

SMUGGLER MOUNTAIN OPEN SPACE FORESTRY PROJECTS

COMING THIS FALL, PITKIN COUNTY OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS AND THE CITY OF ASPEN WILL IMPLEMENT MORE OF THE FORESTRY PROJECTS IDENTIFIED IN THE SMUGGLER MOUNTAIN FORESTRY PLAN. SEE THE MAP BELOW FOR THE LOCATION OF 2013 PROJECT SITES.

THIS YEAR'S PROJECTS INCLUDE WORK IN MATURE ASPEN STANDS WHERE SIGNIFICANT REGENERATION IS NOT OCCURRING AND REMOVING MATURE LODGEPOLE PINES, ESPECIALLY IN AREAS AFFECTED BY BEETLE KILL, TO OPEN THE FOREST TO SUNLIGHT, ALLOWING NEW ASPENS AND LODGEPOLE SEEDLINGS TO GROW. SMUGGLER MOUNTAIN IS BLANKETED MOSTLY BY LODGEPOLE PINES THAT ARE SIMILAR IN AGE; REMOVING SMALL PATCHES OF MATURE TREES ALLOWS A MORE DIVERSE FOREST - IN BOTH AGE AND SPECIES - TO GROW, MAKING IT MORE RESILIENT.

IN ADDITION, PITKIN COUNTY OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS AND THE CITY OF ASPEN ARE WORKING WITH THE ASPEN CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE TO EXPAND TREATMENTS ONTO NATIONAL FOREST LANDS.

