

# Vail Intermountain Fuels Reduction Project Summary

Through a number of planning efforts it has been identified that the Intermountain area of Vail is the most vulnerable portion of the town to large scale wildfire. Beginning in 2006 the Town of Vail, Eagle County Government and the USDA Forest Service began to address wildfire fuels in the area. From 2006 through 2008 approximately 58 acres of forested land was treated along the boundary of national forest lands and private property in the Highland Meadows and intermountain area. The Vail Intermountain Fuels Reduction Project is seeks to expand on community protection from wildfire in the west Vail area.

The objectives of this project are to reduce fuel loading, improve forest health and protect wildlife habitat. This project has been designed to meet the stated objectives while taking into consideration impact on the adjacent homes and budget constraints.

The Intermountain Fuels Reduction Project will be completed in 2 phases with an anticipated completion of fall 2020. Phase 1 of the project is the hand treatment of 37 acres. Crews will selectively cut and pile dead and diseased trees within the treatment units. Work was begun on phase 1 units in 2016 with an anticipated completion date of mid summer 2017 for the remainder of the phase 1 units.

Phase 2 consists of helicopter logging of 57 acres. Logs from the phase 2 units will be flown from the forest to landings near existing roads to be hauled off for use as forest products such as dimensional lumber or wood pellets. The remaining tops and branches will either be piled for later burning or left in place for environmental benefit. The phase 2 units are anticipated to be cut and flown in the late summer and fall of 2017.

To meet our objective of reducing the overall amount of fuel in the treatment areas much of the material will be burned. Trees and slash piled for burning will be disposed of in the fall, winter and spring months when snow greatly reduces the chances of fire spreading in the forest. Pile burning is anticipated to begin in 2017 and continue intermittently through 2020.

The Vail Intermountain project is a collaborative effort of the USDA Forest Service, Town of Vail and Eagle County. Wildfires know no boundaries and affect all jurisdictions. The partnership of the town, county and federal government recognizes this fact and pledge to work together to reduce the hazards as much as practical.

## **Phase 2 Helicopter Logging Quick Facts**

Total area treated- 57 Acres

Anticipated number of days to complete- 30 to 45

Number of loads of logs removed- 120 to 180

Helicopter landing locations- Upper Donovan Parcel and Deer Underpass State Wildlife Area

Anticipated project timing- Late summer/ fall 2017

# Vail Intermountain Fuels Reduction Project

West Vail Fire Station

**Legend**

- Town Boundary
- Previously Completed Fuels Treatment

**Treatment**

- Phase 1- Hand Treatments (2016 and 2017)- 37 Acres
- Phase 2- Helicopter Logging (2017)- 57 Acres

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community