



Woodland Park Field Office | 719-687-2951 | 113 S. Boundary St. | Woodland Park, CO 80863

Bent Tree HOA

October 27, 2022

On October 24, the Colorado State Forest Service conducted a fall assessment of the Bent Tree development. The purpose of the inspection was to identify any insect and/or disease issues that need to be addressed.

Findings

During our inspection we identified four active mountain pine beetle (MPB) and 12 active Ips beetle trees. Locations of infested trees can be seen on the attached map as well as in the table below. Most of these trees are growing in fairly dense patches and many are also infested with dwarf mistletoe, a parasitic plant that weakens trees and makes them more susceptible to pests and diseases.

Dwarf mistletoe is widespread throughout Bent Tree, especially within the areas highlighted on the map. Homeowners in these areas should expect trees to die over time, with the smaller and more heavily infested trees being affected more quickly.

Owner and Lot Information Redacted

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Other Observations

Insect and disease activity in the neighborhood is slightly less than 2020 (year of last inspection), when 19 MPB trees were flagged. This is certainly due in large part to homeowners' willingness to remove the infested trees and curb beetle populations.

Observations on fire mitigation in the inspection are not exhaustive, but represent some of the areas where work has been done or improvements can be made. Like most developments in the Wildland-Urban Interface, more work could be done to improve wildfire mitigation. Thinning trees to decrease fire behavior also reduces density-dependent stress which can in turn make the trees less susceptible to beetle infestations. There may be grant funding available if several homeowners are interested in thinning their forests to reduce the risk of wildfire. Please contact our office if there is interest in these programs and we would be happy to assist.

It is important that homeowners know not to stack any cut material next to or in between live trees; this is a sure way to attract bark beetles.