

Seedling Program

Most of the 4,800 acres in Crystal Lakes is contained in 1,637 privately owned lots so it is important that the forest on those lots be properly managed. As the Mountain Pine Beetle(MPB) infestation sweeps across Crystal Lakes over the next seven to ten years, the mature lodgepole and ponderosa pine will be killed. Taking several actions can mitigate the loss that will occur. One of those steps is to immediately start a replacement program for the trees that will be killed with trees of different species.

The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) has recommended several species that are native to the area but in much smaller numbers than the lodgepole. They are aspen, Engleman Spruce, Douglas fir, and Rocky Mountain Juniper. These species have been immune to the MPB. By planting new seedlings now, they will be well established when the beetle has finished its destruction. This will help members maintain the value of their property and the ambiance that we enjoy. Our forest will be less impacted by the next infestation whether it be MPB, another beetle or disease, by promoting a diversity of trees.

The CSFS provides the following descriptions and conditions for each of the selections:

- **Engleman Spruce:** 70-90' tall, 15-30' spread, drought resistance-very good, 8,000-11,000' elevation, some shade.
- **Douglas fir:** tall tree; grows best on east and north slopes; 6,000'-11,000' elev.

Lodgepole and ponderosa pine thrive on southern slopes and other dry areas and will regenerate on their own if they receive full sunlight. In moist areas where aspen are already established they will quickly spread without additional planting. The seedlings will come in flats of 30 per species. They will have top height of 5"-12" and come in 2"x 2" x 7" square pots. The seedlings will be purchased from the CSFS nursery in Fort Collins and transported to Crystal Lakes on June 12, 2010, by the GMC for your pick-up in the office parking lot.

To participate in this program you can enroll at the CLRRRA office before June 1, 2010. You will need to make payment of \$54.45 per flat, including sales tax, when you order. If the nursery is unable to completely fill our order, trees will be distributed based on the earliest order and payment date. If your order is not available a refund will be issued.

When purchasing and planting the new trees anticipate the full-growth of the tree. Adequate sunlight and water are essential to the health and growth of the tree. Also check the "Firewise" practices to minimize the fire risk to your property. It may be necessary to remove mature or stressed lodgepole or ponderosa pines to provide space for the new trees to thrive.

You may want to consider the use of a "Rabbit Guard" to protect your seedlings. This will also protect the seedlings from deer grazing. Check with your local hardware store if you choose to use this guard.

The CSFS has a planting guide at <http://csfs.colostate.edu/pdfs/plantingguide.pdf>

The GMC would like to remind all participants that the Water Augmentation Plan states, "lot owners will have the opportunity to construct wells for household only purposes with no irrigation". It continues to state, "a lot purchaser... will have the opportunity... to construct a cistern to be filled from central wells. All such wells will be used for household purposes with no yard irrigation...". Therefore, to water the seedlings you will need to import water or purchase non-potable water from the CLWSA.

By signing the Seedling Order Form you acknowledge that you have read, understand and will comply with the water well use within Crystal Lakes. Your signature signifies that you will import water or purchase non-potable water for the irrigation of the seedlings, especially important for the first growing season.

Seedling Order Forms are available online at http://crystal-lakes.org/app/download/1796894004/SEEDLING_PROGRAM_ORDER_FORM+3+2010.pdf

or at the Crystal Lakes Office. You can contact the GMC through the CLRRRA office at (970) 881-2250 or email at crystal-lakes@crystal-lakes.org.