



January 21, 2014

Re: Reforestation in the Waldo Canyon Burn Area

Every year the U.S. Forest Service and partners receive multiple requests to plant trees as part of the effort to restore previously burned areas. Tree plantings are a great way to get involved in caring for the land, but there is a right time and place for these activities. Due to the topography, soil types, and other conditions in the Waldo Canyon Burn Area reforestation activities will be more limited than other recent post-fire recovery efforts including Hayman. If you are interested in planting trees on National Forest System lands, please take the following into consideration:

- Reforestation on National Forest System lands requires seedlings that are derived from a source near their planting site. Additional specific requirements exist for elevation gradients. These specifications are in place to ensure the right type of native tree is planted in the right location and the seedlings will have the greatest survival rate. Trees grown from seed collected in offsite locations are not adapted to this climate and may jeopardize the long-term recovery of the ecosystem.
- The Waldo Canyon Burn Area is still a fragile ecosystem recovering from a drastic disturbance. Recovery is a slow natural process that needs to be given adequate time without additional disturbance.
- There is a plan for reforestation in the Waldo Canyon Burn Area. These plantings are tentatively scheduled to begin in the fall of 2014.
- There is still a large need for volunteer assistance with the recovery effort. Instead of donating or planting trees, volunteers are greatly needed for raking, reseeding, mulching, and installing erosion control structures. The success of the recovery effort depends on volunteers helping with these activities. Please contact your local volunteer organization or Forest Service office for more information or visit the links below. *Thank you for your support!*

Additional Information

<http://www.uppersouthplatte.org/Volunteer/>

<http://www.rmfi.org/volunteer-rmfi>

<http://www.voc.org/volunteer>

<http://waldofire.org/>

