

## MEADOWDALE HILLS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. 100 Meadowview Drive Estes Park, CO 80517 WWW.mhpoa.com

Hi Again,

Enclosed are two items folks in the neighborhood have been working on, and the board would like to pass them along. Both of these items are especially important to those of us living in the mountains.

First of all is fire mitigation. We encourage all property owners to be proactive in their efforts to reduce hazards form wildfire by creating a defensible space around their homes. Take advantage of our MHPOA slash removal in June. Defensible space does not mean that your landscape has to be barren.

To learn more visit the Colorado State Forest Service web site <u>www.csfs.colostate.edu</u>. then go to Resources for Homeowners & Landowners, then click on Protect your Home, Property & Forest from Wildfire. Our Wildfire Protection Committee is currently working to secure a grant to assist our neighborhood. This is part of a valley wide effort involving other associations and groups. If you would like to become involved please contact **Jane Woodburn 586-2546** or **Steve Misch 586-2689**.

The second item concerns the Mountain Pine Beetle. If you have visited Grand County you have witnessed the devastation caused by these beetles. We are currently seeing beetle kill in the ponderosa forests on the east side of the Continental Divide as beetles continue to seek out living trees. We currently have beetle infested trees in Meadowdale Hills. The threat of infestation to the front-range forests has become such a concern that the Board of County Commissioners has passed a resolution directing the Larimer County Pest Inspector to enforce Colorado Revised Statutes 35-4-107. This statute includes Mountain Pine, and Douglas Fir Beetles and Spruce Ips. If an inspector receives notification of possible infestation the owner is notified that the property will be inspected to determine if an infestation exists. If an infestation is found the property owner will be notified, and the infected trees will have been marked with a red X. The home owner will then have ten days upon receipt of this notification to submit a management plan describing control measures and a schedule for completion. If no management plan is received the Larimer County Pest Inspector will have the control work done at the expense of the property owner. The billing can not exceed \$5,000 annually.

We may not be able to completely stop the current beetle outbreak, but we can reduce the impact with a unified neighborhood effort. Please remove infected trees, create defensible space around your homes by thinning vegetation, and spray high-value trees. OK, those are the problems, here is the solution.

MHPOA has contracted with Summit Forestry **970–481–0814**, owner **Tony Mahon**, to provide the neighborhood slash removal. Home owners are encouraged to contact Summit Forestry to assist with tree, and beetle related concerns.