

Save the date: Landowners Forestry Workshop scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 11

You are invited to attend a community forestry demonstration workshop in northwest Boulder County near Allenspark on Saturday, Sept. 11.

The workshop will focus on how to get forestry work done on the ground and provide you with tips and techniques that will help you be a more active steward of your land. The large-scale bark beetle outbreak that is impacting our state is increasing the visibility and awareness of the need to actively manage our backyard forests. Our forests are disturbance driven dynamic ecosystems that require periodic disturbances like fire, beetle outbreaks and even planned thinning in order to remain sustainable and healthy. This workshop is being offered to help make backyard forestry a bit more operationally feasible by giving you the preliminary knowledge needed to work smarter, not harder, when managing your forest.

We will demonstrate commonly used forestry equipment and methods that are appropriately scaled for work in your own backyard forest. Some examples of equipment that is planned to be demonstrated includes; tractors built specifically for forest management, skid steers with tree shears and grapples for tree skidding, ATVs with log arches and trailers, and log chippers to help with slash management. At each of these stations you will be able to see the mechanized equipment working in a forest setting and have time to ask questions of the equipment operators.

Mark your calendars for Sept. 11 and plan to attend this forestry workshop. It doesn't matter if you are brand new to forest management or if you have been working on your backyard long-term forest management plan for years. There will be valuable information for everyone. Actively managing your backyard forest can be intimidating; however, at this workshop we will introduce you to some tools and techniques that will help you work smarter, not harder.

Exact times and location for this event are still being determined and more information will be submitted to the September edition of the Allenspark Wind. If you would like to attend, please RSVP with your name, number of people, phone number and email address to Ryan Ludlow at rludlow@bouldercounty.org or call 720-564-2641. Because of the size and scope of the workshop we request that you do not bring small children or pets to this event. In addition, you may visit www.BoulderCounty.org/ForestHealth to be kept up-to-date about workshop details.

Invite your friends and neighbors and join us for an afternoon in the woods. Fall is a great time to actively manage your backyard forest. You truly are the steward of your land and actions taken today will have direct beneficial effects for the future health of your backyard forest. Equipment will be demonstrated throughout the day and there will be natural resource management staff and volunteers on site to answer questions you may have about being an active steward of your forested land. Come early and enjoy the late summer day!

Ryan Ludlow
Forestry Education and Outreach Coordinator
Boulder County Forest Health Initiative