

**Custer National Forest
 Beartooth Ranger District
 Aspen Restoration Program Completion Report
 2007**

Objectives: To stimulate aspen regeneration by conducting small-patch clear-cutting and selective conifer removal of decadent and conifer-encroached aspen communities, thus improving wildlife habitat.

Accomplishments

A total of 32.1 acres were treated in 2007 as shown in Table 1. Treatments involved removing conifers from within encroached aspen stands to reduce competition, removing conifers adjacent to aspen stands to increase sunlight reaching the forest floor within the stands, and a small-patch clear-cut to stimulate aspen root suckering. Examples from the 2007 field season are shown in Figures 1 through 4.

Table 1: 2007 Aspen Treatments

Area	Conifer-removal acres	Clear-cut acres	Totals
Benbow	9.7		9.7
MacDonald Basin	4.5		4.5
Morris Creek		1.8	1.8
Palisades (Grizzly Peak)	16.1		16.1
Total	30.3	1.8	32.1

Figure 1: Young conifer-encroached stand – Palisades (Grizzly Peak)



Figure 2: Selective conifer removal in progress – Palisades (Grizzly Peak)



Figure 3: Mature conifer-encroached stand – Morris Creek



Figure 4: Small-patch clear cut – Morris Creek



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