

FORESTRY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER - September 2008

The following information is being provided to you by the PCM Forestry Committee. Several additional newsworthy non-forestry items are included at the end of the newsletter.

Log Haul Away

Recently, phone calls have been made to a number of owners who have either a) log piles at the edge of the road requiring pickup or b) dead/dying trees as yet uncut that need to be removed. The purpose of the calls is to gather information on the numbers and locations of logs, to be designated on a PCM map, so a trucker can pick up an economical (truckload) quantity of logs. This service is provided by PCM only to those that cut their own trees. It is not provided to those who hire a logger to do their lots, for the purpose of decreasing their cost, by not requiring the logger to remove the trees they have cut. It is also NOT for removing trees cut by a contractor to build a house. Clearing & disposal of trees for a building envelope is the owners/builders responsibility, not that of the HOA. Professional loggers who quote you a price should include removal of the stems/logs.

PCM subsidizes those that do their own trees—whether thru hardship or other circumstances, via funds acquired from CSFS/BLM fuel reduction grants.

To be eligible to have your roadside logs hauled, you must:

- 1) Stack them parallel to the road and parallel to one another (not crossed)
- 2) Place a warning/danger sign on the pile to avoid injury by pile climbers
- 3) Square cut log ends
- 4) Place all large butt ends in the same direction
- 5) Cut off top of log at 3" diam.
- 6) Remove ALL side limbs/stubs flush with the trunk
- 7) Logs should be a minimum of 25 ft. long
- 8) Do not stack logs beneath power lines. Butts should be stacked in the direction of departure of the truck, after loading. Butts go toward the cab of the log truck
- 9) Minimum pick-up pile should be 4 ft. high X 8 ft. wide. Combine logs of neighbors into one log deck to meet this requirement
- 10) Use red or orange paint to paint "RC" on the butt ends of some logs for identification purposes. (Ranch Creek Ltd. will pick them up)
- 11) Logs stacked on a lot but NOT at road edge will not be picked up as part of this service.
- 12) Logs should not be on the paved surface, as they will interfere with county maintenance activities.

Some of the logs hauled to Ranch Creek Ltd are cut into corral poles and landscape timbers while others are trucked to Kremmling, Colo. and made into wood stove pellets. This pellet plant opens in Aug. 08.

Suggestions, Obligations, and Items of Interest

Please keep the ditch/depression at the roadside free of brush / debris / slash that can form a dam and block drainage.

When hiring a logger, be absolutely certain you show them the exact extent of your property (Corners!) so no cutting/processing/chipping/burning will occur in PCM Open Space or on a neighbor's lot. Specify exactly what you expect to be done, the expected completion date, and don't pay for work until it is satisfactorily completed.

Remove ladder limbs from trees to a minimum of 10 ft. above ground. (Covenant 3.30.A)
Cut back any grass that is within 10 ft. of the side of the house. (Covenant 3.30.A)
Firewood should be stored a minimum of 30 feet from the home, certainly NOT under a deck. (Covenant 3.30.A)

Though it is too late now to spray for Mtn. Pine Beetle (MPB) for this year, spraying IS EFFECTIVE if done conscientiously, with the correct chemicals, in the correct concentrations and with the proper equipment. Spraying trees for MPB is much more effective if ladder limbs are removed up to 10 ft. above ground. The sprayer, you or a hired contractor, can better reach the upper portion of the tree stem if lower branches are removed and the spray stream is not broken up and dispersed. (492 PCM Open Space trees were sprayed in early summer to protect from MPB attack.

Please do not attempt to burn chip piles. They will smoke for weeks causing those responsible to be ticketed and fined. Recently, those violating burn (and smoke) rules have had burn permits revoked and face mandatory court appearances.

As there is no burn ban at present, small (3 ft. diam. X 3 ft. tall) hand fed attended piles can be burned. Later, after permanent snow cover is present, probably in mid Nov. or later, burn permits can be obtained from the Dept. of Nat. Resources/Jennifer Murray @ 970-887-0745 (tel.) or fax 970-887-3168. It is advisable to BURN EARLY in the winter before greater snow depth makes access difficult and causes excessive melting into the burning pile. Don't stack/burn near or under standing trees.

Slash piles should be stacked as high as possible, preferably at least as high as the diam. of the pile, for efficient burning. No branches/logs over 6 " dia. should be burned. If you wish to stack your pile but not burn it, call John Treiber (970-887-2057) for prices. He will be doing other slash pile burning at PCM this fall when burn season opens. Call now if you wish to reserve his services.

Forestry Orientation Program

If there is an interest on the part of those new to PCM (or others), we will conduct a fall Forestry Orientation Program to discuss:

- a) spraying for MPB
- b) burning slash piles
- c) ladder limbing
- d) defensible space around homes
- e) emergency preparedness (a "going away kit")
- f) control of noxious weeds
- g) Fire-Wise construction
- h) identification of MPB and

i) mistletoe infestation

Please call Pete Peterson (970-887-2449) if you wish to attend.

Weed Control


For those that wish to control noxious weeds, (thistle, ox-eye daisy, etc.) you may get up to 4 gal./week of a prepared herbicide each Fri. morning in Granby at the Dept. of Nat. Resources (970-887-0745---469 E. Topaz St. in Granby) from 8:30 AM to 12 noon. Bring a herbicide spray applicator (no Tupperware or coffee cans!) for dedicated use. The provided spray is a mix of Milestone / Telar used by the county for roadside weed control. Spray will be available thru the 1st week in Sept. and will resume next June if funds permit.

Less toxic commercial weed control chemicals and pump hand sprayers are available at your local home improvement store (WeedBeGone, etc.).

Roadside Tree Removal?

We would like your opinion on the removal of all trees, dead & alive, from the Open Space between the private property of each lot and the edge of the road. This is NOT a part of each lot and contains trees that, if they burned and/or fell into the road, would prevent access / egress in an emergency. The recently completed Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) recommends their removal from PCM roadsides. Please call Pete (970-887-2449) or e-mail (petes_aksj2@msn.com) to let us know your preferences. The county has, at their expense, already removed 128 trees from 4-Bar-4 Road (County Road 5) within PCM. (More on this topic later)

Power Line Purge

Mt. Parks Elec. Recently removed trees & chipped slash beneath the 138KV line  crossing PCM Open Space and seven private lots, to protect their lines and poles.

PCM Burning Men

The 15-18 slash piles on PCM Open Space will be burned in approx. Nov.-Dec. 08. The logged hillside east of Meadows Blvd will be reseeded in Spring 09.

Free Money

When applying for grant money to handle forestry issues, we must match (minimum 1:1) dollars received in a grant with dollars spent by owners. Receiving grants allows us to keep HOA dues down. It would be helpful if you would inform the Forestry Committee (number above) of the number of trees removed and the funds spent for MPB spraying and tree removal/slash burning, etc.

Mtn. Juniper is a low shrub that often grows at the base of Lodgepole pines and is extremely flammable. To enhance your defensible space and as part of becoming a Fire-Wise Community, it is advisable to remove this shrub. It can produce flames 15 ft. high when ignited, causing flames to travel up a tree to the crown.

New Law Encourages Energy Efficiency

A new law that became effective on Aug. 6, 2008, promotes the use of solar and wind generating devices by Colorado residents. The law makes it clear that home owners

associations cannot prohibit the installation of certain solar and wind generation devices. However, associations can continue to impose restrictions on the dimensions, placement, & external appearance of the device so long as the restrictions do not significantly increase the cost of installation or significantly decrease the performance or efficiency of the device.

The new law makes it clear that the installation of awnings, shutters, trellises, ramadas, garage or attic fans, evaporative coolers, energy-efficient outdoor lighting devices, and retractable clotheslines cannot be prohibited by associations. However, board & architectural committees can and will continue to make sure the installation is aesthetically consistent with the standards contained in the governing documents including the dimensions, placement and external appearance. The applicable design guidelines and criteria will still consider the factors set forth in the governing documents as well as the impact on cost of installation, and impact on the performance of the device/measure.

If you plan to install any of the items discussed above, please make sure you have the current guidelines prior to submitting your request or installing the item, as you would for any improvement within PCM.

More Free Money

Another new law was recently enacted to provide homeowners with a \$2500 tax deduction for monies spent to control MPB. See footnote *.

<http://www.firewiseforestmanagement.com/Blog.aspx>

Beetle Seduction?

Verbenone is a Mt. Pine Beetle pheromone/repellent sold in packets (\$10/ea.) to be fastened to trees—approx 40/acre. While it is somewhat effective for minor beetle infestations, it is not useful—in the opinion of the Colo. State Forest Svc.—for the epidemic concentrations of beetles we now have. Packets last for one year. Save your money.

Our Partners

Many of our adjacent neighbors, Pole Creek Estates, Winter Park Christian Church, The Fairways, WP Highlands, and the Woods, Fullerton and Swanson private properties have programs of their own to reduce forest fuels and remove dead trees. We're not working alone in our efforts to make PCM a safer community and the Board of Directors and the Forestry Committee greatly appreciate the efforts---and results---you have produced to comply with our covenants and to make PCM a safer more attractive area.

How Many Are We?

There are now 61 homes on 103 lots at PCM.

Helping To Do Your Part?

We are planning on having a PCM Volunteer Day on Sept 13th (Sat.) to pile slash from open spaces for later burning and to cut up trees that have recently blown down. If you could volunteer several hours, it would be greatly appreciated. (We must match funds provided to us with volunteer efforts to improve our HOA) We will meet at the Fire

Pond at 9 AM on the 13th for a morning of work, followed by lunch provided by the HOA! Bring work clothes, gloves, hats, sun lotion, protective eyewear, heavy boots and chain saws. We need 2-3 stackers/gatherers for each chain saw so even a brief time is helpful. We will be working in 3-4 different places within PCM.

Save This Date!

The PCM Annual Meeting will be held on Sat. Nov. 8th at 6-8PM

* **H.B. 08-[1110](#) Income tax - deduction for landowner who performs wildfire mitigation measures on private land.** For income tax years commencing on or after January 1, 2009, but prior to January 1, 2014, allows an income tax deduction for a landowner who owns private land as a natural person and not an entity and who performs wildfire mitigation measures on the land in a wild land-urban interface area. Specifies that the amount of the deduction allowed is 50% of the amount of the landowner's costs incurred in performing the wildfire mitigation measures subject to a maximum limit of the lesser of \$2,500 or the amount of the landowner's taxable income.