- Increase the size of forest stands to better represent historic stand conditions and age distributions across the landscape.
- Maintain patch sizes that mimic naturally occurring patterns.
- Improve the forest's resistance to insects and fire near the urban interface, and concentrated recreation use areas.
- Continue landscape strategy in the development of a defensible fuels profile.
- Increase the representation of aspen on the landscape.
- Key Contact – Richard Edwards, Canyon Lakes Ranger District Planning Team Leader (970) 498-1368