



This memo summarizes a meeting that took place on March 15, 2023, at the Martin Parcel in Lyons. Members of the Watershed Center, Lyons Fire Protection District, Lefthand Fire Protection District, and the Town of Lyons met to discuss the next steps for a fire mitigation project. Two members of the Ecological Advisory Board were also present towards the end of the meeting. However, this memo does not speak on behalf of them or the Ecological Advisory Board.

**Objectives:** The objective was to determine specific areas within the parcel for work to be performed by the Lefthand Fire Mitigation Crew within the next six weeks. Additional objectives were to gain permissions from nearby neighbors for Lyons Fire access, and to determine which tree species or conditions to target.

**Results:** The following results and strategies were made with Town Safety in mind, as well as the safety of First Responders who may need to access the area to prevent further wildfire spread.

#### Perimeter Mitigation

- A strategy was agreed upon to focus mitigation efforts (cutting/limbing of obvious dead and/or hazardous trees + removal of dead brush on the ground 6 inches or less in diameter) along the East and North side of the Parcel, ranging from 20 to 60 feet from the perimeter towards the interior (see green shaded area on map).
- Lyons Fire will work with the property owners South of the parcel to educate and encourage them on mitigation strategies, wildfire behavior, and disaster preparedness.

#### Dead & Down ("DnD")

- Boulder County regulations state that only wood material with a diameter of 6 inches or less may be placed into a burn pile.
- In addition to the 20-60 ft. perimeter mitigation zone, a DnD relocation zone will be created 0-40 feet beyond the perimeter mitigation zone (see purple shaded area on map).
- For wood material pieces that are greater than 6 inches (dead trees already laying on the ground), most of these pieces would be relocated towards the center of the parcel.
  - o Relocating these pieces prevents the perimeter of the parcel from having potentially higher temps and increases the distance an ember would have to travel to ignite another area.
  - o Upon arrival to a wildfire, firefighters are often first assigned the task of relocating large diameter fuels/trees to the interior of the fire. By relocating these DnD trees now, we enhance the safety and abilities of future firefighters during their response.
  - o These pieces will be placed near the interior of the zone in a way to appear natural or sporadic. They will not be stacked or organized in a way that would impact the natural look of the area.

## Burn Piles

- Wood material from the perimeter mitigation and DnD relocations, that are less than 6 inches in diameter, would be placed into strategic areas for future burn piles.
- Specific dates to ignite these burn piles are dependent on weather conditions and requirements set by Boulder County. Ideally, a burn pile would be completed by the end of April. If the burn piles are not ignited by end of April, conditions will most likely be favorable for ignition this October.

## Hazard Mitigation & “Green-up”

- Due to the current state of the parcel and weather conditions, it is challenging to determine which standing trees are alive and which are dead. In April, Lefthand Fire Crews will mitigate the obvious dead trees that also present a hazard to the public within the perimeter mitigation zone and any imminently dangerous trees on the parcel.
- If after the perimeter mitigation is complete and burn piles have not been ignited, the Lefthand crew may return to do cutting/mitigation after the green-up or obvious signs of tree leaf-out; this will make it more evident as to which trees are alive or dead. This may occur in May or June.

## Wood Forts

- While forts remain a debatable topic, they provide additional fuel in a wildfire event, and are usually created without public safety in mind. However, the Town and Lyons Fire are aware of recreational use of the parcel and that children often play and create wood forts. This memo recommends a science-based “Leave No Trace” town position, and proposes an educational campaign that supports small, child-sized forts to be made so long as they are deconstructed prior to leaving the area.

## Tree Species and Specific Targeting

- It was determined that invasive tree species should not be a primary concern at this time. The larger concern is for hazardous trees, “widow makers”, and the abundance of large fuels on the ground.

## Southside Emergency Access

- Lyons Fire has been granted temporary access to the parcel by the property owners to the South.