

WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN - SPR # 00-105

Prepared for:

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(Definitions are included on page 3.)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

The property is located at **705 Tunnel 19 Rd**, S32, T1S, R72W, Boulder County. The dominant fuel type is timber. The overstory consists of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. The property is on a north aspect, on a 10-12 percent slope. Access to the property is via a medium length driveway near the end of Tunnel 19 Rd. The leach field and two-track spur road below the house serve to enhance the defensible space. Previous forest thinning on the Douglas-fir stand above (south) of the house also serves to enhance the defensible space (no tree marking occurred here).

RECOMMENDATIONS

As detailed in the enclosed fact sheet no. 6.302, *Creating Wildfire-Defensible Zones*, an important factor that determines a structure's ability to survive wildfire is defensible space. Defensible space is a maintained area around a structure where fuels (flammable materials) are modified to slow the possible spread of wildfire to the structure, as well as from the structure to the surrounding areas. Defensible space provides a place where structure protection and fire suppression operations may occur. Wildfire hazard mitigation work breaks up fuel continuity, potentially decreasing a wildfire's intensity.

There are three zones of protection to be created around the homesite for defensible space. Zone 1 is the most critical and affords the most protection to the site. Zones 2 and 3 are extensions of this protection.

ZONE 1

Zone 1 is the area of maximum modification and starts at the foundation of the structure and extends out 15 feet in all directions. All flammable vegetation should be removed in this zone. As per Boulder County Land Use Department code, create a 3-foot wide strip of nonflammable groundcover immediately adjacent to the structure. This can be accomplished by using decorative rock or gravel. This strip should surround the house and extend under any decks to 2 feet out past the drip line of the decks.

Thinning and pruning are necessary to create defensible space at the site. **All trees marked in blue should be cut and removed.** Trees for removal were selected because of their poor form and/or lack of vigor in addition to their close spacing. Tree removal will improve the health of the remaining trees in addition to mitigating wildfire hazards.

Prune and remove “ladder fuels” on vegetation in zone 1. Ladder fuels are small shrubs, trees, tree branches (live and dead) that allow a fire to climb from the ground into a tree’s crown. Limb trees to a height of ten feet on the remaining trees in this zone. For young, small trees in this zone, prune the lower third of the tree’s height.

ZONE 2

Zone 2 extends out from zone 1; it is a transition zone between the heavily thinned area near the structure to a more traditional forest setting. In this zone, some clusters of trees are acceptable if there is adequate spacing between clusters.

At your site, zone 2 extends from the outer edge of zone 1 for a total distance of 75 feet. In this zone, limb remaining trees to a height of eight feet. As you approach the outer edge of zone 2, reduce limbing height to six feet. Lower branches of young, small trees in this zone should be limbed to one third of the tree’s height.

ZONE 3

Zone 3 extends out from zone 2, and is of no set shape or size. Forested land in this zone could be thinned for increased overall forest health and wildfire hazard reduction. The following guidelines would apply if you decide to work in these areas.

- Thin suppressed trees and trees with disease and insect infestations and retain the larger, healthier trees.
- Retain snags for wildlife habitat, when applicable.
- Slash in this zone can be lopped and scattered, piled for wildlife habitat or, piled for burning under certain conditions.
- For burning permits, check with your local fire protection district.

All cutting, limbing and slash treatments must be completed prior to scheduling a wildfire hazard re-inspection. Contact this office to set up an inspection date at least two weeks before you need the approval.

Implementing this wildfire mitigation plan and maintaining your defensible space will help reduce the threat of wildfire to your home, but does not guarantee its safety.

In addition to the above recommendations, several other measures can be taken to make your home and family more prepared for and adapted to life in a fire prone ecosystem. While not required through the Boulder County Site Plan Review, those who live in the wildland-urban interface should practice other wildfire mitigation measures. These include:

1. Be aware of the local fire danger. Signs are usually posted at the entrances of most major canyons and oftentimes subdivisions.
2. Clean roof and gutters of pine needles and debris at least twice a year.
3. Stack firewood uphill or on the contour at least 15 feet from buildings.
4. Do not store combustibles under decks.

5. Screen off foundations, roof and attic openings.
6. Screen and maintain spark arresters on chimneys.
7. When possible, maintain an irrigated greenbelt around the home.
8. Connect and have available at least 50 feet of garden hose during fire season.
9. Post lot and house numbers so that they are clearly visible to emergency service personnel.
10. Maintain the site's defensible space annually. Contact the Colorado State Forest Service for a 5 year maintenance inspection.

DEFINITIONS

Aspect –The direction a slope faces.

Canopy – The cover of branches and foliage formed collectively by crowns of adjacent trees.

Crown – Branches and foliage of a tree.

Dominant fuel type – Material that would carry a fire, found on the ground.

Fuel continuity – The proximity of fuels to each other. Helps determine if a fire can sustain itself.

Limb (verb) –To remove the branches from a tree.

Overstory – The tree species that forms the uppermost forest layer.

Snag – Standing dead tree, often used by wildlife such as cavity nesting birds, woodpeckers, owls, and sometimes squirrels.

Wildfire mitigation plan – A written document designed to guide a homeowner in reducing the wildfire hazard threat around a home or other structure through fuels reduction and landowner awareness.

MAP PAGE

