



Woodmoor
 Improvement Association
 1691 Woodmoor Drive
 Monument, CO 80132
 719-488-2693
 www.woodmoor.org

**TREE EVALUATION REQUEST/
 REMOVAL PERMIT**

Date of Request _____ **Phone** _____

Owner's Name _____ **Phone** _____

Property/Mail Address _____ **Email** _____

Legal Description Lot _____ **Block** _____ **Filing** _____

Reason(s) For Request:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dwarf Mistletoe Questions | <input type="checkbox"/> General Thinning Recommendations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Possible Mountain Pine Beetle Infestation | <input type="checkbox"/> General Forest Health Evaluation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Defensible Space Thinning | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Disease/Pests _____ |

Lot Conditions: _____

Recommendations: _____

Written Information Given To Owner: _____

of TREES TO BE CUT: Total Live ("green") ____ **MPB live ("green")** ____ **MPB dead ("brown")** ____

Remove MPB Trees by: _____ [See Rule 4 on reverse] **Approval is valid for** ____ **days or until** ____/____/____

Approved? YES **NO** **Tree Monitor (Signature):** _____ **Date of Evaluation:** _____

For more information visit the WIA Forestry website at: www.woodmoor.org/Forestry/index.htm

DISCLAIMER

WIA and its volunteer Tree Monitors have absolutely no liability for this report or from any conversation or communications. This report is for the WIA member/owner only and shall not be distributed. WIA shall recover its attorney's fees and costs to enforce and defend the report. The recipient's acceptance of this report constitutes agreement with the terms hereof.

Copies: White/Original – WIA office, Light yellow – Tree Monitor, Pink – Resident

(Revised 12/08)

WOODMOOR GOVERNING RULES AND POLICY RELATED TO TREES AND FORESTS¹

1. **Clear Cutting Prohibited:** Clear cutting or removal of all trees on lots is not permitted.
2. **Tree Removal Permits:** A free Tree Evaluation Request/Removal Permit is required before cutting evergreen trees larger than 4.0 inches in diameter, measured 4.5 feet above the ground. Permits are not required to cut smaller diameter trees, non-evergreen trees, or dead trees. Permits are not needed to remove trees located within 30 feet of homes and 5 feet from designated vehicular areas or driveways. Failure to obtain a permit may result in a fine.
3. **Slash Disposal & Stump Heights:** All felled trees including logs, limbs, and branches (called "slash") must be disposed of in such a way that all lots, whether vacant or occupied by buildings, shall be kept free of accumulations of slash, trash, or other materials that may constitute a fire hazard, beetle habitat, or render a lot unsightly. All slash needs to be chipped or removed to a disposal site within 30 days of their cutting. All stumps should be cut level with the ground.
4. **Mountain Pine Beetle Infested Trees:** Bark beetle infestations are a major threat to the pine forest of Woodmoor. Dead and/or live trees and slash infested with Mountain Pine Beetles must be properly disposed of by the property owner by the requested date on the reverse side of this form. Owners that refuse or fail to remove their trees will be referred to WIA Covenant Control and/or the El Paso County Forester who has legal authority to remove the trees and charge the costs to the homeowner.
5. **Removal of Dead Trees:** All dead pine trees (standing or fallen) that do not have live Mountain Pine Beetles are considered a fire hazard and a visual nuisance. They should be removed within 30 days of the date that their needles turn brown.

APPROVED DISPOSAL/TREATMENT OF MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE INFESTED TREES

Colorado and El Paso County laws² require that all pine trees infested with Mountain Pine Beetles (MPBs) be removed no later than July 15 following the year they were infested. Once the beetles are inside the tree's bark, they kill it, and their offspring will emerge and infest new trees between July 1 to October 1. Infested trees must be cut down and their infested wood treated in one of the following approved ways:

- a. Burn infested wood in a fireplace or wood stove before July 1. Open fires or burning are not permitted in Woodmoor.
- b. Remove bark from infested logs to expose and kill the beetle larvae.
- c. Chip or grind up the infested wood.
- d. Transport infested wood to a "safe site" that is at least one mile from the nearest pine forest.
- e. Bury the infested wood in a public landfill.
- f. Dry bark of infested logs with direct sunlight for 6+ hours per day. The logs should be laid side by side on the ground and periodically rotated so that all sides of the bark receive direct sunlight over this period. This method needs to be started before May 1 to be effective.
- g. A variation of the solar treatment above specifies that infested wood in 2-foot lengths be stacked no more than two logs deep, wet thoroughly with water, cover and seal with thick (6 mils) clear (not black!) plastic. The sun on the plastic creates "green house" temperatures that retards beetle growth and promotes growth of a fungus that kills them. Infested wood needs a minimum of two warm months to kill the beetles.

THINNING TO PROMOTE FOREST HEALTH AND REDUCTION OF WILDFIRE RISKS

Reducing the number of trees, or forest density, creates a healthier forest, reduces risk of bark beetle infestations, and controls the spread of Dwarf Mistletoe. Bark beetles are attracted to crowded unhealthy trees that suffer from insufficient water, sunlight, dwarf mistletoe, construction injuries, etc. The weakest trees are most susceptible to death during periods of drought. Trees left after thinning have more soil moisture, sunlight, and soil nutrients.

Thinning for Health and Aesthetics: The Colorado State Forest Service recommends the "**D+7 rule of thumb**" for thinning to improve the health and looks of pine forests. It is applied by calculating a tree spacing goal and removing the smaller and least healthy trees until this goal is achieved. First, the average diameter (inches) of a representative sample of unthinned trees (4.5 feet above ground) is calculated. Next, this number is added to "7" to obtain the recommended average distance (feet) between trees. For example, if the average diameter of unthinned trees is 8 inches, the average spacing of thinned trees would be 15 feet (8 + 7).

Thinning for Defensible Space: Over dense forests in Woodmoor have also created "severe" wildfire hazards for many homeowners. Prescribed thinning that creates zones of "Defensible Space" around homes can greatly reduce this hazard. The purpose of Defensible Space thinning is *to reduce or modify the vegetative fuels around a house so that if a wildfire occurs, it cannot produce enough heat or flames to ignite it*. See WIA's "Protecting Your Home From Wildfires With Defensible Space" and "Creating Wildfire Defensible Space", CSFS Fact Sheet No. 6.302³.

Dwarf Mistletoe

Many large and mature ponderosa pine trees in Woodmoor are infested with Dwarf Mistletoe, a small, leafless parasitic flowering plant. Its seeds are explosively discharged from the plant and can adhere to the needles or bark of other pine trees. If they successfully germinate, the mistletoe slowly grows in their bark and phloem until it kills them by robbing them of food (photosynthate) and water. Trees heavily infested with mistletoe are more susceptible to droughts and bark beetle attacks than healthy trees.

There are no effective methods for killing dwarf mistletoe plants after they have become established in trees. Infected branches can be removed to help prevent its spread within trees and to nearby pine seedlings and saplings. For more information see Dwarf Mistletoe Management, CSFS Fact Sheet 2.925.

¹ From WIA Design Standards Manual, Rules and Regulations, Parts I- IV, Para S. Trees, and Part V (DSM).

² Colorado Revised Statutes, Article 4, Title 35, Paragraph 35-4-107

³ For this and other forestry-related Fact Sheets, see <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/>