

Project name: Backcountry to Cherokee Ranch MPB Mitigation & Fuels Reduction Project

HFVC funding request: \$750,000 (refundable grant reimbursements)

Matching funds: \$300k total hard match (non-refundable) Cherokee Ranch \$100k, HRCA-BWA \$100k, DMP-Daniels Park \$50k, DC cost-share grant \$50k.

Project narrative: 400-acre project to address growing MPB populations on the 2nd largest contiguous open space lands in the Denver Metro Area. Highlands Ranch Community Association - Backcountry Wilderness Area (8,200 ac), Denver Mountain Parks - Daniels Park (1,000 ac), and Cherokee Ranch (3,440 ac) properties are all located in Douglas County between I-25 and highway 85, with the community of Highlands Ranch directly adjacent to the northern project boundary and the City of Castle Pines along the eastern project boundary. High priority treatment area in Douglas County CWPP. Project treatments will focus on sanitation thinning of all currently infested MPB in Ponderosa pine trees with forest thinning to promote tree resilience. Creation of a shaded fuelbreak running the entire eastern property lines adjacent to Daniels Park Road will be implemented to improve emergency egress along the critical roadway. Between the 3 properties there will be a total hard match contribution of \$300,000 with an HFVC request of \$750,000 for a total project cost of \$1,050,000 with an estimated cost per acre of \$2,625. If funded project would begin by 4/1/2027. Portion of awarded funding and matching funds will be set aside to address any additional latent MPB infestations that may occur after initial 2027 project treatments so that sanitation efforts continue for subsequent MPB flight periods, with funds fully spent out by 6/30/2029.

Nexus to current MPB outbreak: 1,200 currently infested MPB trees identified amongst the 3 properties with high potential of population growth on those properties and spreading into surrounding communities if no action is taken.

Estimated completion date: 6/30/2029