



TUNNEL HILL PILE BURNING

The U.S. Forest Service will begin its second season of pile burning on Tunnel Hill in November. Ignitions will continue as weather allows continuing through the end of the year or when too much snow inhibits safe and efficient burning.

What you need to know:

- ◆ Pile burning will be conducted by a team of U.S. Forest Service firefighters. **Firefighter and public safety will be the first priority.**
- ◆ Burning will occur when there is at least of **3 inches of snow** on the ground in that area and when predicted **atmospheric conditions are ideal for smoke dispersal.**
- ◆ Due to the prominence of Tunnel Hill, **flames and heavy smoke could be visible on burn days.** Forest Service personnel will closely monitor air quality and the burn area perimeter.
- ◆ Residents of the Fraser Valley may be impacted by smoke, especially in the evening and early morning. **Smoke sensitive residents will need to plan accordingly on burn days.**
- ◆ The U.S. Forest Service has installed three particulate monitors in strategic locations around the Fraser Valley and will review results daily. Burning operations will be adaptive to **maintain air quality standards** set by the EPA.
- ◆ **Some temporary trail closures will be in effect** on Tunnel Hill while pile burning is active.



Tunnel Hill is located on U.S. Highway 40 between the Town of Winter Park and Winter Park Resort.

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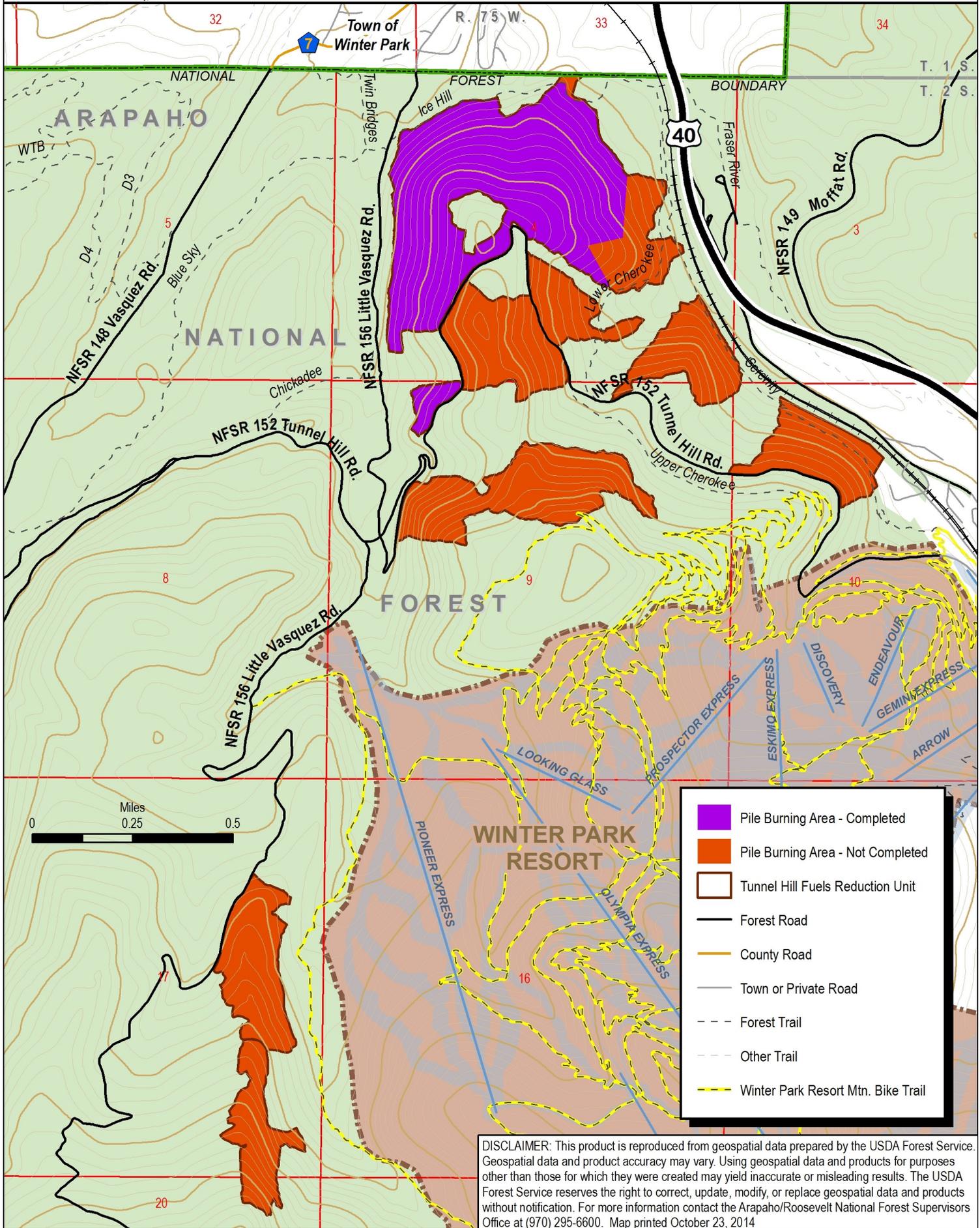
About the project:

The 400-acre Tunnel Hill Fuels Reduction Project is creating a critical fuels break, protecting infrastructure and reducing the potential impact of wildfire on communities and watersheds. Funded in part by Denver Water through the “From Forest to Faucets” program, the project reduced thick stands of lodgepole pine growing on the hillsides between Winter Park’s residential and business communities and the ski area. Due to steep terrain, the wood could not be removed, creating an estimated 20,000 piles. The fuels reduction work is not complete until the piles are burned.

To reduce the number of days that local communities are impacted by smoke from pile burning on Tunnel Hill, the U.S. Forest Service has obtained a non-traditional smoke permit from the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division. This permit involves close monitoring of both visible smoke and particulate matter to help maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standard. Through this pilot program Forest Service plans to burn between 1,000-2,000 piles per day on Tunnel Hill this year (an estimated four to five times what could be burned under a traditional permit). Pile burning began in 2013, with more than 6,600 piles burned in just 8 days during the month of November. We appreciate all the support the community has provided for this project.



Tunnel Hill Pile Burning - Fall/Winter 2014



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