



CANYON LAKES ECHOES

A newsletter from the Canyon Lakes Ranger District of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland

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Welcome to Issue #2 of the *Canyon Lakes Echoes* Newsletter. The Canyon Lakes Ranger District in Fort Collins produces this newsletter to share current information on the status of National Fire Plan and other vegetation management projects occurring on the District. Our goal is to provide information on a variety of topics.

Contact Information

To discuss any of the projects from this newsletter or if you have questions please write or call:

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*Find Canyon Lakes Echoes
on the web at:
www.fs.fed.us/arnf/*

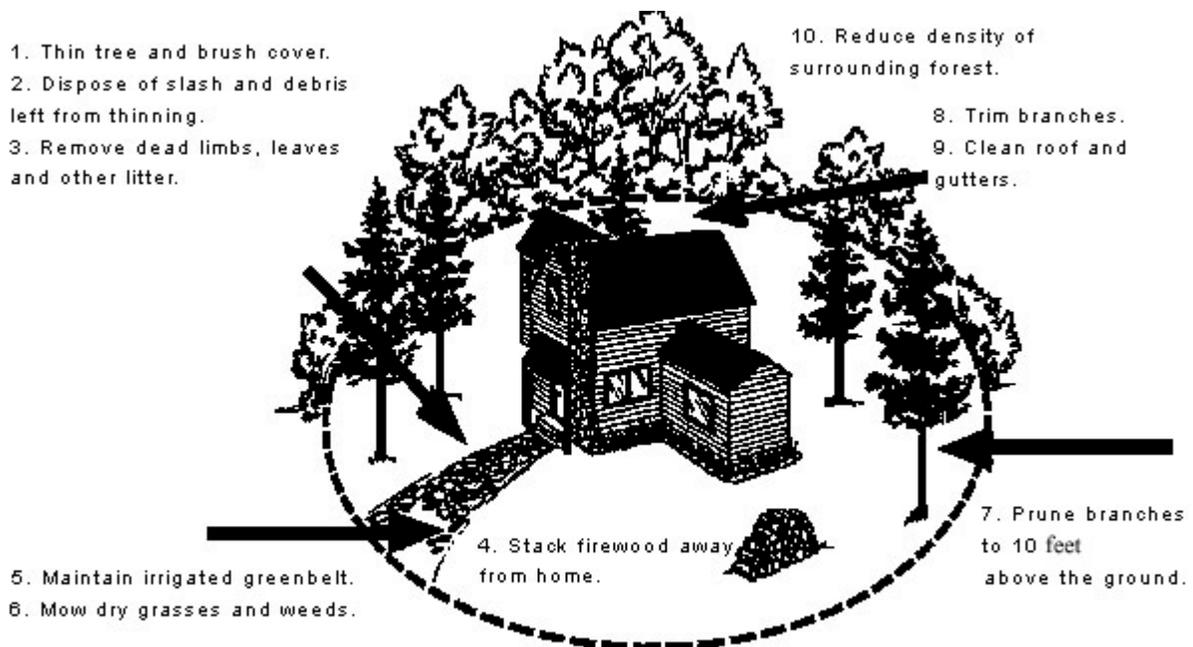


To:

Defensible Space

Wildfire season is just around the corner! Are you ready? If you live or have property in or near forested lands, providing defensible space around your home or cabin could be the deciding factor that saves your property from a wildfire. Your role is **primary** in helping firefighters by creating defensible space through fuel reduction around your property.

Defensible Space is a component of being *Firewise*. Defensible Space modifies and maintains the vegetation around your property to slow the rate and intensity of an approaching wildfire. It also provides a space between the structure and the surrounding forest should the structure become involved in a fire. Firefighters have a better chance of saving private property with Defensible Space, such as the one pictured below:



Make it easier for emergency personnel and vehicles to reach you by providing easy access to your property and **clearly posting your address** so it is visible from both directions. If a wildfire does occur, you should dial 911 immediately. Speak slowly and clearly, give the location of the wildfire, and answer any questions the dispatcher may have. If the fire is threatening your home, **GET OUT!** No structure or property is worth your life!

For further information on Defensible Space and the Colorado State Forest Firewise Program please contact the Larimer County Wildfire Safety Coordinator, Tony Simons, at (970) 498-7718 or visit the web page at www.larimer.org/wildfire.

Wildfire Safety Grant

The Larimer County Wildfire Safety Program received an \$80,000 grant from the Colorado State Forest Service to assist Larimer County residents living in the wildland-urban interface to fireproof their homes. The grant is to be matched by Larimer County with in-kind volunteer and professional services to give a project total of \$160,000.

The purpose of the grant is to provide money to homeowners, homeowner groups, and fire districts for slash disposal. Slash is generated from trees, grass, and brush cleared from around homes to create defensible space.

It is hoped that money from the grant will encourage homeowners to be proactive in preparing for wildfire events. Once the smoke from a wildfire is detected it is too late to provide defensible space. **Take advantage of this opportunity!**

For more information on the Slash Disposal Program for Larimer County Wildfire Safety please contact Jesse Causer at (970) 498-7693 or Tony Simons at (970) 498-7718 or see the web page at www.larimer.org/wildfire.

Information for the "Defensible Space" and "Wildfire Safety Grant" articles was provided by federal and state agencies, Larimer County, and the Fort Collins Coloradoan Newspaper.

Project Progress

Dadd/Bennett Prescribed Fire Project: This project is located north of the Pingree Park Road. It is currently in the implementation phase with burning occurring when weather and fuel moisture conditions are favorable. Prescribed fire has been used on over 450 acres to reduce fuels and improve wildlife habitat with more treatment scheduled to take place this spring. Total project area is approximately 7,000 acres.



The Dadd/Bennett Prescribed Fire

Lotta Bull Project: Timber will be harvested on about 86 acres with the intent of improving long-term forest health by removing diseased trees and reducing fuel loads to lower the wildfire hazard. Implementation is expected to begin in the summer of 2002.

Pescado Timber Sale Project: Approximately 711 acres will be treated with timber harvest and prescribed fire activities to reduce fuels and decrease incidence of dwarf mistletoe. Implementation is expected to begin in the summer of 2002.

Cache la Poudre Fire Restoration Project: This is a fantastic opportunity to restore fire as the dominant force of change on the wilderness landscape. Fuel reduction by prescribed fire is needed to accomplish this goal. The Environmental Assessment for this project will be available in the spring of 2002. Total project area is around 3,600 acres.

Stringtown Project: This is a forest thinning and prescribed fire project covering approximately 114 acres designed to reduce high hazard fuels, decrease incidence of disease, provide future old growth conditions, and to create a fuel break adjacent to private land. Project implementation will begin in the spring of 2002.

Sheep Creek 1 Project: A combination of prescribed fire and vegetation management activities will be used on approximately 2,700 acres to reduce high fuel loads and improve wildlife habitat. Implementation is expected to begin in the fall of 2002.

Sheep Creek 2 Project: This project is currently in the planning stage. We are proposing a variety of vegetative management treatments including prescribed fire and timber harvesting to improve wildlife habitat, provide a mosaic of forest vegetation across the landscape, and reduce the high fuel hazard. An Environmental Assessment document is expected in late summer of 2002.

Seven Mile Stewardship Project: Vegetation management and prescribed fire will be used on approximately 1205 acres. A stewardship contract is a tool used to achieve National Forest goals while promoting involvement with local communities. We hope to use this type of project in the future to achieve National Fire Plan projects that contribute to providing sustainable sources of income and employment locally. Implementation of this project is underway.

Dowdy Lake Project: This new project proposes to reduce excessive fuels and improve forest health through thinning trees on about 270 acres of National Forest land adjacent to private land. The project is in the environmental analysis phase and implementation is expected beginning in the summer of 2002. Once the thinning is complete, the felled trees would be available for personal use firewood gathering by permit.

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