

## Foxtail Pines Owners Association Proposed 2017 Weed Mitigation Plan

Over the past 3 years the Owners have expressed concern for, and interest in, the mitigation of the noxious weeds within the borders of our subdivision. In addition, the Colorado Noxious Weed Act “finds and declares that certain undesirable plants constitute a present threat to the continued economic and environmental value of the lands...”

The most severely impacted areas in the subdivision is around the pond and in the bar ditches. The past Board and your current Board have worked diligently to produce a recommendation for a cost effective and habitat friendly plan for this year. We would like to acknowledge the Integrated Weed Management Plan that Jude O'Connor wrote and is posted on the website for review. However, it does differ from the Board's discussions and from this year's proposed plan. The Board has met with CSU Park County Extension Horticulture Agent Deborah Lester regarding our plan and she agrees with our course of action.

In the process of creating this plan, the Board thoroughly researched every noxious weed mitigation method (mechanical, herbicidal – chemical vs. natural, burning, goats), risks associated with, and optimal timeframe for maximum impact for each method. The result of this evaluation, is the following proposal that fits within the proposed budget and timeframe for this year. Please keep in mind that the mitigation process will take more than just one year to achieve the desired results. That result would be to have us in more of an annual maintenance program vs. the current more aggressive mitigation program.

The proposed plan for this year will be a three-phase approach. It was determined by the Board that the first year should be the most aggressive plan to knock down the weed spread so that we may accurately assess the results and to formulate future mitigation plans.

### PHASE I:

Proposed Method:

Mechanical (Mowing/Cutting)

Controlled Burn (Face of Dam only)

Time Frame:

May 2017

May 2017

This process will knock down and eliminate the over brush (existing dead thistle and other noxious weeds on the dam and in the drainage area to the west of the pond) exposing the new growth (Rosettes) for the second phase of mitigation. The controlled burn permit will only allow a cubic yard to be burned at a time (3'x3'x3') to ensure that the burn does not “get away” from the crew. This controlled burn will be performed by at least four firefighters (two active duty firefighters and two retired firefighters) for the duration of the burn and mop-up or extinguishment.

### PHASE II:

Proposed Method:

Animal (Goats)

Revegetation (native grass & legume seed)

Time Frame:

Late June/Early July 2017

Late June/Early July 2017

This process will allow the animals in predetermined areas for a monitored time-period to graze down the weed rosettes, aerate the soil, spread the new seed mixture and fertilize the area naturally over the course of one week.

### PHASE III:

Proposed Method:

Natural Herbicide (Clove Oil Mixture)

Time Frame:

September 2017

This process will allow for the selective application of this natural herbicide to the thistle rosettes/juvenile plants that survive the first two phases of treatment. The purpose is to damage the root system enough in the fall that the plants do not have the time to regenerate growth and are weakened going into the winter months, giving them a lesser chance of re-emergence in the spring.

We invite all Owners to attend a special weed mitigation meeting to be held on May 6, 2017 at 10:00 am at the North-West Fire Station Training Room. The Board considers your input vital to the success of this plan, and we welcome your ideas and discussions.