
WILDFIRE MITIGATION



You're a safe driver, right? You probably haven't had an accident in years. But you still buckle your seatbelt, just in case. Wildfire mitigation isn't as easy as buckling up, but it's something you should consider, just in case. The Colorado wildfires of 2012 and 2013 missed Douglas County but they might just as easily have happened in our area. **Under the right conditions, it just takes one spark to start a wildfire.** Those conditions will come again, so don't wait to mitigate.

Even if the primary vegetation around your home is Gambel Oak, your community can still face a substantial wildfire threat. *Know the danger and reduce the risk.*

Contact Douglas County Wildfire Mitigation Specialist Jill Alexander at 303-660-7497 to request a *free* wildfire inspection of your property.



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Gambel or "scrub" Oak is an innocent-looking shrub but also a significant wildfire hazard in Douglas County. Mitigating oak can have multiple benefits, including increasing the chances that your home will survive a wildfire.

Mitigating Oak

Thinning oak allows remaining plants to become healthier and more resistant to drought, insects and disease.

A thoughtful mitigation plan will retain important privacy barriers.

A process known as machine mastication is cost-effective and a quick way to mitigate large areas of oak.

Grasses and wildflowers will return to newly masticated areas after a season or two.

Oak grows back! Mow mitigated areas every year before new shoots become too woody to be handled by a lawnmower.

Remove oak from under pine trees. It can act as a “ladder fuel,” with fire climbing from oak to the pines. Then you could lose your trees, and the fire may spread from the trees to your house.

For more information, see the Colorado State Forest Service [Publication 6.311 on Gambel Oak](#).

“The thinning we did before the Black Forest Fire saved most of our trees, our land and our house.”

-KATHY RUSSELL, FORMER FIRE FIGHTER AND BLACK FOREST RESIDENT



Gambel Oak is overgrown in much of Douglas County. If ignited it could cause destructive wildfires. “Clumping” oak, above, results in healthier plants, and less intense fire behavior. Hand thinning, below, improves spacing between plants, making the remaining plants more resistant to insects, disease and drought.



On the Web

- www.douglas.co.us/land/wildfire-mitigation
- www.firewise.org
- www.fireadapted.org

Fire Departments

- Aurora Fire Department 303-326-8999
- Castle Rock Fire Rescue 303-660-1066
- Franktown Fire 303-688-3811
- Larkspur Fire Rescue 303-681-3284
- Littleton Fire Rescue 303-795-3800
- Mountain Communities Volunteer Fire Dept. 303-647-2361
- North Fork Volunteer Fire Department 303-838-2270
- South Metro Fire Rescue 720-989-2000
- West Douglas County Fire Protection District 303-688-6055
- West Metro Fire Rescue 303-989-4307