

TROUT LAKE OWNERS ASSOCIATION
TREE REMOVAL COMMITTEE
PO Box 3154
MONTROSE, CO 81402-3154

TREE REMOVAL MANUAL
GUIDELINES AND APPROVAL PROCESS
APPROVED MAY 18, 2023

Prior to the removal of any trees from your site that are larger than four inches (4") in diameter, you must get approval from the Board of Trustees of the Trout Lake Owners Association. (Board)

The Tree Removal Committee (TRC) of the Trout Lake Owners Association is given authority through the Protective Covenants of the Trout Lake Land Company. The TRC will make recommendations to the Board for tree removals. These guidelines and procedures are a supplement to the Protective Covenants. They were adopted by the TRC and the Board and may be amended from time to time by the same.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To review Member requests to remove trees from their site for Safety, Utilities, and Fire Mitigation.
2. To help maintain privacy between neighbors.
3. To preserve and protect the natural environment and scenic beauty within the Trout Lake Land Company.

TREE REMOVAL GUIDELINES:

1. Trees or flora needed to be removed due to construction for either a new building, or remodel of an existing structure, will need to go through the Design Review Committee process.
2. Any tree with a trunk diameter smaller than four inches (4") may be removed from your site without the approval of the TRC or Board.
3. For fire mitigation purposes, the publication "The Home Ignition Zone" by the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) will be used to help make decisions about tree removal.
4. Zone 1 is defined as the area that extends 5 feet from a structure, including decks. For fire mitigation, only a small amount of vegetation is recommended (per the CSFS). In Zone 1, trees and any flora in Zone 1 may be removed without approval from the TRC or Board.
5. Any tree removal beyond Zone 1 needs approval. For fire mitigation, this is an area of fuel reduction designed to reduce the intensity of any fire approaching a home.
4. Beyond Zone 1, trees and shrubs can be thinned per recommendations by the CSFS, which encourage "islands of trees" within Spruce-Fir forests. Aspen trees are lower fire hazard for fuel and will generally be left in place.
5. Sensitivity to natural screens of trees between cabins should be considered to maintain privacy. It is necessary to get neighbor's approval in writing when requesting removal of trees that are shared or visible to both parties.
6. All branches, slash, and cut greens need to be removed as soon as possible as they are fuel for fires and also attract Spruce Beetles. A Beetle infestation could be devastating to the Forest.

PROCESS:

The Process for Tree Removal has two steps:

- A. Request to the Tree Removal Committee resulting in a recommendation to approve or deny the tree removals;
- B. Official action by the Board of Trustees to approve or deny the removal. The authority to grant approval rests solely with the Board.

A. TREE REMOVAL COMMITTEE:

1. Application. Submit the attached application to the Chairperson of the TRC.
2. Pre-review Meeting. Requests for Tree removal should have an informal meeting, with the TRC Chairperson to familiarize themselves with the Tree Removal process.
3. Flagging. Mark the trees intended for removal, larger than 4" in diameter, with flagging tape by tying the tape around the diameter of the tree approximately 4 feet off the ground.
4. Site Visit. TRC will make a site visit to the cabin area to review the proposed tree removals. Be advised that this may be delayed if snow cover prohibits a reasonable site visit by the TRC.
5. Recommendation to Approve or Deny. After viewing the proposed tree removals, the TRC shall vote to recommend approval or denial to the Board based upon compliance with the Protective Covenants and the Tree Removal Manual. If the TRC votes to approve the tree removal, it shall recommend in writing that the Board approve the tree removal. If the TRC votes to deny the tree removal, it shall recommend in writing that the Board vote to deny the tree removal and shall state the reasons why.

B. OFFICIAL ACTION BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

1. Vote to Approve or Deny. No later than 45 days after receiving the recommendation of the TRC, the Board shall vote on the applicant's request for tree removal. The Tree Removal Committee will give a report and make its recommendations to the Board. The Board may either uphold or overturn the recommendation of the TRC.
2. Final Approval. If the Board approves the tree removal, the TRC Chairperson will notify the applicant in writing that they can proceed with the tree removal. The applicant will have one year from approval to complete the removal of the trees.

TREE REMOVAL:

1. Only flagged trees should be removed.
2. Members are responsible to not start a fire when removing trees.

3. Members are responsible to not damage other trees that will remain in place.
4. Members are responsible for any damage whatsoever from the removal of trees. Be particularly careful around existing utility installations, especially overhead powerlines.

REFERENCES:

The Home Ignition Zone by the Colorado State Forest Service
https://csfs.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/2021_CSFS_HIZGuide_Web.pdf

West Region Wildfire Council:

<https://cowildfire.org>

TREE REMOVAL COMMITTEE SCHEDULE:

The TRC will not hold pre-scheduled meetings, but will review projects as they are submitted. The TRC may delay reviews of tree removals if snow cover prohibits a reasonable site visit by the TRC.

TREE REMOVAL COMMITTEE:

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APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL
Tree Removal Committee

Date: _____

Applicants name: _____

Cabin Site number: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Signature of applicant: _____

Brief description of requested tree removal: _____

