

# Lake Creek Farms Homeowners Association

## Oak & Firewood Removal Project

August 2012

Lake Creek Farms has had two grass fires in its 15-year history. Both were partially fueled by Gambel oak (scrub oak). The Wasatch County Fire Marshal recommends that the neighborhood begin a long-term project of removing dead oaks that would serve as ladder fuels – adding heat and sustaining any fast burning grass fires.

Several projects are planned or underway to start removing dead Gambel oak from our common areas. We greatly appreciate everyone who has or will assist with this effort to reduce wildfire risks while beautifying our neighborhood. Removing much of the older dead oak is so easy a dozen 8, 9 and 10-year old Cub Scouts (and a few adult leaders) pulled out 100-200 trees in 90 minutes.

The Gambel oak makes outstanding firewood – with a BTU output of 150-200% that of pine – and does not need to be split or dried. Much of it doesn't even have bark.

If you'd like to remove some of the oak for firewood – or simply help with cleanup, please do the following:

- **Feel free to remove any dead oak** from the common areas – in fact, the HOA encourages doing so.
- **If you'd like to remove live oak or other vegetation** from common areas near your property, please submit a plan and drawing to the board for approval before doing so.
- **Please!! Don't leave any ladder fuels (or litter) on the ground.** If you take down a tree, please remove any unwanted branches to a safe burn pile. The dead trees are much safer and neater with branches up in the air than on the ground where they could serve to fuel any potential grassfire. There are two large burn piles that we will ask the fire department to ignite in late fall. One is in the retaining pond off 4200 East – midway between Andertons (Lake Creek Farms Road) and Windleys (Mountain Vista Drive). The other is east of Oak Creek Circle, behind the McMillan and Robert & Jill Hicken homes.
- **If others are obviously working on a project and have neatly stacked wood off the trail**, please leave that for them to finish. (For instance, the local Cub Scouts started a gathering project and plan to donate their logs to a widow or family in need of firewood for the winter.)
- **If you start a project, please complete it within a week or two** so you're not adding to the fire danger. Any unfinished projects left for more than 2 weeks are fair game for others to complete and remove.

**PLEASE, DON'T LEAVE LADDER FUELS BEHIND  
YOUR NEIGHBORS' HOMES!**

**If you take down a tree, please move any unwanted branches to  
a burn pile.**

Questions: Contact Kim Gilboy – [kim@4specs.com](mailto:kim@4specs.com) 654-5156