

Pole Creek Meadows Forestry Newsletter, June 2010

by Pete Peterson, Forestry Committee, (970) 887-2449

Dear PCM Lot and Home Owners, the Forestry Committee is pleased to bring you another timely and informative edition of the PCMOA Forestry newsletter. Enjoy!

Please note that the past 4-5 bi-annual Forestry Newsletters, dealing with a variety of forestry topics, are available on the PCM website at www.polecreekmeadows.com

How Not to Build a Burn Pile



Illustration 1: Incompletely burned slash pile requires more effort and cost to clean up.



Illustration 2: Another untended burn pile, with unburned debris on the perimeter.

While on the topic of slash piles, please look at the following photos. The first ones, (Illustrations 1-2) show poorly constructed (large diameter, low height, often machine constructed, full of dirt and lots of fines) piles that were burned very cheaply. The hired burner essentially poured on fuel, lit the pile and left. The result: a large black scar with partially burned logs and slash, with the center of the pile burned fairly well but the perimeter partially burned. (Note: these piles are HERE at PCM!) Not only was the pile burned incorrectly---the hired burner left, but he also did not throw the partially burned material at the edge of the pile, into the middle, to be completely burned. The owner (or someone he hires) must then face the messy job of re-stacking the charred partly burned slash and logs, for burning next winter.



Illustration 3: A well tended and completely burned slash pile.



Illustration 4: Low owner maintenance to reseed this burn pile aftermath.

Alternatively, (see Illustrations 3 & 4), well constructed piles (built tall, small diam.) leave a much smaller scar, are attended full time, and have the partly burned material at the perimeter thrown back into the active fire, leaving little unburned residue.

How to Burn Slash After Burn Season

For those that still have slash piles to burn, a new local company has just formed that has built its own Air Curtain Burner. Called *Slasherators*, they built a large metal box for burning from an old roll-off dumpster, having added a grate in the bottom and 30-40 ventilation pipes in the sides to get an abundance of air to the burning slash, to decrease---and almost eliminate, smoke. The burner is fed by a large "thumb", a tracked vehicle that picks up small logs and slash and drops them into the fire in the box.

Jennifer Scott, the lady at the Dept. of Nat. Resources (DNR) who issues the burn permits, has seen it operate and **approves of burning slash in it outside of the burn season**, that is, right now!

Slasherators will bring this burner to your site and burn your piles,---NOW!

The *Slasherators* contact is Rick Hensley at 970-531-3386.

Further Information:

Rick Hensley

email: contained-burn@hotmail.com

PO Box 1557

web: www.airburners.com

Fraser, CO 80442

The website shows pictures and describes how this unit works. *Slasherators* has their own home made, greatly simplified burner. It doesn't generate electricity, has no fan or motor, etc.--it's simply a large burn box. It can be operated year around, on slopes and has a hinged screen lid to contain sparks. A small amount of green slash--probably 10-15% by volume, can be added to a hot slash fire but it is primarily for dry slash.

Thus, those that still have unburned slash piles may contact *Slasherators* at any time, year around, to have your slash burned. The Fire Dept. has also seen this equipment in operation and approves of it's use. The disposal of slash piles at Pole Creek Meadows is required by the Covenants and Rules.

Good Grass

For those that have burned piles, you may get free grass seed (3 varieties) from Pete (970-887-2449) to sow, after lightly raking the burn area. Plant the seed anytime but the sooner the better to avoid an infestation of weeds.

Winded Trees

A few lots still have dead trees,--please remove these as soon as the snow melts and the soil dries out. For those that wish to discuss the merits of spraying and maintaining your healthy trees, call Pete.

Moose are Loose

For those of you planting trees, be aware that about six moose took up residence around PCM last fall. They have developed a definite liking for blue spruce and aspen. They seem to ignore pines and while the spruce and aspen can be protected, it isn't simple.

In the near future, we will be adding several links to the PCM website (www.polecreekmeadows.com) relating to landscaping appropriate for our area, climate and altitude. It will also have information on [Firewise](#) construction materials for homes.

County Roadside Tree Removal Program Update

---Contrary to the promise made by the contractor who did the right of way tree removal (900 trees at PCM) last fall for the Dept. of Nat. Resources, they will NOT be returning this spring to do any additional chipping of slash remaining on the roadsides.

Logging Resources

---Bill's Tree Service (970-447-8001) is a small local company who does small numbers (or large) of trees, removing blow down trees, dead MPB trees, slash removal, ladder limb removal, defensible space, etc. The HOA Board and Forestry Committee don't endorse or recommend contractors but merely make their availability known to you. Several owners had bad experiences with loggers who either didn't show up or do the work promised, or would only do large numbers(hundreds) of trees. Bill's Tree Service will do any quantity, generally for about \$25-40/tree.

Wind Weakened Trees

---Recently, several hundred live green trees were blown down around PCM. Some are only 3-4" in diam. but others are 12-15" diam. Others are leaning precariously and should be removed for safety reasons. Be careful when out walking or working on a windy day. Falling trees can be deadly!

Spraying for MPB

for those who wish to spray, below are listed two spray contractors whose work in the past has been fairly reliable:

Timberline Inc.

Don Doty

phone/fax: 1-866-687-6811

timberlinespraying.com

Colorado Beetle Busters

Greg Black

970-471-5757

gblack250@gmail.com

Ask about chemical concentration (it should be 4 qt./100 gal. of water, minimum, used with a surfactant/sticker), and they should NOT be spraying on windy days. Their equipment should reach to the very top of each tree.