

Several months ago, a forestry newsletter was sent to you by the PCM Forestry Committee. It dealt with ladder limbing of trees, tree thinning, slash burning/disposal, defensible space around your home, etc., all important forestry issues. Recently, PCM Forestry applied for and received two 50% matching grants from the Grand County Wildfire Council (GCWC), one for re-establishing 1.0 miles of fuel break through sagebrush and 1.63 miles of new fuel break in PCM open spaces. The second grant was for thinning regrowth of thickly growing lodgepole pine and for removing mtn. juniper and dead trees in another PCM open space. PCM pays fully for this work and is reimbursed approx. 50% by GCWC. This work has been completed and the results can be seen south of CR5168 (thinning/slash stacking) and in most of the PCM open spaces. The contrast between this cleared open space as well as two well maintained lots just across CR 5168 is very apparent when compared to two adjacent lots also along CR 5168 which are completely untreated. (no laddering, no thinning, dead trees, lots of dispersed slash, etc.) Quite obviously, the owners of these well maintained lots take a great deal of pride in their appearance. With the Board mandated completion of ladder limbing to a 10 ft. height by Sept. of 2019, these jungle like overgrown lots will be cleaned up by this time next year.

Note:

Individual lot owners can apply for a 50% matching grant via GCWC. Funding and technical assistance is available to assist homeowners/landowners with completing defensible space and/or landscape scale fuel reduction projects. Applications will be accepted until funding runs out.

For more information, go to BewildfireReady.org and click on the Cost Share Program at the top of the page. Then click on one or more of the four links below for an application, FAQ's, and tree contractors. You may do this work yourself or hire a contractor to do it. Call Pete P. for more information (970-887-2252) if you want specific directions on where to see these treated open space areas or if you have any questions.

The thinning and slash stacking was done by hand. Three local contractors have done this work and can be hired on a lot by lot basis for your lot if you are unable to do the work yourself. They do the following:

- dead tree cut down/removal
- Mtn. juniper removal stacking
- ladder limbing/slash pile building
- creation of defensible space around a home
- slash removal/burning

Any of this work can be done and often is done by the homeowner but if you're unable to do this work yourself, any of the following can give you pricing and do the work:

Bill's Tree Service	Cold Creek Excavation	Molina Landscaping
Bill Quinn	Michael Robinson	Carlos Molina
970-726-2028	970-531-9773	970-531-5910

This is offered for your convenience and assistance in complying with the upcoming requirement for completion of ladder limbing/slash burning/dead tree removal by the Sept. 2019 deadline.

For those whose scope of work is too extensive to be done by hand, another local contractor, Kunkle Services LLC/Dave Kunkle/970-531-8916, is available. He uses a masticator, a rubber tracked Bobcat-like vehicle with a liftable rotating cylindrical head, equipped with knives, to clear away:

- Sagebrush
- live or dead trees, up to 6-8" in diam.
- grass, weeds, bushes, etc.
- stumps

The above are not removed but are reduced to pencil size pieces and left on the ground. Since the head can be raised to any desired level, the soil is not disturbed and subsequent weed growth is not a problem.

Dave Kunkle can provide an estimate for your lot depending on lot size and amount of work to be done. No burning is required after treatment by the Masticator.

This information is offered as an assist to those PCM owners who cannot do the required work themselves. PCM Forestry hired these contractors to do forestry work in PCM open spaces. Any work done by them on your behalf is to be contracted between you as a private party and the contractor. These contractors can work here at PCM until mid or late Oct., depending on the weather and snowfall, and can probably begin work in May after the snow melts and the ground dries out.

The 3rd contractor mentioned above, Cold Creek Excavation, uses primarily a Brush Hog, a device with two horizontally rotating blades, similar to a rotary lawnmower. This equipment is suitable for tall grasses as well as sagebrush. An example of Brush Hog cleaning is available to be seen to the north of Ponderosa Trail (CR5151), the cul-de-sac leading to WP Christian Church.

If you wish to see examples of any of this work, or if you have any questions, contact Pete Peterson at 970-887-2252.

Respectfully,
Pete Peterson/PCM Forestry