

Lodgepole Pine Field Trip Agenda

August 14, 2019

4:00-7:00pm

Background Information and Meeting Location: The field trip will begin at 4:00 pm and run until 7:00. The additional hour discussion will not occur on the August 14, but a separate meeting will be held at the Boulder Ranger District office to follow-up the lodgepole pine discussion within the next few weeks. At this point it will be during the mid-afternoon for an hour or two depending on the discussions during the field trip. If you haven't responded to the Doodle Poll that Heather sent out, please do so.

For the field trip, we will be meeting at the XCEL transfer station on the north side of Magnolia Road, approximately ½ mile east of Peak to Peak Highway. Parking is limited so carpool as much as possible. The second stop will be even tighter for parking so any assistance at carpooling will be appreciated.

Stop 1: XCEL Transfer Station on Magnolia Road (Walk along trail to an old mining test pit vicinity).

- **Brief Overview of What We'll See at this Stop**
 - 2001-2003 Winiger Ridge collaborative thinning/patch cutting/pile burning project;
 - 2014 Lump Hulch/Lumpy Tung work order clear cutting/doughnut cutting around aspen/2016 pile burning;
 - Regeneration-thinning scheduled under Forsythe II;
 - Observation in 2014 clearings of: a) seedlings planted in 2015, b) lodgepole regeneration, and c) noxious weeds;
 - Untreated lodgepole stands of different density; and
 - 2003 and 2016 burn piles.

- **Blowdown/Surface Fuels Discussion Topics**
 - Relationship between post-treatment surface-fuel loading and wildfire risk;
 - Effects of reducing surface fuels on reducing the chance of crown fire;
 - Likelihood of fires starting in hot, dry openings and spread to forest before air tankers arrive;
 - U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) plan to address existing surface fuel in units during treatment (mechanical vs. manual);
 - Effect of patchcuts on surface fuel loads through direct treatment and blowdowns; and
 - USFS's plan to address blowdowns in the forests adjacent to a patchcut.

- **Various Lodgepole Pine Stand Structures Discussion Topics**
 - Reasons for choosing to treat certain stands over others;
 - Health and varying growth of lodgepole regeneration in the clearings;
 - USFS's plan to thin forest regeneration following treatment;

- Consequences of returning or not returning to thin regeneration on the long-term effectiveness of the treatment;
- Effectiveness of the treatment under different conditions (moderate vs. severe);
- Duration of the benefits of treatment for retardant drops (10 yrs, 20 yrs, etc.); and
- Lodgepole pine stand structure distribution in the Forsythe II project area.

WALK UP EDGE OF THE CLEAROUT

- **Burn Piles Discussion Topics**
 - Optimal conditions for implementing a prescribed burn;
 - Impact of leaving large numbers of unburned piles on the ground for 1 ½ to 2 years if/when wildfire occurs;
 - Timeline for managing burn piles; and
 - Comparison between manual and mechanical piles.
- **Invasive Weeds Discussion Topics**
 - Identification of different invasive species, including Canada Thistle, Woolly mullein, cheatgrass, and various mustards, and their effect on fire and the USFS's goals;
 - Effectiveness of precautionary steps taken by the USFS to avoid spreading invasive weeds;
 - USFS's plan to treat invasive weeds after the forest treatment (frequency, types of herbicide, etc.);
 - Recoverability of meadows when invasive weeds dominate the vegetation; and
 - Relative fire danger between well-spaced, mature lodgepole forest with little undergrowth vs. large fields of invasive weeds.

Stop 2: Mile Marker 10(?) Boulder County (Walk into Unit 3 down pipeline trail)

- **Currently Marked Patchcut on Slope Discussion Topics**
 - Social and ecological values of the lodgepole pine stand;
 - Cooling effects of trees on soil and air;
 - Reasons for selecting this area for treatment;
 - Goals of the Decision Notice that treating this area achieves;
 - Comparison of wildfire risk in this area with wildfire risk in the 5-year and 17-year patchcuts with vegetation regrowth at the first stop; and
 - Balancing age classes on the landscape and the choice to remove or keep old growth lodgepole pine.
- **Lodgepole Pine Overstory Mixed Lodgepole Pine Regeneration Discussion Topics**
 - Potential to thin the small patches of regeneration during treatment;
 - Agreeable characteristics for placing patchcuts; and
 - Forsythe II Decision (Aggregations in lodgepole pine).