

DFFM Site Visit Report

Submitted By: Jon Orona

Site Visit Date: 04/19/2024



Organization / Primary Contact:

<u>Org. Name</u>	<u>Contact Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Pinetop Country Club Village (PCCV)	Robin Faison	480-213-3261	PCCV.Secretary@gmail.com

Accomplishment:

I was initially contacted by a local tree care/tree removal contractor called to the property to submit a bid for the pruning and removal of dwarf mistletoe infested ponderosa pine and other tree care work. He recommended the HOA contact DFFM for further guidance on some of the forest health issues present on the property. DFFM A2S District Forester (Jon Orona) visited the Pinetop Country Club Village area located near 6386 Pinecone Ln, Pinetop, AZ 85935 on April 19, 2024. The area has 38 town homes on approximately 4.6 acres. The property consists of native trees species that pre-date the community such as ponderosa pine and Gambel oak, as well as planted native/non-native species such as blue spruce, Douglas-fir, aspen, and other hardwood species such as locust. In general, many of the ponderosa pine are large with some smaller intermediate/suppressed trees growing within groups. There are varying degrees of dwarf mistletoe infection within the property ranging from minimal (0-1 Dwarf Mistletoe Rating or DMR) to severe (5-6 DMR). Other Forest Health issues found on the property include 2 quaking aspens with significant infestations of aspen oyster shell scale (OSS). The OSS was primarily found on the lower bole or trunk of both trees (Images 4-5). Bark beetle activity was also identified on a ponderosa pine (Image 2) but it appeared to be an older bark beetle attack and the tree overall looked to be in good health. Overall, the property has implemented many FIREWISE principles but a formal assessment should be completed by the local Fire Department. Additionally, potentially hazardous trees capable of damaging structures, property, and/or other community assets were identified on the property. While DFFM can provide general recommendations on hazard trees, a formal assessment by a Certified Arborist with Tree Risk Assessment Qualifications (TRAQ) is recommended.

Recommendations and Follow-up:

Removal of infested limbs may help some ponderosa pine with minimal, light, or lower limb infestations of dwarf mistletoe. However, this will not cure the tree and dwarf mistletoe still will be present within the tree. Ponderosa pine with significant infestations of dwarf mistletoe (> 2/3 of crown infested) should be considered for removal. Consider planting tree species not susceptible to dwarf mistletoe as alternatives to ponderosa pine. Contact your local Fire Department to receive a formal FIREWISE assessment of the community. Consider having a Certified Arborist with TRAQ knowledge complete a hazard tree assessment of the property. DFFM will send Robin Faison information and resources regarding ponderosa pine dwarf mistletoe management, oyster shell scale (OSS), FIREWISE, bark beetles, and other general forestry/forest health information/resources. Include information on plant tissue/soil testing to determine if fertilization is needed for some of the pine. Present information and findings to Pinetop Country Club Village Board on May 30, 2024 at 4pm.

Location Map





Image 1: Stand conditions at the Pinetop Country Club Village (PCCV)



Image 2 (Left): Older unsuccessful bark beetle attacked tree on the PCCV property. **Image 3 (Right):** Hazard tree near structure on PCCV with a large amount of included bark.



Image 4 (Left): Aspen oyster shell scale (OSS) present on an aspen located on the PCCV property. **Image 5 (Right):** Overview of aspen with oyster shell scale on the PCCV property.



Image 6: To meet FIREWISE standards, consider completely closing under porches and decks, remove pine needles and other forest debris, and use primarily rock and hardscape within the immediate zone (0-5 ft.).