

Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests
Hazardous Fuels Projects for 2003
Last updated March 2003

| Project Name | Treatment Acres | Treatment Type | Ranger District |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Dadd Bennett | 1800 | Prescribed Burn | Canyon Lakes |

Progress continues in burning this 7,000-acre project area. In the fall of 2002, 1,200 acres were treated through prescribed burning. 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.

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|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Dowdy Lake 2 / Redfeather Work Center | 250 | 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.

| Project Name | Treatment Acres | Treatment Type | Ranger District |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 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.

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| Buckhorn | 150 | Mechanical | Canyon Lakes |

This project consists of about 150 acres of mechanical fuels reduction scheduled for implementation this year. This area is located in the Buckhorn Canyon area east of Buckhorn Creek along the Ballard Road and adjacent to private land. Cover consists of mostly young lodgepole pine, although south exposures contain ponderosa pine and Douglas fir. Much of the area was once logged and has since grown up in dense thickets of overcrowded trees.

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| Sevenmile | 960 | Mechanical | 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 Red Feather 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.

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| 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 an intermix 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.

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| Good Neighbor | 25 | Mechanical | Canyon Lakes |

The Canyon Lakes Ranger District and the Colorado State Forest Service have identified several small projects where fuel treatments are being performed by landowners on their private lands and are interested in collaborating with the two agencies to perform similar fuels treatment on adjacent National Forest. Approximate 25 acres have been identified this year for implementation.

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| Winiger | 450 | Mechanical/pile burning | Boulder |

350 acres are undergoing thinning and pile burning treatments in ongoing Stewardship Contracts. The West Magnolia and the Lazy Z area thinning treatments that began in 2002 will continue through the spring, summer and fall of 2003. In the summer of 2003 the USFS hopes to award Stewardship Contract #4 for an additional 140 acres. The Colorado State Forest Service is implementing fuels reduction activities on 80 acres in small contracts and in 04 will undertake additional small acreage projects. Pile burns will be conducted by local state and USFS fire crews. The Gross Peninsula Prescribed Burn will take place in an area west of Gross Peninsula in the spring of 2003 on about 310 acres if conditions are right.

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| Columbine | 550 | Prescribed fire/mechanical/pile burning | Clear Creek |

The Columbine project area is rolling topography, mostly lodgepole with extensive aspen and limber, and used very heavily by off-road vehicles. Private land development is limited to single residences. Proposed treatments form a north-south band across the project area. Most treatments are mechanical thinning with pile burns. Thinning and pile burning projects will be implemented this spring and summer and into 2004 on 350 acres. Prescribed burns will take place on 200 acres to the north of the main treatment area only if conditions permit in late winter or fall of 2003.

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| Santa Fe | 180 | | Clear Creek |

Santa Fe's analysis area is slightly over a square mile, immediately south of I-70 and a mile east of Idaho Springs. A 200-unit housing development in similar vegetation half a mile south and east has received County permit approval. Thinning and pile burning will take place throughout the year on 180 acres and will be conducted by contract and USFS fire crews.

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| Arapaho National Recreation Area | Up to 2800 acres | Mechanical and chemical | Sulphur |

A mountain pine beetle outbreak is running its course in the Arapaho National Recreation Area. Concern for Forest values at risk focuses on views and on high-value trees near recreation sites, as well as reducing the risk of mountain pine beetle infestation to stands not currently under attack. Construction of dozens of custom homes immediately adjacent to the Forest is in a boom status. At least a dozen owners or subdivisions have thinned trees on their property in response to both beetles and consequent fuels accumulations, and strongly encourage Forest Service treatment across property lines. The District will work with the Colorado State Forest Service to treat units with Cooperative Contracts where possible.