

Legault Mountain

Forest Restoration & Wildlife Mitigation

February – September 2022

Denver Mountain Parks Forestry & Natural Resources Program

Project Overview

Denver Mountain Parks will treat 135 acres of mixed conifer forest on the Legault Mountain tract from February through September 2022.

This important project will help to promote greater forest diversity, improve forest structure, enhance wildlife habitat, and help reduce wildfire severity. The project will mostly target overgrown lodgepole pine stands. Ponderosa pine will be retained where it occurs naturally, and Douglas-fir, blue spruce, and rocky mountain juniper will be retained to promote biological diversity.

Purpose of Forest Treatment

Here's why treating 135 acres of forest at the Legault Mountain tract is important:

Overgrowth is Hazardous

Historically, low severity fires removed pockets of new growth and reduced the build-up of seedlings and forest debris. When trees grow too close together and the forest floor accumulates flammable material like dead trees and shrubs, the forest becomes unhealthy, and wildfires have the potential to become extremely destructive.

Forest Treatments are Necessary

Forest managers mimic the role of natural fire on the landscape by using tools like chainsaws, masticators, and timber harvesting equipment. Healthy, treated forests aren't always pretty, and you may see wide open areas, wood chips, and other changes. But don't worry, these changes are intentional and necessary.

Treated Forests are Sustainable

Removing 5–15-acre patches of forest primarily within lodgepole stands will help to invigorate the growth of meadows and aspen trees and reduces competition for resources among trees. The remaining trees will grow larger and stronger, and the forest will have a better chance at survival if a wildfire does occur.

Project Timeline

1. Phase 1 (completed in 2021): Forest inventory, data collection and draft forest treatment plan
2. Phase 2 (February-September 2022): Heavy equipment mobilization and forest treatment implementation
3. Phase 3 (2022-2025): Monitoring, noxious weed treatment, erosion control, mitigating soil compaction, and monitoring related impacts

What does forest treatment look like?

Here's what to expect before and after a successful forest treatment:

Pictured: dense forest with numerous dead and fallen trees vs. a section that has been cleared of debris and potential wildfire group

Contact Us

Please reach out with comments or questions:

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