



# PLAN JEFFCO UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2006

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## SAVE SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>

PLAN Jeffco and CINQ are having a  
Candidate Forum

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO ASK  
ABOUT YOUR ISSUES

Where: American Mountaineering Center  
710 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Golden

Time: 6:00 to 9:30 p.m.

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Schedule: 6:00 to 7:00 "Meet and Greet", all US House, Jeffco Legislative, and Commissioner  
Candidates invited - tables for literature will be provided

7:00 to 8:00 Candidates for Governor  
Beuprez (invited) Ritter (confirmed)

8:00 to 8:45 Candidates for U S House District 7  
Perlmutter (invited) O'Donnell (invited)

8:45 to 9:30 Candidates for County Commissioner  
Hartman (confirmed) Auburn (confirmed)

Moderator: Margot Zallen

Format: For the first half the candidates will be questioned by a panel regarding:  
I-70 West of Golden Beltway C-470 toll lanes Public transportation

For the second half, written questions on any issue will be accepted from the audience.

Check the PLAN Jeffco website, [www.planjeffco.org](http://www.planjeffco.org), for updates on participant confirmation.

Co-sponsors for the forum at press time include: PLAN Jeffco, Citizens Involved in the Northwest Quadrant (CINQ), Friends of the Foothills, Canyon Area Residents for the Environment (CARE), Citizens for Lakewood's Future, and COHOPE.

## 2007 Proposed Open Space Budget

The Open Space revenue has been flat since 2001. The 2005 revenue was only \$75,000 more than the revenue in 2001. The revenue so far in 2006 has increased moderately. This moderate increase has allowed the 2007 and five-year projected budgets to be based on a 2.5% annual increase in revenue.

The anticipated County share of the revenue for 2007 is \$24.2 million. Of this \$13.2 million is allocated to land leases and debt service on the acquisition bonds, \$9.5 million is allocated to operations and maintenance, and joint ventures have a \$2 million allocation. These three items total \$500,000 more than the projected 2007 revenue. However, in addition to the normal sales tax and miscellaneous revenue, Open Space will receive a \$4 million grant from GOCO as reimbursement for part of the South Table Mountain purchase from Coors. Open Space also has a fund balance that has been drawn down to

provide funds for development of parks and trails. About \$2.5 million per year has been budgeted for development which has reduced the fund balance to about \$20 million at the end of 2006. If operations and maintenance costs do not increase significantly, the development expenditures are maintained at \$2.5 million per year, and the revenue increases by 2.5% per year, in five years there will be sufficient revenue to cover all expenses and still maintain an \$11 million fund balance. After five years, or sooner if revenue increases at a rate faster than 2.5%, the opportunity should be there to increase staff and/or the development budget. Note that only limited additional positions have been created during this period of flat revenue.

The anticipated development budget for the next five years is shown in the following table. Values are in millions of dollars.

Park or Trail	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Miscellaneous upgrades	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15
Interpretative Wayside Exhibts	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07
Future Development			0.46	1.53	1.78
Alderfer/Three Sisters	0.05	0.15			
Centennial Cone	0.15	0.05			
Clear Creek Canyon	0.50	0.30	0.20	0.15	
Coal Creek Canyon		0.10	0.20	0.10	
Elk Meadow	0.25				
Hildebrand Ranch	0.30	0.45	0.33		
Lair o' the Bear	0.20				
Lookout Mtn Nature Center		0.05			
Matthews Winters	0.20				
North Table Mountain	0.10	0.40	0.10		
Reynolds Ranch	0.15				
South Table Mountain	0.05	0.20			
White Ranch	0.05	0.25			
Bear Creek Trail		0.30	0.50	0.46	
Natural Surface Trails	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25

Note that development expenses are only for materials and outside contractors. All in-house labor is included in the operating and maintenance budget.

## OSAC Changes

This year has seen major changes in the Open Space Advisory Committee. Dan Kimball was appointed Superintendent of Everglades National Park and moved permanently to Florida. Dan had been on OSAC for 15 years. Teri Topolnicki moved to Douglas County in 2005 and had not yet been replaced. Jim Johnson, an OSAC member since 1992, was not reappointed.

Jim's presence on OSAC is missed. Jim always was ready to take on additional responsibility. He was Vice-Chair for seven years, Chaired the trails Task Force since its inception in the 1990's, and Chaired the quarterly meetings with the city park departments and the park and recreation districts. Jim also served on the Jeffco Open Space Foundation Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. Jim always represented the conservative point of view and often was in the minority on votes, sometimes the only minority vote. However, his points of view nearly always were considered by the other OSAC members and Jim always accepted his not being supported gracefully. Jim really contributed to the well-functioning committee during his 14-year tenure.

The new appointments to OSAC are:

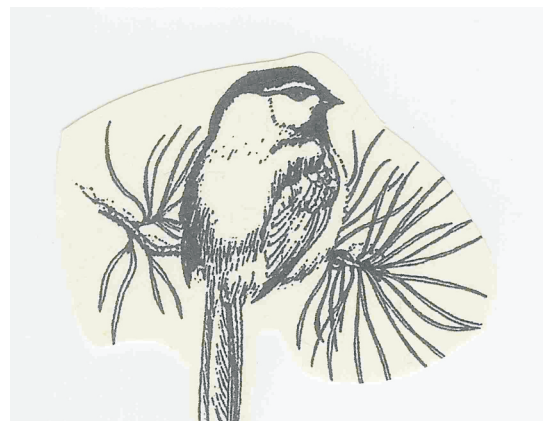
Bob West is the recreation district representative and has been active in Jeffco activities for a number of years. He was on the North Jeffco Park and Recreation District Board of Directors for eight years and served as President for two years. Bob is Chairman of the Jefferson County Economic Council and also serves on the R-1 Schools Financial Oversight Committee. Bob is the Chief Financial Officer for Jehn Engineering.

Felicity Hannay is an alternate member and also has been active in Jefferson County. She was on the Jeffco Planning Commission for six years. She served as Deputy Attorney General of Natural Resources and Environment and as part-time Senior Counsel in water law and water policy for Attorney general Ken Salazar.

Rebecca Watson is an alternate member and is a recent returnee to the Denver area. Rshe did legal work in the natural resources area in Wyoming, Montana, and Washington, D.C. before joining the Department of the Interior as Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management. She provided policy guidance to the Bureau of Land Management, the Minereals Management Service, and the Office of Surface Mining. Rebecca left Washington aafter Bush's first term and now works with Hogan & Hartson in Denver.

Wayne Forman, an alternate member since 1994, was appointed as a regular "At Large Representative" and Mark Davidson, an alternate for one year, was appointed as a regular City Representative.

The Policies and Procedures of OSAC were changed to allow for two Vice-Chairmen. Jan Wilkins and Wayne Forman were elected as the Vice-Chairmen.



## OSAC NOTES OSAC NOTES

**March 2, 2006 - Study Session**

Kim Frederick and B. J. Ellison presented Jeffco's implementation of "Best Management Practices for Accessible Trails." Within limits, Jeffco is trying to follow US Forest Service guidelines for natural surface trails. These guidelines implement three Federal Acts or Standards that have provisions that relate to natural surface trails. These are the 1968 Architectural Barriers Act, 1984 Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards, and 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. A first area of implementation will be to look at surface hardening techniques for trails and to develop a trail guideline manual for reference in designing new trails.

**Regular Meeting**

A resolution to remove the vacant house at Mount Galbraith Park was passed after much discussion. As much of the house as possible will be salvaged and made available to non-profit organizations.

A resolution to acquire the right-of-way under the Public Service (Xcel) power line between the South Boulder Diversion Canal and Indiana Street along Van Bibber Creek was approved. This property is 1.77 miles long and averages about 150 feet wide. It will allow connection between the existing trail along Van Bibber Creek East of Indiana and Long Lake Ranch. Margot Zallen presented an up-date on the North Table Mountain Ad Hoc Committee. The Committee had been having presentations by various naturalist and recreation groups. The Committee was proceeding with hiring firms for baseline vegetation and ground-nesting bird studies.

Revised names for the trails in Centennial Cone Park were presented. The revised names include: Elk Range Trail, Travois Trail, Evening Sun Loop, and Mayhem Gulch Trail. When built, the Mayhem Gulch Trail will connect to Clear Creek.

**April 6, 2006** - Meeting cancelled

**May 4, 2006 - Study Session**

John Wallace brought the Committee up-to-date on the Regional Trail Mapping Project. The objective is to get all trail information relative to Jefferson County into a map-data base. This would allow rapid generation of County-wide and detailed, localized maps.

Jean Reince-Schwartz presented the results of the 2005 Visitor Surveys. Six parks were surveyed with a total of 1646 responses. From 35 to 55% of the park users are from Jefferson County, with Deer Creek Canyon Park having the most out-of-county users. Hikers were the majority of the users in the parks surveyed: Alderfer/Three Sisters, Deer Creek Canyon, Mount Galbraith, Lair o' the Bear, Meyer ranch, and Windy Saddle.

**Regular Meeting**

Approval was given to funding \$100,000 of the cost for access and a parking lot at the Sledding Hill from the balance of the 2006 Joint Venture budget. The Sledding Hill, at Ken Caryl and Kipling has only unsafe on-street parking and presents a safety hazard when being used. The parking lot would be off of Kipling and also can serve as a trailhead for Foothills Red District trails.

Final terms were approved for acquisition of two small parcels at 12<sup>th</sup> and Wadsworth as additions to Lakewood's Two Creeks Park. These two parcels complete the acquisitions necessary for this neighborhood park.

OSAC officers were elected for 2006-2007.

Chairman, Greg Stevinson

Vice-Chairman, Jan Wilkins

Vice-Chairman, Wayne Forman

Secretary, John Litz

Pro-tem, Don Eikner

Chairman of the Park Directors Sub-committee, Bob West

Chairman of the Trails Task Force, Kevin Burke

**June 1, 2006 - Study Session**

Presentations on the management techniques used were made by K-Lynn Cameron, Director of Larimer County Open Lands; John Stokes, Director of Natural Resources, City of Ft. Collins; and Rich Koopmann, Resource Planning Manager, Boulder County. It was interesting to hear their planning processes and how they utilized public involvement.

## OSAC NOTES – CONTINUED

### June 1, 2006 - Regular Meeting

A large group of residents from the neighborhood East of Evergreen Mountain came to complain about Open Space closing social trails on that part of Alderfer/Three Sisters Park. After informing the neighborhood of their plans, staff had felled trees across the social trails, scarified parts of the social trails, and built a new trail connecting to the only point of public access in the neighborhood. There were complaints of potential fire danger and beetle damage from the felled trees. (Later review by Evergreen Fire and the County Wildfire Coordinator confirmed that Open Space staff had not created any problems.)

Final terms were approved for cost-sharing with Lakewood and Urban Drainage in the purchase of 7.1 acres East of Sunset Park. The property is just West of Kipling between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenues and will serve to expand the park and extend the trail corridor along Lakewood Gulch.

A proposal for acquisition of a 43-acre property along Van Bibber Creek, adjacent to the Southwest corner of White Ranch was presented. Staff had recommended forgoing the proposal as the property was not suitable for a trail connection and a portion of the property is developed with house and artificial ponds. A go-forth resolution was passed authorizing staff to obtain more information and to allow scheduling of an OSAC filed trip to view the property.

A revised proposal was presented by staff for the acquisition of 72 acres South of Highway 72 in Coal Creek Canyon adjacent to existing Open Space lands. The revised proposal eliminated the portion of the property North of Highway 72, the existing home, and a potential home site. A go-forth resolution was approved with the proviso that the property be field-tripped prior to consideration of final terms.

Arvada has been approached by a professional baseball league about locating a team in Arvada. The initial Long Lake Regional Park plans included space for a competition baseball field adjacent to the R-1 football and soccer stadiums. Approval was given to remove the Reverter Clause on the 5.4 acres to be occupied by the baseball stadium and to put a Reverter on 5.9 acres of Arvada park land at 64<sup>th</sup> and Easley Road.

### July 13, 2006 - Study Session

The proposed 2007 budget for Open Space by Ralph Schell. See discussion of the budget in a separate article.

### Regular Meeting

The proposed 2007 budget was approved as presented.

Go forth resolutions were approved for Westminster to negotiate on two parcels on the Northwest corner of 100<sup>th</sup> and Simms. R-1 had looked at these properties for the Wayne Carle Middle School, but the owners were not willing to sell. The owners are now willing and have had a purchase proposal from a developer. Westminster desires to preserve the properties as they are across 100<sup>th</sup> from the eagle's nest and have open space on three sides.

Final terms were approved for purchase of Conservation and Trail easements on 70 acres on the North side of Coal Creek adjacent to Open Space lands. The property allows for a good trail connecting link between parks in Boulder County and Golden Gate State Park.

Ralph Schell reported that staff had been in contact with the Alderfer/Three Sisters Park neighbors and a meeting was planned in the near future.

**August 3, 2006** - Meeting canceled as there were no action items to consider.



## *PLAN JEFFCO BOARD INVOLVED WITH BANQUET, BOTANY AND BIKES*

Since the publication of our last newsletter in early March, 2006, the PJ Board has been busy. We started with our annual dinner with the Commissioners in late March, the following months were filled with numerous meetings of the North Table Ad Hoc Committee, initiated by PJ Chairperson Margot Zallen and biker rep, Peter Morales. As reported in our last newsletter, these meetings resulted in the creation of a 10 member group which is to reach consensus on recommended management of North Table Mountain and joint funding for professional studies to update the plant and wildlife data on North Table Mountain. (PLAN Jeffco-\$5,000, Table Mtn. Conservation-\$5,000, Open Space-\$10,000.)

PJ board member Eric Finstick continued as a citizen rep for hikers, attending OSAC Trail Conflict subcommittee meetings. Last fall, Eric and board member Vera Smith presented a letter of request to consider a fourth representative for naturalists, animal, plant and bird observers who have needs that are different from other hikers. This request was denied, ruling that these people would be served by the hiker rep. OSAC and the Open Space staff have stated that the Trails Task Force is to be focused on resolving trail conflicts but not open space trail policy matters. This could lead to shuffling the issues from the policy makers to the task force and then back again. PLAN Jeffco, considering OSAC as the bridge between citizens and Open Space staff, sees the Trails Committee as the logical group to recommend solutions to citizen-initiated trail conflicts, whether it is regarding the potential for an extreme biker smashing into pedestrians, (specific conflict), or requests for alternate day use, (policy).

The impact of the very high number of bikers and the development of trail bikes which are capable of navigating the most extreme trails is contrary to the experience desired by those users seeking the rest and quiet of interaction with Nature is the strongest issue driving the need for

the Trails Task Force meetings. The challenge of meeting the high demands for recreation and the equally high demands for natural and open space preservation has been the prime issue for many years.

More information about the North Table Mountain development and the Ad Hoc Committee meetings are covered in separate articles in this newsletter.

### **Back to the Commissioner's Banquet.**

The purpose of this banquet is to bring citizens, Open Space staff and County Commissioners together in the informality of a social gathering, rather than by way of the formal, and adversarial nature of the hearing room. The citizens have the opportunity to informally talk to the Commissioners and staff. This provides the Commissioners a first hand sense of issues important to the citizens and an opportunity to discuss citizen ideas regarding the Open Space program. Additionally, everyone enjoys a delicious buffet at the Mount Vernon Country Club.

Commissioner Dave Auburn, as spokesperson for the Commissioners, acknowledged the unique, nationally recognized Open Space program. They are all appreciative of the benefits to the county of the thirty-five year program which also benefits the cities' park departments and the recreation districts. Dave said that there is a "hands off" policy for the Open Space Department as they are relying on staff and OSAC. There has been some streamlining of smaller land acquisition approvals, needing only staff and OSAC approvals prior to approval of final terms by the BCC.

Plan Jeffco's annual awards were presented to Norm Ralston, Northwoodside Foundation and Clear Creek Land Conservancy in appreciation for their combined work, in finalizing the preservation of the Ralston property, vital to the completion of the Clear Creek open space corridor. North Woodside Foundation spent \$2.1 million to acquire the land. It was a real pleasure

## *PLAN Jeffco Board - Continued*

to have Norm, a genuine old timer, attend with members of his family. His comments and anecdotes about life in the Denver foothills from the early 1900s to the present were most enjoyable.

Chairperson Margot Zallen gave a brief report of PLAN Jeffco's activities of the past year. OSAC Chairman Greg Stevinson gave high praise to the members of OSAC and the satisfying sense of constructive effectiveness in working with Director Ralph Schell and staff.

Director Schell presented a very interesting and detailed Open Space Update, covering everything from revenues and acquisitions to the collaring of eight Big Horn sheep found on Open Space lands. He told us that in 2005 sales tax revenues did not meet the projected the 4 % annual increaser anticipated when the SOS bonds were approved. Sales tax revenues were up 2.72 % for 2005, but that is only an increase of \$84,000 from 2000. There were only two fee acquisitions in 2005: a 0.39-acre addition to O'Kane Park in Lakewood for \$280,011 and 28.18 acres for \$390,000 adjacent to Alderfer/Three Sisters. The latter enables a connection from Evergreen Lake to Blair Ranch and Elephant Butte. He reported that there is \$23.8 million remaining in the Bond Funds that are to be used for land acquisition. Land prices being very high, this amount will not go as far as one might think. The Director and staff have put considerable time into studying and prioritizing desirable lands. Staff has been kept extremely busy with a number of smaller projects, easements, leases, permits and licenses. There have been prescribed burns at White Ranch, Elk Meadow and Mt. Falcon: pile burns at several parks. Over 750 volunteers equating to 19,704 hours and to 15 full time employees, covered a myriad of efforts and projects. Ralph also told us that the Junior Ranger Program was recognized for its youth education efforts as a recipient of a 2005 Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education award for excellence.

Ralph also reported the following:

Flying-J Ranch – Completed and dedicated last fall. The 361-acre park includes 4 miles of trail, three picnic shelters, restroom constructed from timbers harvested from forest management projects on the park.

Centennial Cone- West access at Coyote Spur Road completed and open. Trailhead facilities provided including kiosk and staging shelter; North Access under construction by Road and Bridge, Bridge across Elk Creek under construction; other trail connections.

Grant Terry Park – (Clear Creek Canyon), Trailhead and location of bridges.

Bear Creek Trail – Morrison section done

Elk Meadow – Restroom completed at Lewis Ridge Rd. (Designed and constructed by OS staff.) Dog Off-Leash Area along Stagecoach Blvd., fencing completed, small parking lot to be completed by fall.

Windy Saddle Park Trailhead - Completed development of trailhead, including an organized 23 vehicle parking lot, retaining walls and kiosk for the Beaver Brook and Chimney Gulch Trails.

Hildebrand Ranch - Completed a loop trail, includes an easement through the Trail Mark subdivision. Also worked with Johns Manville to remedy a drainage issue affecting the park.

Foxton-Pine Grove Project – Due to increased development and increased recreational activities in the broad area along the North Fork of the South Platte River the project started as community initiated meetings with the Denver Water board, concerned about protecting water availability. Meetings expanded to bring together other regional agencies and expanded study related to land use, including eventual connections with county, state, and national open spaces. Open Space lands in this area include Pine Valley, Cathedral Spires and Meyers Ranch. The Project is a cooperative

## *PLAN Jeffco Board - Continued      Dogs on Leash*

effort with the residential community, National Park Service, US Forest Service, Division of Wildlife, Denver Water Board, Planning and Zoning, and Sheriff's Office. Issues include Historic and Cultural Resources, Natural Resource Conservation, Recreation Amenities, Planning and Zoning, Law Enforcement Education and Volunteers.

White Ranch - Corrected drainage issue with the parking lot and entrance road

Mt. Galbraith Park - Commissioners approved retaining 5 acres of land within the Mountain Backdrop/Foreground, salvaging whatever possible from the house by non-profits, then demolishing the house and revegetating the site.

This banquet always ends, or actually doesn't end because most people stay after, gather in groups, and continue talking about their favorite subject, Open Space, until the cleanup crew gently eases everyone out the door.

By Marilyn Mueller

I was riding my bike into Aspen on one of our excellent trails this morning, and I happened upon a mother fox with her kit crossing the trail. To fox mom's great consternation, the fearless and curious baby fox stopped to study me on my bike, sunglasses, helmet, etc. He reminded me of my own son. Mom turned and prepared for tragedy. Yet, I spoke softly to mother fox telling her that neither she or her baby were in danger from me. Years of persecution of her species by mine dropped; she gave me a knowing glance, and for one moment trust held the air between us. My week was made whole.

Not 20 yards down the trail, and still in awe over this encounter, I came upon a happy human walking her happy retrievers... on leashes. Blessed be! I thought how different my time with the fox family would have been if these dogs had been ambling up and down the trail, following unimpeded their instinctual callings. Seemingly harmless. Yet, if I had seen them at all, the fox babe would have been in great danger. Fox mom would have been full of fear, perhaps fighting for her child's life. I would never have had my magic moment of trust with either. Oh poverty!

I am now renewed in my commitment to endure the hassle of enforcing our leash law. Chief Seattle exhorted us to realize that we are not alone on this landscape. The poverty of human solitude from wild things is sometimes crushing. The fox family and I appreciate your cooperation.

Dale Will  
Director  
Pitkin County Open Space and Trails





## *THE GOALS AND DEMANDS OF OPEN SPACE FOREST MANAGEMENT*

An interview with Randy Frank, Supervisor,  
Natural Resources Management

A major responsibility for Jefferson County Open Space is the care and protection of our valuable forests. Supervisor Randy Frank and his staff have been hard at work in preserving these lands and determining what action are necessary to maintain, as well as improve, these lands.

Having been with Open Space for 21 years, starting at an entry position and then advancing through the intermediate positions, Randy has been Supervisor since 1995. His staff consists of eight Natural Resource Specialists and an additional 6 part-time workers. Randy and the resource specialists have bachelor degrees in Forest Management or in other natural resource related fields. Graduating from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Forestry, Randy's first job was with the U. S. Forest Service. As a member of the professional organization, Society of American Forestry, he has received their Certified Forester designation, an honor signifying experience and professional competence.

Forest management for our parks starts with field work to gather data on existing soils, hydrology, vegetation, wildlife, elevation, and on other scientific factors. At this time, Randy and his staff have concentrated on White Ranch, Alderfer Three Sisters, Elk Meadow, Meyers Ranch, Flying J Ranch, the Lookout Mountain Nature Preserve and Centennial Cone.

The ideal forest for the foothills transition zone, between the plains of Denver and the forests at higher elevations, is widely spaced ponderosa pine scattered over grassland meadows. In the past, before the growth of communities, wild fires would burn off most shrubs and young Douglas fir trees growing in with the Ponderosas. Mature Ponderosas being relatively fire resistant, would remain and keep on growing, and the meadows

would develop in the fire-cleared areas.

Randy and his staff, who also coordinate with the Colorado State Forest Service, the United States Forest Service and members of the Colorado and Northern Arizona Ecological Restoration Institute, have set this ideal Ponderosa Forest as the goal for our parks. The removal of underbrush, noxious weeds and non-native plants, young Douglas firs and lodgepole pines, has been underway in selected areas. This push to return more of our forests to the scattered Ponderosa savanna coincides with the increased need to mitigate the risk of wide-scale forest fires. Douglas fir is very flammable and crown fires more easily jump from tree to tree than in more widely spaced Ponderosa fields. Knowing that the balance of nature is a very touchy affair, time will tell if this interference is acceptable, and can be sustained long enough to bring about the desired result. While some changes in species are bound to happen, the new open forests and consequent increase in sunlight will encourage the return of new and more varied plant and animal life.

Following the identification of which areas are to be thinned, crews are assigned to begin the actual clearing with various mechanical means. The residual slash is either "lopped and scattered", piled and burned, or chipped. When there is too much slash, more than desirable to be left on the ground, the slash is run through a chipper. The crew also has a portable sawmill to cut the larger trees into dimensional lumber which can be used for building structures on the parks.

The chipped material is saved and taken to the local A-1 Organics Co. where it will be recycled as mulch or compost. The reason it is not left on the ground where it has been chipped is that a matting of chips forms that not only sucks existing nitrogen out of the soil, but compacts and prevents rain water from getting through.

"Lop and scatter" means what it sounds like. Smaller branches are be lopped off and loosely spread about in thin layers, allowing air

## FOREST MANAGEMENT - CONTINUED

and rain and snow to do the work of eventual decomposition. This leaves an unsightly forest floor with some fire potential for a few years but with heavy snowfalls, these areas compress and blend into the natural groundcovers.

The department stockpiles some of the larger logs and stacks them for drying and eventual use as beams, benches or bridging. Since our climate is capable of drying the wood too fast, the challenges have been to find storage space and methods of air circulation and weighting to keep timbers flat while they age a few years. Smaller logs can be cut for fence posts in some areas.

Most of the logs are sold to the public for firewood. Randy estimates how much demand and response there will be from the public and when determining the amount of wood to be cut. The rise in commercial energy costs has increased the demand for firewood in the last couple of years and should continue this year.

Some states, Montana for one, have initiated the construction of wood-fired boilers in public schools, because disposal of wood has become a major problem for there.

Controlled burns are another method useful for healthy forests. Foresters have long known that burns started by lightning, rejuvenated the soil and were beneficial to forests over time. Randy has supervised numerous burns, two or three a year. Weather conditions must be favorable, crews at the ready. They are conducted with local fire department assistance, since it is desirable for them to gain experience working with a real burn.

Every two or three years, Randy organizes an invitational Field Trip inviting local foresters to gather for the day and exchange experiences and share their plans regarding the care and feeding of natural lands. Working with the land does not quickly produce hoped for results, considering the larger influences of wind and weather. They work knowing that results may show in five years, but more likely it will take

twenty or fifty years. We owe them our sincerest thanks for their efforts.

By Marilyn Mueller



Balsam Fir

# If you have not!!! Join PLAN Jeffco or renew your Membership today!

PLAN Jeffco is the county-wide volunteer citizen's group that organized and drafted the Open Space Resolution that resulted in the formation of the Jefferson County Open Space Program in 1972. We currently function as a watchdog group, observing meetings of the Open Space Advisory Committee, participating in subcommittees, and issues groups, proposing and working for important acquisitions, and keeping citizens informed of what is going on in their Open Space Program. PLAN Jeffco provided the leadership for the successful vote for bonds in 1998.

PLAN Jeffco works for Open Space and we work for you! Please sign up or renew your membership now! Your address label shows the date of your last renewal. Call 303.279.0664 for membership information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Our membership rate is:**

**\$25 per year**

Make checks payable to PLAN Jeffco and send to:

PLAN Jeffco  
1708 W 17th Drive  
Golden, CO 80401

## Are You wired??

If you are, PLAN Jeffco would like to have you on our email tree, so that we can inform you of special events and items that may be of concern to you. We will not share your email address without permission.

Please include with your dues payment or email to

[jkclitz@comcast.net](mailto:jkclitz@comcast.net)

Thanks

