

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/23/2020 9:19:05 PM

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Comments: You know and any of your Fort Collins scientists can affirm that clearcutting or any cutting of beetle-impacted lodgepole pine stands, whether above or below 60% mortality, is the absolute wrong thing to do. In Summit County, lodgepole stands only exist because of past clearcutting. Beetle kill is a natural and vital element of natural succession back to more desirable climax spruce/fir vegetation. The mix of dead and live lodgepole providing the ideal conditions for spruce and fir generation.

Spruce/fir forest is more stable; biologically richer; more aesthetic and far less fire-, disease- and insect-prone than monoculture lodgepole. After clearcutting, you will first get weeds, grasses and bushes that are much more likely to catch fire than other vegetation. Then you'll get dense dog-hair that can burn more intensely than other vegetation. Then you'll get dense, spindly trees with all their foliage in the crown greatly increasing the likelihood of any fire spreading elsewhere. Finally you'll get back to where we are now with mixed live and dead lodgepole poised to morph to far preferable spruce and fir. To stop that natural succession is an absolute travesty and affront to nature and humans who appreciate it.

No trees more than 50 yards from occupied residences should be cut. No trees in areas #140 and #141, adjacent or part of an inventoried roadless area should be cut under any circumstances.