

FORESTRY, FIRE, AND SORT YARDS

2024 Annual Report





FORESTRY, FIRE, SORT YARD WORKGROUP

Forestry Program Supervisor

Michael Akena

Senior Forestry Specialists

Scott Golden, Wayne Harrington, Zach Price

Forestry Specialists


Jessica Hawkins, Nick Stremel, Shane Milne

Forestry Technicians

April Temple, Dan Buelow

Seasonal Forestry Technicians

Abby Herman, Brendan Swanson, Emily Way,
Hanna Whitson, Jeff Kosley, Kiernan McClish,
Patrick Morgan, Paul Conway



PREScribed FIRE OPERATIONS AND PLANNING

Operations

- 32,450 feet (more than 6 miles) of ditch burned.
- 970 hand slash piles burned at Reynolds Ranch, Caribou Ranch, Sherwood Gulch, and Hall Ranch.
- 48 machine slash piles at Caribou Ranch, Sherwood Gulch, and Hall Ranch.
- 21.5 acres of agriculture fields burned at Faul, Kragh, Alexander Dawson, and Doniphan.



Agriculture burning at Wittemyer

Planning

- 14 agriculture projects, including 45,430 feet of ditch and 73.6 acres
- A 4,718 acre prescribed fire project

Wildland fires on BCPOS land

- Stone Canyon – 636 acres
- Rabbit Mountain– 3 acres
- Dawson – ½ acre



Slash piles burning at Reynolds Ranch



Agriculture burning at Doniphan



Agriculture burning at Faul



Stone Canyon fire smoke plume

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND YOUTH CORPS

Volunteer Projects

- Nine projects
- 94 volunteers contributed 317 hours.
- More than 600 limber pine seedlings were planted.

Holiday Trees

- Hosted third annual San Lazaro tree-cutting event
- Hosted first community partners tree-cutting event

Youth Corps

- Built 15 slash piles and removed 4.5 cords of wood from a three-acre fuels reduction project
- Thinned 2 acres of lodgepole pine regeneration at Reynolds Ranch



Volunteers plant limber pine seedlings.



Staff photo with Smokey



Youth Corps team

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND LAYOUT

Data Collection and Layout

- Pre-treatment inventory completed for 41 plots.
- Post-treatment inventory completed for 73 plots.
- Supplemental small diameter subplot completed for 80 plots.
- Pre-cruised four properties for future inventory
- Marked 350 acres across two properties

Plan and Report Writing

- Completed Forest Resource Action Plans for Wallace and Tucker-Elk Draw
- Approved scopes of work for Hall Ranch, Hansen-Riverside Ranch, and Nederland Community Forestry Sort Yard



Riverside Ranch after treatment



Overstory data collection



Understory data collection

IN-HOUSE OPERATIONS

Operations

- Completion of a Reynolds Ranch project, with a total of 60 loads/254 tons of forest products removed on 5.5 acres
- Completion of the Forsberg/Blue Mountain Road fire mitigation project, with 4.9 acres treated, one cord firewood, and 22 tons of chips for animal bedding generated
- Completion of the Overland fuels reduction project, with 3 acres treated and 4.5 cords of firewood generated



Overland yarding operations



Reynolds Ranch PA1U3



Forsberg/Blue Mountain Road

SPECIES CONSERVATION AND ASSISTED REFORESTATION

Species Conservation

- 10 long-term monitoring surveys conducted
- Rocky Mountain bristlecone pine stand mapping on Forrest Open Space
- Cone seed collection of 20,000 limber pine seeds on the Duck Lake, Fabel, Gordon, Sugarloaf, and Wolcott II Open Space properties



Rocky Mountain bristlecone, Forrest property



Limber pine planting, Reynolds Ranch



Limber pine seedlings, Reynolds Ranch

Assisted Reforestation

- Staff planting of 400 limber pine seedlings (a total of 1,000 with volunteer events) on 35 acres at Sherwood Gulch and Reynolds Ranch Open Space
- Direct limber pine seeding of 5 acres, including 38 burn scars and an unburned test area, at Reynolds Ranch Open Space

HALL, HANSEN, RIVERSIDE RANCH FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT

- Approximately 193 acres at Hansen-Riverside Ranch and 159 acres at Hall Ranch were treated in the summer of 2024.
- This work ties in the previous St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership work completed on Hall Ranch and Button Rock Preserve in 2023.
- Only trees less than or equal to 8" DBH were targeted for removal. All material was hand-cut and piled.
- Project funded by a grant (\$327,500) with matching funding.
- This will serve as an anchor point for further work on multi-party landownership along Conifer Hill Road.



Slash piles at Riverside Ranch



Staff working at project location in winter

COMMUNITY FORESTRY SORT YARDS

Sort Yard Usage Data

- 10,958 vehicle loads
- 2,015 tons of green slash
- 568 tons of wood
- 479 tons of wood chips
- 307 tons of pine needle and other flammable one-hour fuels
- 3,369 total tons of woody biomass
- 110 semi-truck loads of ground pine mulch
- 25 semi-truck loads of unprocessed ground pine mulch

Education and Outreach

- Monthly newsletter with an average opening rate of 45%
- Wildfire Awareness Days: June 8 at the Nederland yard and June 15 at the Meeker Park yard

Biomass Fuel

- 24 loads of biomass delivered to both biomass plants



Biomass operations tour group