

From: wtmikus09@paonia.com
Subject: From Alpha Natural Web Site
Date: August 22, 2009 1:50:52 PM MDT
To: alphanatural@sopris.net

Hi John -- you gave me excellent advise on getting rid of the pine beetle in our trees here in Crawford CO. You also gave me a copy of the speech you gave in Aspen CO. I wanted to refer to that speech, but seem to have lost the copy. Would it be possible for you to email a copy to me, so I can have it for reference. Keep up the great work.

Bill Mikus
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Crawford CO 81415
970-921-5220

Catherine Garland
318 Mc Skimming Rd.
Aspen CO. 81611

7/09

Alpha Natural rescued my Lodgepole Pines that were infected with Pine Beetles and without using chemical products.

Thank you

From: revmarta@sopris.net
Subject: Down to earth business attitude...
Date: August 6, 2009 11:46:33 AM MDT
To: johnbuerger@sopris.net

John

It has been a pleasure having you work on my Wild Hillside of 400 plus or minus Natural wild trees. You have a great no nonsense attitude. You wasted no time on getting up on the hill and you even picked up some trash left over from the construction of the new house next door which was much appreciated.

From my research it is obvious that you know just what to do to help the trees obtain a healthy balance.

Thanks again
Marta Steinmetz
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From: ASchendler@aspensnowmass.com
Subject: weeds on Aspen Mountain
Date: June 3, 2009 10:22:02 AM MDT
To: rburkley@aspensnowmass.com, PKING@aspensnowmass.com, sfischer@aspensnowmass.com
Cc: johnbuerger@sopris.net, crystal.yates@co.pitkin.co.us, mhamilton@aspensnowmass.com

Guys:

I just met with John Buerger, a local guy who has been working on weed issues for a number of years here in Colorado and elsewhere. Short story is that his approach is different from ones we've been using—he uses soil amendments to make the nutrients in the soil supportive of native vegetation and unfriendly to weeds. I can get you details if you like. What's interesting about this approach is that it may have multiple benefits:

- 1) It addresses weed infestation in a long term and permanent way
- 2) It increases local native forage, which might help keep large mammals (bear, deer, elk) out of the valleys and off the roads
- 3) It can protect trees that, in some cases on Aspen, are of high value to the ski experience.
- 4) it may actually work in a cost effective way, which would be pretty radical

I know we are crushed for budget this year, but what I'd like to explore is using some amount of money to try a test plot on Aspen Mountain. I'd like to ask the county to chip in half the expense of this, because I think it meets their needs too. (Crystal—in my humble opinion this would be money much better spent than \$50k to log trees on smuggler. For \$50k we could SOLVE toadflax on Aspen Mountain, a huge community benefit.)

This doesn't have to be an expensive effort, it could be a pilot.

If there's some interest, Steve, I'd love to have you and Andy meet with John and look at a possible site. I've cc'd everyone involved b/c I want to try to get something rolling and share my thinking here.

Thanks!

Auden