

Forest Stewardship Committee

The Community has survived yet another year without Mountain Pine Beetle (our fourth). The Forest Service reports no new Mountain Pine Beetle outbreaks in the Castle Rock area. The same is true for Tussock Moth and Saw Fly Wasp. However, we have seen a modest increase in the activity of Ips and Red Turpentine Beetle. Over the past three years we found some ten to fifteen Ponderosa each year with signs of these beetles. This year we observed some thirty trees. As in the past, most showed signs of stress caused by earlier beetle attacks, lightning and/or damage caused by construction. The majority of these trees were located on the tops of ridges where water is less abundant. We can surmise that because of existing stress and lack of water during the 5-7 week dry spell in the summer, the trees expired.

This marks the third year of noxious weed control. We targeted Canada Thistle, Knapweed and Leafy Spurge. Our Canada Thistle tests of two years ago show that the thistle has not returned. It also appears that Knapweed was pretty well controlled. We have had less success with Leafy Spurge. As a result, we initiated several tests recommended by Douglas County. Two weeks after spraying, the Leafy Spurge appeared dead. The real test, of course, is if it doesn't come back in the spring. We found a large patch of Toad Flax on Castle Pines Drive North and have tested ways to control it. In the spring, our strategy will shift from spraying large areas to spraying the "pockets" of weeds that remain.

The Mistletoe infested trees along Indigo were sprayed for a second year. Several on Bantala were sprayed for the first time. Next spring, we will begin the process of cutting Mistletoe out of these trees. This will result in a more permanent solution than spraying. Our task will be to determine which trees will benefit most from this approach and continue to look like a viable tree. The Mistletoe north of the Northstar development appears to be contained for now. Mistletoe infestations were found in two additional locations this fall. An intensive audit of these trees will ensue in the spring.

We have seen no additional problems with The Village's Douglas Fir other than the one tree that died near the 18th hole of the Country Club. We will take a close look at these trees come spring.

Forest Stewardship Committee members for 2018 include Dave Cooper (chairman), Stephen Cain, Jack Hummel, Suzy Beck, Pat Foley, Jim Huffman, Sam Mersfelder and John Paul

Respectively Submitted

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Dave Cooper

Chairman, Forest Stewardship Committee