

## Palmer Lake Forest Health Project

### The Operations Plan

Miller Timber Services (MTS) intends complete road widening and forestry work in order to meet Palmer Lake's forest health objectives.

The roadwork will focus on widening narrow sections that are currently impassible for our equipment. MTS will utilize either a backhoe equipped with a rock hammer or a skid steer with a rock hammer. Operators will remove small portions of rock on the inside bank to make the road passable. Dirt may also be removed from the uphill side and used on the outer bank to achieve a safe and passable route. MTS intends the end state of road work to be passable by machinery and pickup trucks. We do not intend this to be a semi route, nor will we use it to haul logs.

The forestry work will focus on thinning from below to achieve an open canopy structure. MTS intends to remove trees to create a mosaic across the landscape with varied horizontal and vertical fuel continuity. By thinning and removing trees we will reduce the overall fuel load. The newly opened canopy will promote future fires to return to the ground. MTS will focus on leaving a varied age range of trees to promote continued healthy forest long after treatment. Through the treatment we will focus on leaving fire adaptive tree species including Ponderosa Pine and Aspen. Other species will be retained in varied amounts to meet species diversification standards for this area.

To achieve these objectives MTS will utilize a harvester, forwarder, and chipper. The harvester will thin trees and process them. Logs will be separated from the slash. Small amounts of slash will be placed in the equipment trail to protect sensitive soils from further disturbance and erosion. Most of the slash will be piled along these trails to be chipped. Logs will be picked up by the forwarder and carried to the Southwest corner of Palmer Lake's property, designated by the red waypoint on the map. They will be decked in the meadow area to be used as a local firewood source. No logs will be hauled off site by Miller Timber Services. The final machine on each trail will be the chipper. MTS will chip tops, limbs, small trees, and any old slash piles within the treatment area. Chips will be spread primarily in machine trails for soil protection and will be broadcast over a larger area when needed to keep chip depth to a minimum.

The treatment area will focus on the access route and timbered areas to the west and north of the upper reservoir. These areas are designated in blue on the map provided. Final acres will be measured using avenza maps or OnX maps. MTS would like to treat as many acres as possible while on site.

We at Miller Timber Services are excited to be able to bring our forestry experience and equipment to help you with your forest management goals. We can start this project as early May 23, 2022. The first stage of roadwork is expected to take 1 week. Forestry equipment can be on site working as early as May 30, 2022.

### Pricing

Road widening \$3,000

Thinning, forwarding logs, and chipping slash \$4,041.67 per acre

## Equipment to be used

MTS will utilize a Ponsse Bear harvester to thin trees and process them into logs and slash. A Ponsse Elephant King forwarder will be used to remove processed logs to a landing where it will be decked. Lastly, a Ponsse Buffalo King equipped with a Chipper will be used to chip all created slash material as well as previously constructed hand piles.

In addition to the forestry equipment, MTS will have a backhoe or skid steer on site to complete road widening. The exact machine is dependent on rental availability at the start of our project. A rock hammer will be attached to widen areas where rocks limit road width. In the unlikely event that these specific rental machines are not available a suitable alternative will be used.

To support these efforts MTS will also have a Parts Trailer on site. This allows us to complete most minor repairs without leaving the work area and maximizes uptime. A fire trailer also accompanies the crew. Equipped with a tank and pump MTS is capable of initial suppression efforts should a fire occur. Finally, each operator will have a pickup on site.

## Personnel On Site

Operations will be completed by 2-3 operators. All operators are trained wildland firefighters and have years of experience operating this type of equipment. Operations will be led by Robert Ryland our project manager based out of Colorado Springs. Robert can be reached by phone at 719-588-1311 or by email at [robert@millertimber.com](mailto:robert@millertimber.com).

## Previous Client References

South Arkansas Stewardship Project 250+ Acres of Steep slope restoration thinning on Monarch Pass. Andy Lerch, Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative 573-356-1343. and Justin Anderson USFS 719-207-1701.

Monarch Mountain Ski Area 24+ acres steep slope thinning and hazard tree removal. Scott Pressly 719-350-5014

Colorado Springs Utilities 34 acres fuel break restorative thinning. Jeremy Taylor 719-600-9230

