

US Forest Service

Boulder Ranger District Action Plan

August 2016

Forest Mitigation

The Forest Service will continue to put an emphasis on slash disposal. We have burned or chipped 75,000-85,000 piles since 2012. We are about to chip another 450 acres (approximately 11,000 piles) across the district in coming weeks. We acknowledge there is a back log of approximately 2,600 acres (approximately 65,000 slash piles). So long as vegetation management work continues, there will always be piles on the landscape. Success is disposing of slash piles within 2-3 years of being created.

We will complete our environmental analysis and issue a special use permit to the Town of Nederland for the Big Springs Egress. This is being completed in coordination with Boulder County.

We will complete the Forsythe II Project Environmental Assessment and Decision in the fall of 2016. We plan to begin mitigation work as soon as next summer. We will also continue implementing task orders from other decisions.

We will continue vegetation management work to keep our forests healthy and to reduce the risk of wildfire to communities and watersheds for the foreseeable future.

Recreation Management

The Forest Service will continue to partner with Boulder County Sheriff's Office to provide funds for two mountain deputy shifts per weekend during the peak season.

We will explore how we can expand our partnership/agreement with Boulder County Sheriff and develop a formal partnership/agreement with Nederland Police.

Our Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer and District Ranger will continue to work with our Forest Protection Officers (able to write small tickets, don't carry guns) on determining what areas need the most patrolling and how to provide the most coverage we can during peak season.

We will continue to work with the county and sheriff on the cleanup of trash in camps. We are trying to address problem spots as quickly as possible, but it may take crews a couple of weeks to address reported problems. We will hold a big clean-up effort at the end of the summer season.

We will maintain our fire restrictions while conditions warrant.

We can also consider seasonal campfire restrictions in the wildland urban interface, which requires an analysis of effects and public input.

We will continue to play an active role in NICHE (Nederland Interagency Council on Homeless Encampments), which has brought entities together to work towards management solution for this national issue, which is impacting us where we live.

We will collaborate in whatever way we can with the Boulder Sheriff's Office to support the new Peak to Peak Community Watch program.

We will complete Magnolia Trails Project Environmental Assessment and Decision fall of 2016. Trailhead improvements, including rest rooms, and improved trail system, will promote a use more compatible to the Magnolia area adjacent to Nederland. This analysis does not address camping or campfires, only the trail system and connected infrastructure.

The Forest is working with four of its neighboring counties on a collaborative approach to regulating recreational sports shooting in the area.

The public can work with local community leaders, both Boulder County and Nederland, to develop a coordinated proposal of what they would like us to consider on National Forest System lands, which could include a range of camping solutions from dispersed camping restrictions to developed campgrounds.