

## **WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN - SPR # 00-060**

**Prepared for:**

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**Prepared by:**

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*(Definitions are included on page 3.)*

### DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

The property is located at **230 Timber Lane**, S14, T1N, R71W, in Pine Brook Hills, Boulder County. The dominant fuel type is litter. The overstory is ponderosa pine. The property is on an east/northeast aspect, on a 20 percent slope. Access to the property is via a short driveway off of Timber Lane.

The trees at the site should be reduced for wildfire hazard mitigation as well as for forest health. The road below the house provides a good fuelbreak, but the property below the road is densely forested and in a chimney (see contour map, page 4). If that property were thinned, it would enhance the wildfire hazard mitigation for your site. Common juniper, a highly flammable shrub due to its resin content, was found on your property.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

As detailed in fact sheet 6.302, Creating wildfire defensible zones, enclosed, 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, and for more effectiveness should be completed beyond a home's defensible space area.

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 starts at the foundation and extends out 15 feet in all directions. As per Boulder County Land Use Department, 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 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.

Remove ladder fuels from beneath trees. Ladder fuels are small shrubs, trees, tree limbs, etc. that allow a fire to climb 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, limb 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 house to a more traditional forest setting. In this zone, some clusters of trees are acceptable if there is adequate spacing between clusters. Suppressed trees made up all of the removals.

At your site, zone 2 extends from the outer edge of zone 1 to the property line. 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. At your site, zone 3 extends into areas beyond your property boundaries. Adjacent forested land could be thinned for increased overall forest health and wildfire hazard reduction. Most critical is the property below Timber Lane, northeast of your house. The following guidelines apply if you and your neighbors decide to work in these areas.

- Thin suppressed trees and trees with disease and insect infestations and retain the larger, healthier trees.
- Some slash in this zone could be lopped and scattered and/or piled for wildlife.
- Large amounts of slash should be disposed of by chipping, hauling to an approved site, or burning.
- For burning permits, check with your local fire protection district.

**All cutting, limbing and slash treatments must be completed prior to scheduling a C/O inspection. Contact me 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 Site Plan Review, other measures should be practiced by those who live in the wildland-urban interface. These include:

1. Be aware of fire danger. Signs are posted at the entrances of most major canyons.
2. Clean roof and gutters at least twice a year.
3. Stack firewood uphill 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.
10. Maintain the site's defensible space annually. Contact the Colorado State Forest Service for a 5 year maintenance inspection.

## DEFINITIONS

Aspect – Exposure. 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 – Matter 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.

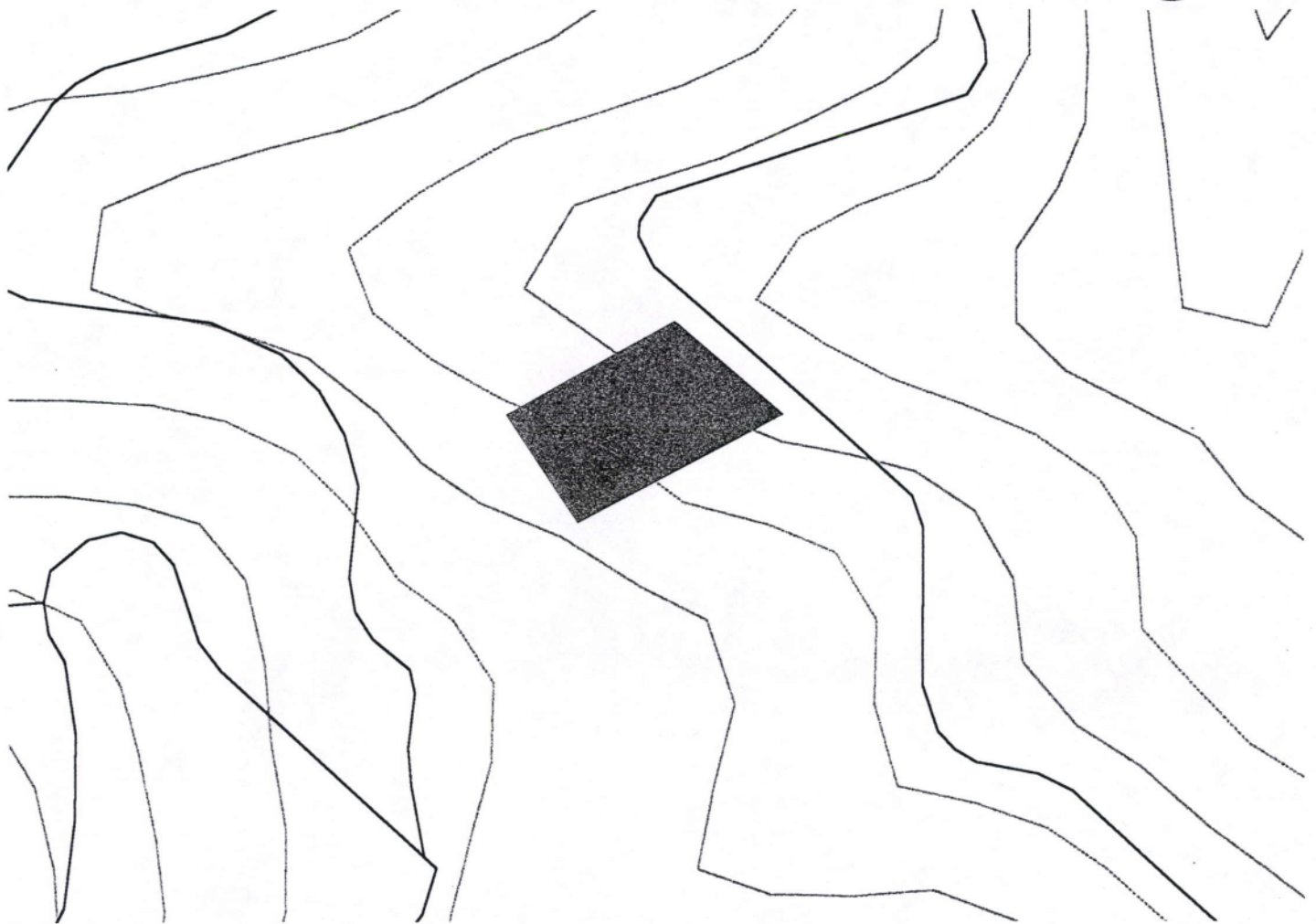
Limb (verb) – To remove the branches from a tree.

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





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

Wildfire mitigation plan – A plan to reduce wildfire hazards around a home or other structure through fuels reduction and landowner awareness.

# Kimball Property



0.07 0 0.07 0.14 Miles

-  Roads
- Contour (40 foot interval)**
-  n
-  y
-  Kimball property

