

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Vegetation, fuels and timber



Slash piles created during fuels and timber management activities are cured prior to being removed or burned.

FORESTRY BENEFITS COLORADO

Did you know? Forest management activities on the ARP in 2010 supported 4,680 full and part-time jobs, as well as contributed about \$152 million in labor income and nearly \$253.5 million to Gross Domestic Product. These figures include some jobs derived from restoration contracts and stewardship contracts.



Specialized machinery reduces disturbance while removing hazardous trees along Crooked Creek Road on the Sulphur Ranger District.

Since 1996, the mountain pine beetle epidemic has affected more than 1 million acres of forested land on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests (ARP). Forest managers use hazardous fuels treatments, hazard tree removal and restoration-focused projects to improve the health, resiliency and safety of forests impacted by the mountain pine beetle. Such treatments are focused in the wildland near communities, in developed recreation areas, along roads and trails, and near infrastructure such as utility corridors and water delivery and storage facilities. These projects continue to be planned and implemented with the help of partners and contractors. Since 2002, hazardous fuels have been reduced on more than 140,000 acres in and around the wildland urban interface.

► The **mountain pine beetle infestation** continues to slow. In 2013, mountain pine beetle activity was detected on 74,000 acres with only 2,000 new acres that had not been previously affected on the forest. The largest spread occurred in Larimer County, affecting lodgepole, ponderosa and limber pines. Addressing the hazard tree situation and focusing on promoting resiliency and recovery continues to be emphasized.

► The ARP issued **contracts to spray approximately 200 acres or 6,800 high value trees** with pesticide in and around campgrounds and developed recreation sites to reduce the potential for mountain pine beetle infestation.

► More than **9,000 trees were planted** on Canyon Lakes Ranger District (CLRD) and more than **4,000 trees** were planted on Boulder Ranger District (BRD) to **jump start the recovery of key recreation areas and enhance species composition** in lodgepole pine stands. Planting done in the Lump Gulch Fuels Reduction Project was the first to occur in more than 23 years on BRD.

► The ARP sold approximately 24,418 ccf, or the equivalent of about **2,000 truckloads of timber** in 2013. Much of this came from bark beetle impacted forests and was used to **support a variety of wood products industries**, from traditional lumber to pellets, pallets, fence posts, paper pulp, landscaping material and animal bedding.

► Sulphur Ranger District (SRD) **repackaged a defaulted timber sale** into the smaller 5180 ccf Seven Sisters Sale, which attracted a number of bidders from Colorado. The official award was made late in 2013. A **nontraditional sale** totaling over 12,000 ccf of leftover decks from the Pass Creek Salvage Sale on SRD also successfully attracted a **variety of local bidders** and was officially awarded in early 2014.

► The ARP and the Pike National Forest worked together with contractor West Range Reclamation to support new markets in the fifth year of the **Front Range Long Term Stewardship Contract**. In 2013, the ARP treated 2,738 acres of National Forest System lands and harvested 12,970 ccf or 1,200 truckloads under the stewardship contract.

► Hazardous fuels reduction projects on the Forest continue to be supported by the **Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership** and **Front Range Roundtable**. The Forest is implementing the **Colorado Front Range Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR)** project with the Roundtable and the Pike and San Isabel National Forests, which includes a multi-party monitoring plan for projects. The Forest also participated in and provided leadership to the **Northern Front Range Forest Health Working Group** and other roundtable groups such as the Landscape Restoration Team and the Community Protection Team.

► The ARP accomplished 8,630 acres of hazardous fuels reduction work in 2013. Implementation of this work occurred across a variety of landscapes in need of fuels reduction work. The forest is in the process of planning several large-scale projects that address the need to reduce hazardous fuels across the forest in both **Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)** and non-WUI areas. The **Colorado Front Range CFLR** resulted in hazardous fuels reduction and forest health improvement work across 6,759 acres on the ARP in the WUI. Partnership matching contributions of nearly \$1.9 million resulted in 400 acres of reforestation and 2,600 acres of forest restoration and hazardous fuels reductions along the Front Range.

► In 2013, **hazard trees were cut along 62 miles of roads and 24 miles of power lines**, and in developed recreation sites, including hazard tree work on Long Draw Road on CLRD and hazard tree work on trails, picnic areas and trailheads in the Brainard Lake Recreation Area in partnership with the Nature Conservancy and Larimer County Youth Corps. Treatments along power lines were done in cooperation with the Poudre Valley Rural Electric Authority.

► More than **400 acres of hazardous fuels treatment** was completed in the Winter Park area through the **“From Forest to Faucets”** agreement signed with Denver Water. This partnership is focused on promoting forest resiliency in critical municipal watersheds.

► The **Colorado-Big Thompson Headwaters Partnership** between ARP, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, the Bureau of Reclamation and Colorado State Forest Service was featured during a signing of the **Western Watersheds Enhancement Partnership** in Fort Collins in July with the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior as well as many dignitaries from across the state. The national program will be modeled after the local partnership, bringing federal, state and private organization together to protect watersheds from the threat of wildfire. Meanwhile, the ARP’s local partnership funded a hazard analysis that will result in the prioritization of treatment areas as part of a 5-year plan on federal and private lands.

► At the end of 2013, the ARP had more than 125,000 slash piles to be burned. As hazardous fuels and timber sale projects are completed, more piles are created each year. To reduce the number of piles, the ARP is working with the **Colorado Air Pollution Control Division** to pilot ways to burn more piles within air quality standards and burning prescription. Through that program, SRD burned 6,600 piles under a new, non-standard smoke permit over a period of several weeks. Under a traditional smoke management permit, CLRD burned more than 10,000 piles during the 2012-2013 winter. BRD removed approximately 6,000 piles across 300 acres. For more information about piles, visit www.fs.usda.gov/goto/arp/rxfire.



Helicopters are used to remove hazardous trees from vegetated islands on steep slopes at Winter Park Resort on Sulphur Ranger District.

FOREST 2013 FACTS

- *Removed hazard trees from 62 miles of road.*
- *Sold 24,418 ccf of timber.*
- *Treated 8,630 acres to reduce the risk of wildfire.*
- *Burned 23,000 slash piles.*



Machinery stacks and sorts lodgepole pine logs during the winter on Canyon Lakes Ranger District. Winter logging can reduce soil disturbance as well as impacts to recreation and wildlife in some areas.