

CCME WILDFIRE MITIGATION NEWSLETTER



Team Rubicon Wildfire Mitigation Project

CCME Wildfire Mitigation Committee Co-Chairs Suzanne Adams and Loren Gollhardt are excited to announce an important wildfire mitigation project to be conducted in part of the CCME common area this summer. This project will be implemented at no cost to CCME by Team Rubicon. The CCME Wildfire Mitigation Team will be using approximately \$1000 of our annual budget allocation for wildfire mitigation in 2024 to support Team Rubicon and other volunteers from Four Mile Fire Protection District and CCME by providing meals during the project.

Team Rubicon is a veteran-led humanitarian organization that serves global communities before, during, and after disasters and crises. Their vision is to support humanity and build resiliency for vulnerable communities across the world. In Colorado, part of the Team Rubicon work centers on wildfire mitigation projects to reduce the risk of loss or damage to life, property, and the ecosystem from a wildfire event. For more information about Team Rubicon see TeamRubiconUSA.org.

Objective:

Create a fuel break along the southwestern edge of the CCME Filing 23 common area (20-30 acres) bordering Teller County 1. This area was chosen because it was identified by Jay Teague, Director of the Teller County Office of Emergency Management, as the most vulnerable area in CCME.

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A wildfire approaching from Box Canyon and along the Bernard Creek ravine would quickly spread throughout filing 23 and engulf the rest of CCME given the topography of this area—south-facing, steep, dense trees, fallen trees, and other ground fuel. Jay Teague stated that if a wildfire approached CCME from this direction, he would advise against sending firefighters and equipment into filing 23 to defend the homes there unless wildfire mitigation was conducted in this area. It would just be too dangerous for the firefighters.

In July, the exact areas for mitigation will be mapped out and the perimeter of the project will be identified with wildfire marking tape (this will be completed by Adrian Knight of CUSP, Dave LaRivee of Team Rubicon, and Chief Hawkins of Four Mile Fire).

Description of wildfire mitigation procedures

Team Rubicon and Four Mile Fire volunteers will follow the Colorado State Forest Service standards for wildfire mitigation:

- Open the canopy spacing (20-30' crown spacing between trees or clumps of trees) by removing approximately 40% of the smaller diameter trees. Larger evergreen trees and aspen trees will be retained.

Project timeline:

The scheduled dates for the project are August 2 – 4 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday).

Team Rubicon volunteers will arrive on Thursday, August 1 and leave on Monday, August 5.





- Remove standing dead/dying trees.
- Remove and chip slash. Chips will be broadcast over the forest floor (less than 3 inches deep on average).
- Deck boles (trimmed tree trunks) generated by the mitigation work in an accessible place to be used as part of the CCME Firewood Exchange Program.
- Adrian Knight (CUSP forester) will inspect and certify the work after the project is completed.

CCME owners who would like to arrange to see a representative example of this kind of mitigation work may contact Suzanne Adams at Suzanne.adams@ucdenver.edu.

Logistics:

Team Rubicon volunteers will be primarily housed at the Southwest Teller County EMS facility in Cripple Creek. The command team crew (4-5 persons) will be housed at the CCME Clubhouse; the conference room next to the CCME office will be reserved for their command station. The CCME main Clubhouse will be used for the volunteers to gather for briefing/debriefing sessions at breakfast and dinner on Friday and Sunday (the CCME clubhouse is reserved for a wedding on Saturday). Team Rubicon volunteers will also have access to the showers in the lower level of the clubhouse.

Suzanne Adams will act as the “Food Unit Coordinator.” Suzanne will recruit CCME residents and local churches to prepare and serve breakfasts, box lunches, and dinners.

CCME Wildfire Mitigation Committee co-chairs will attend all CCME Board Meetings prior to the project date to give updates on project planning, recruit volunteers, and answer CCME owners’ questions.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

This is an ambitious project. The co-chairs of the CCME Wildfire Mitigation Committee, Suzanne Adams and Loren Gollhardt, are very pleased to serve the CCME community but they can’t do this alone. Volunteers are needed to help on the work site as well as to help prepare and serve food. Suzanne and Loren sincerely ask the residents of CCME to please donate a little time to help this project succeed.



You can offer as little or as much of your time and effort as you like. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities:

- On-the-ground volunteers to assist with chipping (there will be two chippers in operation) or assist Team Rubicon volunteers as needed.
- Behind-the-scene volunteers to help prepare and serve breakfast (Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday) and dinner (Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday) or prepare box lunches (Friday, Saturday, Sunday).
- Contribute money towards purchase of food, snacks and drinks for volunteers.
- Assist the CCME Firewood Exchange Program. Help to cut boles into fireplace-sized lengths, split and deliver firewood.

This is your community, and this is an excellent opportunity for you to help to make it a better place to live. With many hands, the work is made light. Please email Suzanne Adams at Suzanne.adams@ucdenver.edu or call 719-689-2715 to volunteer.



Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation (FRWRM) Grant – LAST CALL!

As a reminder—CCME owners can still participate in the FRWRM grant to have their property mitigated during the summer of 2024. Under this grant, CCME owners pay 60% of the cost of fire mitigation, and the grant covers 40%. This is the last year of this grant. The money is there now to offset the cost of mitigation on your property. Future grant awards are not guaranteed. Each neighbor who has wildfire mitigation performed on their property not only protects their largest investment, their home, but helps protect the entire community of CCME. Please take advantage of this great opportunity.

If you are interested in adding your property to the list for this summer, please contact Suzanne Adams immediately at Suzanne.Adams@ucdenver.edu.



CCME 2024 Summer Chipping Schedule

The chipping schedule for this summer has been set. Chief Hawkins and the Four Mile Fire Protection District crew will be bringing the county chipper to CCME on Friday and Saturday, four times this summer:

- JUNE 7 & 8
- JULY 12 & 13
- AUGUST 9 & 10
- SEPTEMBER 13 & 14

Mark these dates on your calendar and start doing your trimming. There is plenty of time for you to make your slash piles and get on the list! Call Rachel at 719-689-2549.

As you prepare slash piles, keep in mind these guidelines:

Slash should be in neat piles at the road where they can easily be reached. Piles should not be larger than 6' x 6', and limbs must be laid into piles so that the larger ends are pointed towards the road. There is no limit on the number of piles you put out.

Accepted materials include: trees, logs, and branches up to 6" in diameter that is free of nails and wire. The following are restricted materials:

- No construction or building materials, treated lumber, fence posts, or signs.
- No shrubs, root wads, stumps, dirt, or rocks. These clog and damage the chipping equipment.
- No grass clippings, trash, weeds, or bags of leaves.



Example of properly stacked pile



Example of improperly stacked pile



Decomposing wood, root balls, lumber, pine needles cannot be chipped.



Chipping Days Needs You!

It is very important that CCME provide several volunteers to follow the chipper each day through the whole route. The county rule is that the community MUST supply some volunteers to help load the chipper. The route is usually about ten stops and takes about a half day to complete.

Lunch will be provided for the volunteers in the CCME clubhouse. Loren is looking forward to seeing his old friends on the CCME Wildfire Mitigation Crew again and meeting some new people, too! Please call Rachel to let her know which days you can help. 719-689-2549.