



Ciudad Soil & Water Conservation District East Mountain Forest Health Program (EMFHP) 2008

Types of Landowner Assistance Available:

I. Creation of Defensible Space

PURPOSE: Help landowners create a defensible space and/or zone around structures, and improvements. Heavy thinning and pruning a minimum of one acre around home, depending upon slope.

II. Fuel Breaks

PURPOSE: Help landowners create fuel breaks on the perimeter of their property or around a subdivision. Fuel breaks mitigate the potential for intense (crown) wildfire by breaking up fuel continuity. Fuel breaks must be at least 132 ft wide (2 chains). “Feathering” is encouraged to enhance aesthetics (10, 20 then 40 sq. ft. per acre). Residual basal area after fuel break development should not exceed 40 sq. ft. per acre.

III. Thinning

PURPOSE: Help landowners reduce their wildland fuel loading by thinning over-stocked stands and removing hazardous accumulations of **standing** ladder fuels. The thinning process also will improve the overall health and vigor of forest stands by reducing stocking levels and removing insect-infested or diseased trees. Residual basal area for the remaining stand after thinning should average 40-60 sq. ft. per acre.

IV. Chip & Haul

PURPOSE: Help landowners reduce fuel loads by chipping and/or removing slash piles that have accumulated following thinning of the property by the landowner(s). In order to qualify for this treatment, the thinning must have been done within the last approximately nine months.

EMFHP APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

1. Property must be in an identified focus/CWPP area.
2. Landowner submits EMFHP assistance application to:

Ciudad SWCD
6200 Jefferson NE, Room 125
Albuquerque, NM 87109
Fax: (505) 761-5448

3. Assessment is made by Ciudad SWCD (\$50 fee for assessment), project plan agreed to by landowner and approved by Ciudad SWCD and its Fiscal Agent.
4. Landowner submits their 30%portion of payment to Ciudad SWCD prior to a contractor being assigned to the project.
5. Property to be treated is inspected by the contractor assigned to the project to clarify boundaries and possible hazards.
6. Project is completed by the contractor.
7. Balance of the cost (70%) is paid by Ciudad SWCD.
8. Project is inspected within 30 days of completion by NM State Forestry.
9. Payment to contractor is authorized upon approved inspection.
10. Landowner receives a copy of the inspection report, upon the property passing inspection, for their records.