

FOREST STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION

The Committee develops and implements best forestry management plans to maintain and preserve the forested areas and natural habitats of the Village while balancing safety and aesthetics.

PLAN FOR CASTLE PINES VILLAGE

The development of an Ecosystem Management Plan and a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the Village was started in 2007 by Anchor Point Group of Boulder. The studies were completed in 2008. The final evaluation of the Village was an overall rating of “moderate risk” for wildfires with some specific areas of the Village at a higher risk than others. The Committee has begun implementing as many of Anchor Point’s recommendations as resources permit.

FIRE MITIGATION DEMO PROJECT

The Forest Stewardship Committee recently completed a fire mitigation demonstration project south of R-49 along the I-25 corridor in the Homes Association open space. The area had been identified in the CWPP as being especially vulnerable to discarded cigarettes and other ignition threats from the adjacent interstate. The forest husbandry effort focused on the dense overgrowth, dead underbrush, and broken and downed limbs. These forest stewardship measures taken will encourage growth of a “healthy forest” that will better withstand threats from fire and bark beetles.

The dead undergrowth and broken branches surrounding the Equinox Pocket Park on Country Club Pkwy were also addressed in November. Several other small areas on Homes Association open space are being reviewed as possible candidates for fire mitigation intervention in 2009.

FOREST HEALTH MANAGEMENT

The Committee with the help of the State Forestry representative conducted “drive-by” inspections of trees within the Village during the summer and a walk through of certain areas. A hands-on inspection of stressed trees was made and owners were notified in writing by HA staff if a tree was beetle-infected. Residents were also notified if their trees had mistletoe and appropriate treatment was requested. The Committee plans to continue this effort in 2009.

SIGNAGE AND EVACUATION ROUTES

The Committee continues to work with the Castle Pines Metro District to improve signage, designate evacuation routes and establish easier access to the Village for emergency vehicles.

EDUCATIONAL ARTICLES

The Forest Stewardship Committee placed informative articles in each edition of the Castle Pines Village Reporter. These articles are intended to promote ongoing

community awareness of the hazards and risks from wildfires and to make recommendations how individual homeowners can better protect their homes and property. Information about our local noxious weeds and pine beetle Q&A segments were included.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jack L. Hummel, Chairman, Guy Casey, Monica Flinner-Ross, Jim Huffman, Craig Sundquist, and Jay Vaughan