

Dear Home Owners,

We have landscaping news and issues we need to share with you.



First a key issue is impacting our spruce trees. We've been made aware of a new insect threat to our trees across Soda Creek. It's the white pine weevil which is destructive. It feeds on the leader stem of a spruce tree, disfiguring and impacting its growth. The advice of Ceres Landcare (A division of A Cut Above Forestry) is to spray each pine tree in the spring and inspect during summer and fall.

Why?

- Infested trees are scattered throughout the subdivision, meaning the population isn't restricted to one or two trees or in an isolated location.
- Spraying in spring controls the adult, before they lay eggs. Once hatched the insects can fly into new areas.
- Identifying trees with new adults is tricky. The resin droplets caused by adults feeding are not readily visible but the adult insect could be present on the tree.
- The insecticide has a residual effect and provides protection to the tree for a few weeks after the spray, even if the insect is not present at the time of spraying.

The board agreed to pay for this service so that we can spray as many pines as possible. The cost is estimated at \$9,000, about \$9 per tree, and will be covered by the HOA reserves. We highly recommend this treatment; however, if you don't want your trees spray please let Lee Wasson (lsw@us.ibm.com) know immediately.

Next, the weed spraying and landscaping is under vendor review. The board voted to hire a new weed spraying company, Ceres Landcare, to do weed control in 2014 vs Foothills Vegetation. The cost is a bit lower and the new vendor lives in Summit County. Again, if you **don't want** your yard sprayed, contact Lee. We're still negotiating who will do the landscaping of the common areas. It looks like we will continue to use Lunceford, and they are going to offer any HOA members a 10% discount on any flowers.

Based on recommendation of Karen Barto, we will be installing 4 dog bag holders on existing posts across the community.

Finally, we hope to see you all at clean up day on May 31. Check in is at the corner of Lone Wolf Court at 8:30 am.

For any questions or concerns please contact your landscaping board member - Lee Wasson - lsw@us.ibm.com

Regards,

Soda Creek HOA Board.