



Forestry & Fire

Boulder County | 2025 Annual Report

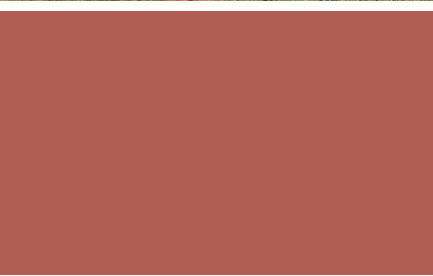
Highlights

- Actively participated in forest collaborative groups to provide input on strategies for wildfire mitigation and forest resilience.
- Expanded operational capacity with two grant-funded term positions, leveraging forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation funding to accelerate priority projects.
- Hosted four community volunteer events and supported three community engagement opportunities, strengthening local involvement in current and future forestry projects.
- Continued our species conservation efforts by monitoring limber pine health, planting 1,000 limber pine seedlings, and preserving critical genetic diversity through cone collection and seed archiving.



Forestry & Fire Work Group

- Shane Milne, Forestry Supervisor
- Scott Golden, Senior Forestry Specialist
- Zach Price, Senior Forestry Specialist
- Nick Stremel, Forestry Specialist
- Jessica Hawkins, Forestry Specialist
- Dan Buelow, Forestry Technician
- Jon Bruce, Forestry Technician
- Angelika Helmer, Forestry Technician



Public Participation

- Hosted the fourth annual San Lazaro community tree cutting event at Reynolds Ranch.
- Provided 50 trees and staffing assistance for the community partners holiday celebration at Open Space and Transportation Complex.
- Coordinated five limber pine planting volunteer events with assistance from 64 volunteers for 273 hours at Caribou Ranch, Sherwood Gulch, Reynolds Ranch, and Mud Lake.
- Supported the Crona Hill/Lyons volunteer neighborhood defensible space event at Hall Ranch.



Youth Corps

- Cleaned up 1.5 acres of blowdown at Hall Ranch.
- Seeded and rehabbed 50 slash pile scars at Hall Ranch.
- Raked accumulated duff away from 25 legacy trees at Hall Ranch.
- Removed .25 miles of barbed wire fence from the Elk Draw property.
- Thinned 5 acres of lodgepole pine regeneration at Reynolds Ranch.



Forest Planning

- Hired two term positions in the spring of 2025 with funding from the Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program.
- Collected data on seven properties including Fabel, Engle, Currie, Park Creek, Prescott, Prescott 2, and Bald Mountain, totaling about 480 acres.
- This data collection included 134 plots and sampled 1,499 trees over about 480 acres.
- Worked collaboratively to approve two scopes of work (SOW) for Tucker Elk Draw and Bearberry.
- Participated in various collaborative groups, including the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership, the Boulder County Fireshed, and the Northern Colorado Fireshed.
- Assisted with three partner-led field tours and public engagement events.

Forest Management

- Completed project layout on approximately 93 acres at Tucker-Elk Draw and partner lands for the Middle Boulder Creek (MBC) Fuels Reduction Project, including boundary flagging and individual tree marking.
- Conducted three public meetings associated with the MBC Fuels Reduction Project.
- Implemented two public comment periods soliciting general input on the MBC Fuel Reduction Project and specific SOW feedback.
- Developed a comment response matrix in conjunction with the Boulder Watershed Collective to include in the final MBC Fuel Reduction Project SOW.



In-House Operations

- Completed 3.5 acres of wildfire defensible space around the Nederland Community Forestry Sort Yard.
- Cleared hazard trees along 2.5 miles of the Cal-Wood Fire/Hansen rain gauge access road.
- Completed 1.5 acres of wildfire defensible space adjacent to the Lyons Crona Hill neighborhood on Hall Ranch.
- Collected and processed about 50 teepee poles from Reynolds Ranch for Oklahoma Cheyenne tribal partners.



Pre
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Post
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Species Conservation

- Surveyed 637 limber pines at 10 long-term White Pine Blister Rust monitoring plots.
- Staff and volunteers planted 1,000 limber pine seedlings over five Boulder County Parks & Open Space (BCPOS) properties.
- Climbed 20 ponderosa pines to collect five bushels of cones.
- Cleaned and archived more than 60,000 ponderosa pine seeds.





Fire Management Program

- Completed planning documents for 10 projects, covering more than 23,000 feet of ditch, 4,000 piles, and 840 acres.
- Issued 21 Red Cards for Wildland Fire Qualifications (FFT1, FFT2, READ, AREP, RXB3).
- Updated Boulder County's Significant User document for the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission.
- Completed 28 weeks of fuel moisture monitoring for local and national fire danger ratings.

Photo credit: Code10 Photography

Prescribed Fire Operations

- Completed 8.2 miles of ditch burns.
- Completed burning of 1,067 piles on Sherwood Gulch and Hall Ranch.
- Completed 1.5 acres of broadcast burning for BCPOS.
- Participated in three prescribed fire projects for other agencies (Greeley Natural Areas, Lefthand Fire Protection District, Rocky Mountain National Park).

