



talk

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New Spray Rig Goes 80 Feet or Higher

Our brand new tree-spraying unit, pictured below, is possibly the most powerful tree sprayer in Colorado, according to Professional Tree and Turf, who built it for us. In the photo on this page we are spraying to the top of an 80-foot pine. With this rig we will be able to reach the tops of most trees in the area and it eliminates the need for a bucket truck for Ips Beetle spraying on tall trees. For all of you who've had bucket truck spraying, we can now offer lower prices for that type of service, by spraying from the ground with our new sprayer. This sprayer will also allow us to get better coverage when spraying on breezy days and when spraying tall trees for a variety of insects. 🌲



Forest Succession

The pine beetle outbreak continues to devastate Colorado's forests. Most of the news is dire and it saddens many people to see the brown mountainsides throughout our state. But what will be the long-term result of this massive outbreak? Knowledgeable foresters know that the destruction of forests by insect pests is merely the first phase of a sequence of renewal. A large insect outbreak or a fire is called a "disturbance" and is the beginning of a new phase. Without disturbances forests would not evolve and regenerate. After a disturbance, the cycle begins again, and a young, healthy forest begins to grow. The brown mountainsides right now in Colorado are just the final phase of a long cycle, and a prelude to a new one. It is very likely that there will be another season of catastrophic forest fires in Colorado soon. We hope that there will not be loss of life when this occurs. We should continue to mitigate fire danger by reducing fuels near our homes. But whether or not major fires occur soon, much of Colorado's forests are in a disturbance phase and will soon be regenerating. Even though the forests may be unsightly right now, it is a normal part of nature and the next forest will be young and vibrant. 🌲



Yellowstone Park about 10 years after the 1988 fires.

IN THE NEWS AT LAM TREE

Effective Jan. 1, 2009 **Ryan Reed** has been promoted from Operations Manager to Vice President. Ryan, who has been at Lam Tree full time since 1997, is now also a part owner of the company.

Mike Goldblatt, Founder and President of Lam Tree, attended the American Society Consulting Arborists (ASCA) consulting academy in Jacksonville, Florida in February. The intensive three-day workshop trains attendees in how to become professional consulting arborists. Mike successfully completed the course. Consulting arborists are experts in forensic arboriculture, and perform tasks such as diagnosing difficult tree problems as well as testifying in litigation involving trees.

Tom Purves recently passed his I.S.A. Certified Tree Worker/Climber Specialist Exam. This certification acknowledges Tom's abilities in all facets of tree work including pruning, safety, tree science and much more. Congratulations Tom! 🌲

Spring Insect and Disease Report

PINE BEETLE

The outbreak that has been ravaging the high country since before the turn of the century is now at our doorstep in Jefferson County. According to Forest Service studies, in 2008 pine beetles infested another 400,000 acres in Colorado. The total number of acres infested since the outbreak began is now about 2 million. The 2008 Forest Service aerial survey released in January 2009 shows the pine beetle very active in Clear Creek, Park and Gilpin counties. The beetle is now starting to infest trees Jefferson County as well. Many people ask us if the pine beetle will move from lodgepole pines to the ponderosas. They already are doing so according to Bob Cain, entomologist with the U.S. Forest Service. And remember that the name of the insect is *Dendroctonus ponderosae*. It is named after the ponderosa pine which historically is a very common host.

To see a 2009 update on beetle movement to the Front Range go to www.cbs4denver.com/local/wildfire.beetle.pine.2.910714.html.

The time is now to prepare for an outbreak locally. Have us inspect your trees regularly. We can also thin your crowded forests to improve health. If you are not already on an annual preventive spray program, begin one now. Consider trimming lower branches to allow better spray applications to the trunk. The devastation locally should not be as bad as in the high country because of better diversity in our forest, but being proactive is the way to go. Let's not be sitting here a few years from now wondering why all our pine trees are dead or dying. Call our office any time with your questions or for updated information or visit www.lamtrees.com

SPRUCE SCALE



In the past few years we have started seeing numerous outbreaks of scale on spruce trees. The scale causes loss of vigor in the trees and often leads to severe defoliation and even death if untreated. We will be treating spruce scale with a systemic insecticide in spring because foliar treatment is ineffective. Be on the lookout for this difficult to control insect. Early identification is key in controlling spruce scale.

TIMING FOR OTHER ANNUAL SPRAYS

Ips Beetle – March through April. This is the same spray we do for pine beetle except at a much higher dilution rate earlier in the season to control the multiple flights of the Ips Beetle.

Douglas Fir Beetle and Spruce Beetle – April through early May

Cooley Spruce Gall – April and again in August

Aspen Insects and Diseases – Mid-May through early June for foliar sprays. Earlier for soil injections.

Spruce Budworm – June

Dwarf Mistletoe – Late July through early August 🌲



The spruce tree pictured here is typical of a mature spruce tree in the foothills area. As a spruce tree enters old age, the center tends to become rotten. This tree fell harmlessly to the ground in the woods near downtown Evergreen, but we've taken many spruces like it off of houses over the years. It seems like it gets windier every year, and this year has been no exception. If you have a mature spruce tree (or any other species) near your house, and you get nervous when the wind blows, give us a call. We can take a core sample to see if the heartwood is sound. If it's not, we can quote you a price to trim it or remove it before it falls on your house. If we recommend trimming it, we will reduce the "wind sail" of the crown. In other words, we thin the crown to allow wind to pass through it, thus reducing the chance for failure. Call anytime for a consultation. 🌲

Lam Tree Partners with DES

We are pleased to announce that Lam Tree has partnered with Dahl Environmental Services LLC. Our association with DES allows us to expand our services immensely. The principal of DES is Bjorn Dahl, a 36 year veteran of the U.S. Forest Service where he served in roles from District Ranger, Forest Supervisor, Regional Director and National Director at Headquarters in Washington DC. Bjorn brings a lifetime of experience to us.

Through our association with DES we can now apply sound forest practices to your property for county permitting thus enhancing forest health and reducing wildfire risk. We will offer one-stop shopping for the entire process including the marking, removal and trimming of the designated trees.



*Bjorn Dahl, Principal
Dahl Environmental Services, LLC*

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE HAZARD RATING SUMMARY

Wildland Urban Interface ID	Subdivision(s)	Hazard Rating
5	Echo Hills	EXTREME
20	Brook Forest Estates, Upper Cub Creek	EXTREME
12	Rosedale Acres, Segar Acres	EXTREME
1	Beaver Brook Canyon, Highland Hills, Chase Subdivision, Elmgreen Acres, Pleasant Lane, Homestead Hideaway	EXTREME
21	Buffalo Park Estates, Evergreen Hills	EXTREME
7	Evergreen West	HIGH
30	Greystone Estates	HIGH
13	Independent Heights, Forest Hill, Mountain Park Homes	HIGH
18	Bear Mountain Vista, Stanley Park	HIGH
29	French Springs	HIGH
23	Cub Creek Ranch, Evergreen Highlands, North Marshner, South Marshner	HIGH
2	Soda Creek, Fox Ridge	HIGH
11	Circle K, Bendemeer Valley, Golden Willow, Greystone Lazy Acres, Bear Creek Estates, Diamond Park, Wilderness Point	HIGH
3	Beaver Brook, Beaver Brook Lodge Estates Hoffer Heights, Pine Valley Estates	HIGH
25	Evergreen Meadows East	HIGH
22	Estates of Blue Creek, Blue Creek Road	HIGH
9	Hiwan Hills, Hidden Village at Hiwan, Douglas Park, Hiwan Homestead Museum	HIGH
19	Pine Valley Estates, Hillcrest Village, Peaceful Hills	HIGH
17	Herzman Mesa, Wonderview, Pine Crest Park, Sunset Heights, High Prairie, Far View Acres, Craigmont Estates, Marshdale Park, Marshdale	HIGH
8	Tanoa, Overlook, Palo Verde, Troutdale Estates, Glen Eyrie, Bear Creek	HIGH
26	The Ridge at Hiwan	HIGH
16	Evergreen Park Estates, Evergreen Heights, Evergreen Golf Course, Evergreen Valley Estates, Columbine Road	HIGH
27	El Pinal, El Pinal Acres	HIGH
10	Kittredge, Quartz Mountain, Pine Valley Acres, Mountain Meadow Heights	HIGH
24	Evergreen Meadows West, Timbers Estates	HIGH
4	Hidden Valley, Ruby Ranch, Nob Hill, Avery Acres, El Rancho	HIGH
28	Wah Keeney Park	MODERATE
14	Hagan Ranch, Elk Ridge, Elephant Park, Our-Lady-of-the-Rockies, Westhaven Heights	MODERATE
15	Greenwood, Wilmot Woods, Evergreen Hill	MODERATE
6	Hiwan Country Club	MODERATE

If you are building a new home or adding on 400 sq. feet or more of living space in Jefferson County, you will need a defensible space plan to reduce wildfire risk.

In addition, some insurance companies are now requiring that homeowners have a defensible space plan in place to reduce property risk. Lam Tree can now provide that.

There may be some government funds available to landowners in the front range of Colorado for forest timber stand improvement. For example, one source of funding is a federal income tax deduction under House Bill 08-1110 that offers fifty per cent of landowner's costs, not to exceed \$2,500, for performing wildfire mitigation measures removing hazardous woody fuels. This law went into effect on January 1, 2009 and lasts until January 1, 2014. Under the 2003 Healthy Forests Restoration Act, communities that have a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) are eligible to apply for this tax deduction. All Jefferson and Clear Creek Fire Protection Districts including Evergreen Fire Protection District have CWPP's in place. Lam Tree and DES can now guide you through the process required for grants and tax deductions.

Other services we can now offer include Agricultural Tax Plans, Forest Management Plans as well as any forest service needs. For more information give us a call or you can contact DES directly at www.dahlservices.com 🌲

The Recession and Your Trees

In tough economic times like we are in, everyone has to prioritize how to budget their money. Our current recession has confirmed what we at Lam already knew – tree care falls somewhere after food and shelter. But maybe it shouldn't be all that far down that list. With pine beetles encroaching toward Jefferson County from all directions and drought persisting, we should all be concerned about maintaining our property values by caring for our trees. Many of us have seen our savings depleted, and unemployment is soaring. One thing most of us still have is our homes. By keeping our trees alive and healthy, we maintain the value of our biggest investment – our residences. In recent years we have not raised our tree spraying prices at all except for a few isolated cases. Even with our wholesale chemical prices going up again this year, in 2009 **we are committing to keeping our per-tree pricing the same as 2008.** You probably have already seen this in your renewal letters. You will also find that our tree removal, trimming, and all other bids will be the same or lower in 2009. We realize that most everyone has a few less dollars available to spend on tree care and we are making every effort to keep our prices down. Also keep in mind that if you have a good credit history with us, we can sometimes offer interest free credit on a case by case basis. We also gladly accept Visa and Mastercard. 🌲



One thing most of us still have is our homes. By keeping our trees alive and healthy, we maintain the value of our biggest investment – our residences.

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