

2010 Horsetooth Mountain Open Space Free Firewood Program Summary

The tenth year of the Free Firewood Program was very successful.

The purpose of the program was to remove the wood from trees that were cut down during an ongoing forest health, timber thinning project. Removing the wood reduces potential wildland fire fuel, improves the scenic aspect of Horsetooth Mountain Open Space and provides firewood to Larimer County residents.

In 2010 61 families spent 757 hours cutting, collecting and hauling away 135 truck loads of wood for their own use. These firewood collectors were very enthusiastic about how smoothly the program operated and very appreciative of the firewood. Here are a few comments emailed to Charles Gindler, the program coordinator:

Charlie,

What a great program this is, It is my 3rd year of participating.

And this program should be done in other areas where beetle kill is affecting areas. Thanks for theWood!

Thanks,

Derrick

Charley

Great program I heat my home with a wood stove and it doesn't get much more convenient to get a truck full of wood.

phil

Hi Charlie,

We got firewood on the 7th and yesterday. Both Joe and Tim (Ted) are really great guys! It's close and the wood is terrific. This is such a good opportunity to help reduce our heating bills this winter. And we got enough to help my family out too, they're so grateful.

Thanks for coordinating and please let Joe and Tim (Ted) know our appreciation for their hard work.

Thanks, Wendy

Everything with the Program seems better this year (we have been doing it for a few seasons) the start dates, the website reservations and cancels, etc. Please give my thanks to whomever made the changes - they are good!

thanks again for your help and a great program.

~Mila Bronnimann

Hi Charlie,

Thanks for puttin me on in place of Dennis for these two dates. I wanted to let you know how great I think the program is. It is well run, easy and productive. I appreciate the time and effort you have put into making it a success.

As you said the other day...."My job is to get rid of wood". Well, your doin a fine job. I wanted to remind you that after the dates are over, if there is still more wood you would like to get rid of as you told me last sat at the gate, just let me know. I could be interested in taking out a few more cords if it is available.

Take care,

Talk to you soon,

Matt Unger

Larimer County staff spent 195 hours setting up and administering the program, including rangers bucking up trees and guiding wood collectors, a fantastic registration website set up by Steve Moore in Information Technology Division, and the invaluable planning assistance of the Natural Resources Volunteer Coordinator, CJ Cullins.

The real stars of the program, however, were two volunteer guides, Joe Trofka and Ted Sams, who for the second year guided and supervised groups collecting firewood, putting in 83 hours to this effort in 2010.

For the past two years Jennifer Lee from Front Range Community College has brought her Natural Resources class out for some field experience, and this year volunteering 75 hours of work moving tons of wood by hand out of the forest to accessible points along a road.

We got a lot of wood and good will out of the program. All in all it was win, win, win, win situation.

Quick Breakdown:

135 loads
61 families
195 staff hours
83 guide hours
757 collecting
hours
75 FRCC hours