

E. Ray Garcia, Chairman
Max Vezzani, Commissioner
Gerald A. Cisneros, Commissioner



Board of County Commissioners

2/14/17

Funding Remains Available for Defensible Space

The Huerfano County Commissioners are pleased to announce that funding is again available to help offset Wildfire Mitigation costs within certain neighborhoods exhibiting an extreme wildfire hazard. This funding will be available until the end of 2017 and can be used to establish Defensible Space around habitable structures. The program requires a cost share by the homeowner.

All fuels reduction work will be completed by Qualified Contractors who have been appropriately vetted for this type of work. Similarly, all work costs are closely evaluated and determined to be reasonable based on local industry standards. Once completed, individual treatments will conform to the greatest extent possible to the Defensible Space standards defined by the Firewise Communities/USA program. If due to property size, financial limitations, conservation restrictions, and/or homeowner preferences a property may fall short of a standard Defensible Space, documentation will be provided to guide the owner to this important goal.

This funding requires a 50/50 cost-share by homeowners. Participating homeowners will be invoiced one half (1/2) of the total project cost up to a cap of \$2,500.00. The average total cost for properties treated in 2016 was \$1,750.00 with the homeowner contribution average being \$875.00. All costs are influenced by forest conditions, property size, terrain, and ease of accessibility. On properties with excessive forest density, mature tree sizes, steep slopes, difficult access or technical restrictions, treatment costs are naturally higher. All slash will be chipped and spread to a depth of no more than three inches. Larger limbs and logs will be made available to the homeowner for firewood or hauled away.

This offer is available to homeowners in the following neighborhoods: Pinehaven, Panadero/CMR, Spanish Peaks, Wahatoya Canyon ('Little Kansas'), and the greater Cuchara Village area. Land without a house is of a lower priority yet will be considered for treatment if such action benefits nearby developed properties.

This is the **FINAL SEASON** for this program. The **Deadline to Enroll** is May 31st, 2017. Interested parties should contact Michael Warren at lvfpd.wms.gm@gmail.com or (719) 742-6207.


We thank you sincerely for your response and thank you for being a part of our community.



E. Ray Garcia, Chairman



Max Vezzani, Commissioner



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