

MARCH 2006

POLE CREEK MEADOWS FORESTRY NEWSLETTER

Written by Pete Peterson, approved by the PCM BOD

This newsletter contains information regarding:

- a) Formation of small spray groups at PCM
- b) lot/tree surveying at PCM
- c) Lot thinning at PCM
- d) Information on spraying at PCM
- e) Information on Wildfire Defensible Zone Seminars at PCM
- f) Information on revegetation at PCM with 1) flowers, 2) natural grasses, 3) trees
- g) Final count of MPB trees at PCM for 2003-2005

FORMATION OF SMALL SPRAY GROUPS

An economical alternative (\$2.00/tree) to commercial spraying (\$11.00/tree) for Mt. Pine Beetle (MPB) exists. It's a proven method of substantially reducing your costs by forming small groups of 4-6 lot owners.

The group buys high quality commercial grade spray equipment, purchases the insecticide of choice and each lot owner provides the labor to spray the trees he wishes to protect. The sources for equipment and insecticide have been researched thoroughly. Similarly, protective spray gear is available inexpensively as is information on spraying procedures. All this work has been done for you.

Conscientious spraying,--using the correct insecticide, in the correct concentration, at the correct time of year, is very nearly 100% effective in protecting your trees. About 18 PCM homeowners have already expressed an interest in joining such a group, beyond the 6-person group that formed and sprayed in the spring of 2005. If you're interested in details, call Pete Peterson at 970-887-2449

NOTE: Equipment MUST be ordered no later than March to receive delivery in time for the May 1--June 20 spray season, and cohesive organized groups must form well before that. Don't wait, --call now.

LOT/TREE SURVEYING @ PCM

For those lot owners that are unable to survey their own lots for MPB, for whatever reason, the Forestry Committee has talked with Timberline Spraying and Blue River Enterprises (BRE) who offer this service. For several years Timberline and BRE have sprayed trees at PCM with ASTRO insecticide with excellent results, providing protection for our lodge pole pines. The Forestry Committee recommends ASTRO for use because of its minimal environmental impact.

Blue River Enterprises is owned and operated by:

Larry Malouff
bre@kymtnhi.com
970-627-1971
Fax: 970-627-1972

Timberline Spraying & Services is owned & operated by Mr. Don Doty.

The scope of their services thus far includes:

- 1) Preventative spraying for MPB
- 2) Deep root fertilizing of prominent trees around homes
- 3) Systemic micro-injection of (Harpoon) insecticide
 - a) Around water bodies to avoid overspray contamination of Ponds
 - b) As an MPB antidote AFTER a signature tree has been infected (Effective about 50% of the time)

The details for contacting Timberline are as follows:

Name: Timberline Spraying & Services
Contact: Don Doty
Tel.: 1-866-687-6811 (toll free)
Fax: same as tel. no.
Website: <http://www.timberlinespraying.com/>
E-mail: MPineBeetle@aol.com

In addition to the three services listed above, Timberline now offers a fourth.

4) Post Flight Surveying Services

Their personnel will walk each lot, looking at all sides of each tree (that fits the criteria of trees being infested), identify infested trees with prominent flagging and supply a post survey report/summary to the lot owner and the PCM Forestry Committee. The charge for this service is \$50.00/hr. and it will require approx. 1-1.5 hrs. Per acre to perform and document these surveys. (The variability in hrs. /acre is due to lot steepness, tree density, degree of clearing of lot, degree of infestation, etc.) Clearly, a 7 acre lot with lots of infestation, on a steep slope, with no ladder limbing done and lots of downed trees requires more time than a 2.5 acre thinned flat lot with few MPB trees. This would also be a great time to work cooperatively with Timberline to count & identify trees that you choose to spray/protect in the spring. NOTE: It is CRITICAL to PERMANENTLY identify sprayed trees so the effectiveness of spraying can be determined. We have found that correct spraying of trees gives virtually 100% protection against MPB. (Surveys can be done at any time AFTER the beetle flight ends in Oct. of each year).

If you have questions on spraying, please call the Forestry Committee and ASK!

Anecdotally, we'll briefly pass along two stories of owners that DIDN'T ask.

The first one found yellow tape on some trees on his lot, resulting from the spot survey done by the Forestry Committee. He assumed these were trees TO BE SPRAYED and consequently hired a spray company to spray these ALREADY INFECTED TREES. Result: A complete waste of the time & money spent on spraying.

The second owner sprayed 80-90 trees for MPB protection but was too busy to visit PCM and permanently identify which trees had been sprayed. Result: He has no idea if the spraying was effective or not. He was disappointed that he still had to have nearly 100 MPB trees removed, having assumed that spraying 85 trees (out of perhaps 1000 trees on the lot,--8.5%) would protect the other 915 trees. This is incorrect. Only the sprayed trees are protected.

One further note: Timberline will choose which trees to spray in your absence BUT the trees they choose may be (probably will be) DIFFERENT than the ones you would choose. Views (or lack thereof), privacy, location of home, and health & size of trees are some factors that determine which trees should be sprayed. Working with a contractor to choose which trees are to be sprayed, is the best approach. This requires your presence, with them, on the lot.

As an incentive to use Timberline, they offer a rebate of 50% of the survey price, credited toward the spraying you may wish them to do during the late April-mid June 2006 spraying season. (You must contract for spraying to receive the rebate).

For Pole Creek Meadows, Timberline is offering a price of \$11.00/tree using ASTRO insecticide for the 2006 season. To contract for both the survey and spring spraying, go to their website noted above & fill out the contract. Alternatively, call their toll free telephone number. The spraying is effective for one (1) year only and must be repeated each year to maintain protection. Typically, trees 6" diameter and above are vulnerable and should be sprayed though during serious epidemics such as the one we are now experiencing, even some 4" diameter trees are being attacked. Contact Larry Malouff at the above e-mail address or phone number for information regarding his services and price.

This also brings up the topic of lot thinning. Many lots at PCM have 400-500 trees/acre vs. the recommended "healthy" tree density of 100-150 trees/acre. Thinned lots admit more sunlight, encourage growth of a diversified under story beneath the lodge pole pine, are less vulnerable to fire propagation, and are more appealing to wildlife. Overall, a thinned forest is much healthier.

For advise on forest thinning, please contact Pete, Rick and/or Judy. With fewer trees, it's easier (access-wise) to spray the lot and much less expensive.

In 2004, about 20% of PCM lots were sprayed (from 20 to 250 trees per lot) while in 2005, about 45% of the lots were sprayed. Based on the effectiveness of the spraying (nearly 100%) and the cost of tree removal (\$50.00/tree) vs. spraying (\$11.00/tree) nearly 70% of PCM owners have indicated their willingness to preventatively spray in spring 2006.

We strongly recommend spraying either via joining a small spray group and providing the labor yourself or by contracting with Timberline. As we mentioned in an earlier newsletter, you should plan on losing at least 50% of your trees in each of the next several years IF YOU DON'T SPRAY! Some lots that had no MPB trees in summer '04 lost 150-200 trees this last summer, often the biggest & best trees. YES, this is a scare tactic because we're scared to death of the MPB situation and we don't want PCM to become a "parking lot", cleared of all trees due to MPB. We are working with all property owners adjacent to PCM, to make each of our MPB control programs more effective and to decrease the possibility of MPB contamination from nearby land. Finally, the PCM Board of Directors has passed a resolution requiring every lot owner to be responsible for their own lot. Thus, be pro-active,--

---survey your own lot or contract with Timberline or Blue River Enterprises (BRE) to do it
---remove your MPB infected trees* -- make sure you understand in what condition the logger will leave your property when the work is completed before you contract with any of the loggers listed below. Do NOT select a logger by price alone. You may be in for a nasty surprise if you pay a low price and end up with a lot that is in a big mess that needs further attention to clean up.

---spray yourself or contract to have it done

---thin your lot for a healthier forest*

---trim ladder limbs & burn your slash piles

---ASK QUESTIONS of the Forestry Committee, if uncertain

---PARTICIPATE!

These actions will maintain and increase your property values and all of PCM.

Lastly, many thanks from all of PCM to Steve & Suzanne Figi (Block 3, Lot 1) and Steve & Judy Borda (Block 1, Lot 23) for taking care of removal of many, many MPB trees in adjacent and nearby open spaces to their properties.

Sincerely,

The Forestry Committee

Pete Peterson

970-887-2449

petes_aksj2@msn.com

Judy & Rick Schiff

970-887-0933

schiffstl@aol.com

*Forest Land Services Inc. – HIGHLY recommended by this committee

Jeff Green

970-725-3621

C: 970-531-3469

Dick Himes

970-887-2162

970-537-0382

Willow Creek Logging

Bruce Kohlway

887-2473

C: 531-1781

Got Wood

Joe Johnson

726-0432

Middle Park Tree Service

Paul Parker

531-0346

Ed Welch
726-9739

P.S.:

In the spring & summer of 2006, we will be hosting Mr. Ron Cousineau of the Colo. State Forest Service (CSFS) who will review/comment on 2-3 different homes at PCM and the creation of Wildfire Defensible Zones around them. (CSFS Bulletin 6.302)

Time & Location: TBA

Time Required: Approx. 90 min.

Details: Appropriate building materials, fire wise landscaping, tree spacing vs. slope of lot, suitable grasses, chimney considerations, water supply, signage, driveway access for emergency vehicles, firewood storage, etc.

Two factors have emerged as the primary determinants of a home's ability to survive wildfire. These are the home's roofing material and the quality of the "defensible space" surrounding it. Whether you already have a home at PCM or are anticipating building one, this in-field instructional session will be invaluable. As time goes on, more and more insurance companies are aware of wildfire defensible zones in the mountains and their rates reflect the attention homeowners have paid to this issue. Though each site is unique, it will be helpful to hear Ron review the specific elements common to all homes & lots in our area as well as the specifics of the 2-3 reviewed homes. Our PCM covenants (Para. 3.30. a) require the implementation of these measures. Future newsletters will provide details of time & place.

P.S.S.:

Diversity of species of trees & bushes as well as age diversity are important in maintaining a healthy forest. The Middle Park Soil Conservation District has available for sale 20-30 different types of small trees and shrubs. As many of us have had lots of trees removed lately, you may wish to order these seedlings now. Most are 6-12" tall and are \$30-40/lot of 50. The time to order is now for delivery in the spring. Contact the Forestry Committee for application forms. We also still have grass (3 kinds) and wildflower seed available for PCM lot-owners,---free!

P.S.S.S.:

Final Count of PCM MPB trees

YEAR	# of Infected Trees
2003	878
2004	1500
2005	5902