

CHIPPING PROGRAMS

Chipper Rental Rebate Program: This program used by FireWise of Southwest Colorado is very simple to run and puts the onus back on the homeowner and/or the HOA or other governance structure. This program provides an incentive to residents that are doing mitigation on their own or using a contractor. The organization will need to promote the program and be prepared to write a rebate check, collect photos, and track rebate requests. Basically, it offers the homeowner the lesser of a \$100 day or 50% of the cost to rent a chipper or have a mitigation contractor do their chipping. If a Homeowners Association / Property Owners Association / Metro District / Road District or other governance structure sponsors a chipping day for residents, they can get reimbursed up to the lesser of \$300/day or 50% of the cost, up to \$1500.

WRWC Community Chipping Program:

The West Region Wildfire Council (WRWC) Chipping Program (www.COwildfire.org/chipping) is run largely on community collaboration and organization. The Community Chipping Program is intended to assist communities and homeowners reduce their wildfire risk by providing a curb-side chipping service.



This is a **FREE** service to participating communities and residents within the West Region, however, each participant must track and document the amount of time that is spent cutting, dragging and making piles. WRWC chips up to five (5) piles that are a maximum of 5' x 5' x 7' each.

The WRWC uses an online pile registration form (built through Google forms) that residents use to indicate their desired participation in the chipping program

(www.COwildfire.org/pile-registration). Each enrolled community has a pile registration deadline and all participants within that community must register their physical address, number of hours spent making the piles and other information on or before that deadline date. A WRWC chipping crew will mobilize to each enrolled community after the pile registration deadline and chip piles at registered addresses. Chips will be piled or broadcast on site depending on the participant's choice on the registration form.

The WRWC Chipping program is funded through County funding commitment, other leveraged grant funds and homeowner in-kind match.

Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) Neighborhood Fuels Reduction Program

CUSP has operated an in-house chipper program since 2003. CUSP provides curbside chipping services as well as the staff to chip slash in neighborhoods around our work area. To request chipping residents call the CUSP office or access an online form located on the CUSP website at: <http://cusp.ws/forest-issues-2/chipper/>

The program is designed around the concept that CUSP is not a contracted chipper service and neighborhoods MUST participate in the entire process. CUSP only provides chipping services when the neighborhood has worked together, has numerous sites, and has led the planning and coordination efforts. CUSP uses resident volunteers to haul the slash while CUSP staff operate the equipment. Liability issues are limited through the use of Liability Release forms, and tailgate safety trainings. CUSP provides all of the necessary PPE for volunteers. In many communities, CUSP returns every year on the same date. CUSP provides this service to over XXX residents per year.

CUSP requires that residents document slash accumulation hours, are able to pay an \$85/hour fee for two staff (\$25/hr per additional staff)

The CUSP chipper program is an outreach and education tool. Prior to chipping, CUSP may provide a staff forester to review the piles and make recommendations regarding additional defensible space needs.

Throughout the chipper event planning process CUSP provides D-space, Home Ignition Zone, Community Wildfire Protection Plan, FireWise, forest management and fire information to the homeowner. Emphasis is placed on the “neighborhood” not the individual and the program requires broad community support to be successful. Many of our chipping clients have increased the level of mitigation over the years. CUSP believes the noise of a chipper grinding in the neighborhood moves people to act better than any PSA.

