

Town of Lyons-July 25, 2023

From: Dave Cosgrove, Director of Parks and Public Works

After Action Report: Goat Mowers, LLC-Fire Mitigation Grazing on Russell Subdivision/"Longs Peak" Parcel

Summary:

Building from last year's success of using goats for grazing as a measure of fire mitigation services to prevent increased destruction during a wildfire event, and aid in reducing fire fuels from town-owned properties, the Town approved and conducted one goat fire mitigation event this Spring. Previous 2022 discussions implied that the goat mitigation services would best be used on the same locations in 2023. However, after a review of the previously mitigated parcels by town staff and goat services, it was determined a different parcel should be addressed as a higher priority.

2023 Parcel:

#R0067603, "Longs Peak" Parcel: This is an approximately 6-acre parcel located east of the Longs Peak Dr. Homeowners Association area. It has some steeply sloped areas, dense vegetation, and had adequate parking for the goat mitigation company on the North end of the parcel, at the end of Horizon Drive. The parcel had a significant number of grasses, mountain Mahogany, dead undergrowth, and invasive weeds, among others. Goat Mowers, LLC was chosen to perform the work, one of the providers chosen in 2022.



Goat Mowers LLC (Kimberly Jones) provided 40 Boer goats, fencing, day/night shepherding and worked with homeowners to provide water, requiring 30-35 gallons of water per day for their goats.

Performed work June 23rd-July 1, Completed approximately 4-5 acres of the parcel.

From Kimberly Jones, Goat Mowers LLC: *The goats ate the following: Native Grasses, Cheatgrass, Foxtail, Bindweed, Dandelion, Canadian Thistle, Rabbit Brush, Pine Needles (bringing the canopy off the ground), Greenspire Linden leaves (raising canopy), dead undergrowth of Yucca plants, Elm tree leaves, Staghorn Sumac, Mountain Mahogany. The goats also ate some Myrtle Spurge.*

Much of the open space was fully covered with 2-4 foot tall grasses and in some areas it was 5 feet tall due to all the moisture Colorado has had this year. The Goats eliminated the tall grasses which removed the ladder fuels. Please see a couple examples of a couple of areas before and after photos below.



Before photo, as goats begin work on area with tall grasses.



Hillside mitigated. Tall grasses, undergrowth and weeds eliminated.



Before photo of area with tall grasses and Mountain Mahogany.



After Photo. Tall grasses and Mountain Mahogany removed.