



FACT SHEET



United States Department of Agriculture
Web: <http://www.usda.gov>

United States Department of Interior
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Making a Difference Community Wildfire Protection Plan Crystal Lakes / Beaver Meadows Communities - Colorado

Crystal Lakes is a private mountain subdivision located near Red Feather Lakes Village approximately 50 miles northwest of Fort Collins, one of Colorado's fastest growing front-range communities. Established in 1969, Crystal Lakes contains approximately 1,700 lots distributed over more than 4,800 acres. The lots range in size from ½ to 10 acres and approximately 600 have permanent structures. Beaver Meadows Resort covers approximately 900 acres and maintains a lodge, restaurant, condominiums, cabins and a stable.

Partners: Crystal Lakes Associations, Crystal Lakes Fire District, Beaver Meadows Homeowners Association, Colorado State Forest Service, Larimer County Wildfire Safety and the USDA Forest Service, Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest, Canyon Lakes Ranger District.

Background: In 2002, the Crystal Lakes Firewise Task Force was formed to create a Firewise Community that is responsible, educated, aware, and active to minimize the impact of wildfire. As partners in this effort, Federal, State and County agencies took on leadership roles, providing expertise and guidance in meeting the goals established by the task force. In addition, the Canyon Lakes Ranger District recently completed the Environmental Assessment for the Crystal Lakes Fuels Reduction Project (Decision Notice signed July 1, 2004). This 18,000 acre planning area (10,000 acres of National Forest surrounding Crystal Lakes and Beaver Meadows) will treat over 3,300 acres of National Forest to:

- Complement defensible space activities in the community
- Reduce the risk of crown fire adjacent to private property
- Create conditions, on a landscape scale, where fire behavior could be modified to reduce the size and intensity of crown fire
- Return areas to more natural occurring stand conditions and fuel loads

Prioritized Fuel Reduction:

- Identification of Hazards – Larimer County Wildfire Safety staff conducted a community risk assessment to identify hazards and advise homeowners of mitigation alternatives. The assessment included ratings for vegetation (defensible space), structural ignitability, and accessibility. This information was presented to homeowners at a recent annual homeowner meeting and is also available at the communities' offices.
- Develop Management Plan – Colorado State Forest Service and Larimer County Wildfire Safety are working closely with Crystal Lakes Associations and Beaver Meadows Resort to develop and implement a forest management plan (including defensible space treatments) based on priority areas identified in the community risk assessment

Treatment of Structural Ignitability:

- Within defined wildfire hazard areas, Larimer County currently requires all new construction to utilize fire-resistive construction materials designed to resist the spread of fire.
- Within defined wildfire hazard areas, Larimer County currently requires defensible space in compliance with current Colorado State Forest Service guidelines

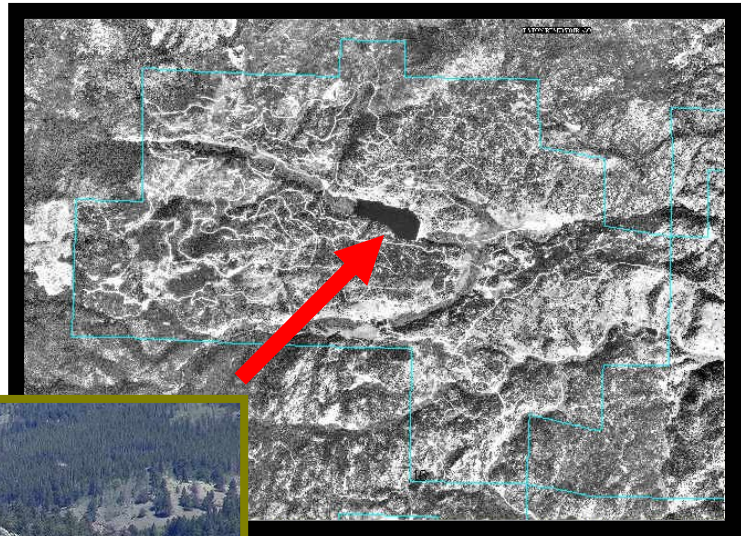
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The CWPP is in draft stage and will not be finalized until this fall. There are many other facets to this plan, including:

- **Education and Awareness** – includes educating the community on acceptable fire protection measures, forest health and emergency procedures
- **Preparedness** – includes identification of hazards, development of forest management plan, implementation of hazard reduction, and improvement of community firefighting capabilities
- **Emergency Response** – includes development and implementation of evacuation plan and improvement of emergency communications

When completed, the CWPP will be agreed upon by the following entities:

- Crystal Lakes Associations
- Crystal Lakes Fire District
- Beaver Meadows Homeowners Association
- Colorado State Forest Service
- Larimer County Wildfire



Photos: Crystal Lakes / Beaver Meadows – Aerial Vie

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For more information on the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 and the Healthy Forests Initiative, visit www.healthyforests.gov