

COMMUNITY CHIPPING PROGRAM

Program Changes in 2020



COMMUNITY CHIPPING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

WRWC's Community Chipping Program is intended to assist residents who live within a **Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Community** in reducing wildfire risk around their homes by 1) cutting and/or trimming vegetation to maintain "Defensible Space" and 2) and chipping the cut slash material. Landowners are responsible for cutting and piling slash material into Curbside or Community Slash Site chipping piles (depending on your Community's Enrollment), and WRWC hires and coordinates a contractor to chip that material for free (for Curbside Chipping Events) or for up to \$100/homeowner (for Community Slash Site Events). Guidelines and Participant Requirements can be found here: www.cowildfire.org/chipping/

CHANGES TO THE COMMUNITY CHIPPING PROGRAM IN 2020

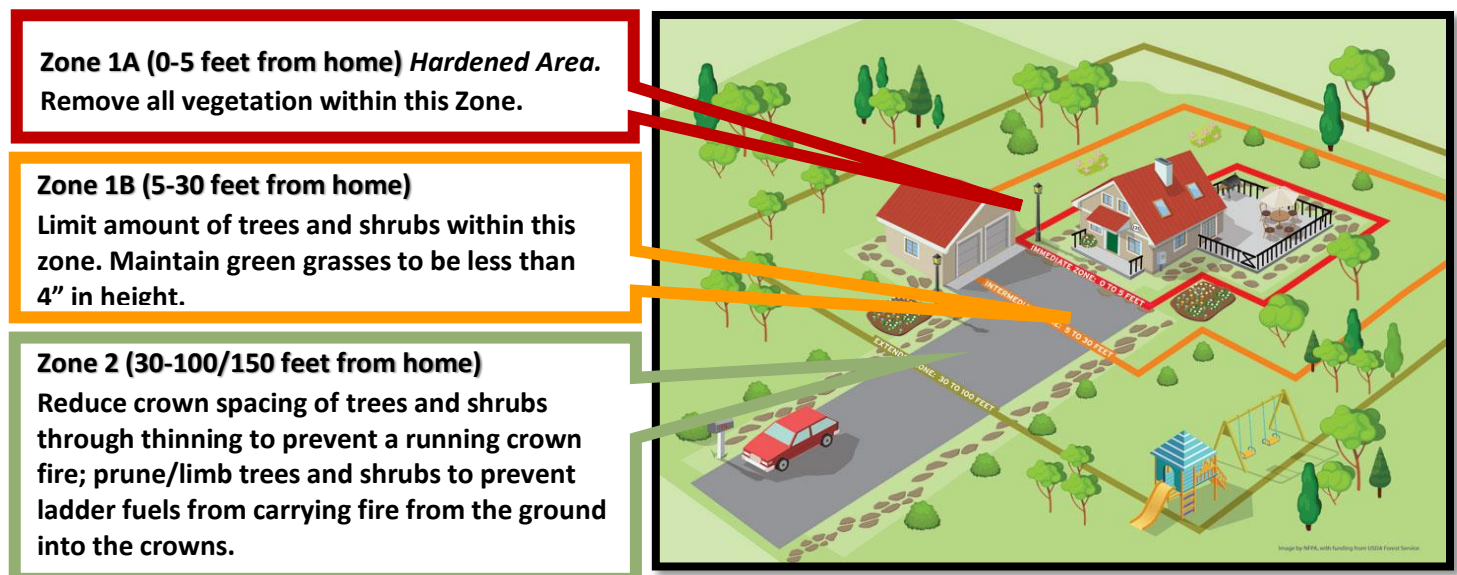
The WRWC Community Chipping Program has grown and been widely popular over the years, and we are attempting to continue to provide this services to our communities in 2020. However, as a small non-profit with limited resources, WRWC has to take stock every season to determine how we can best manage our resources to meet the needs of the people we serve over our six-county area. In addition, WRWC is accountable to our funding partners to ensure our resources are used for their intended purposes. The funds we receive from county, state, and federal partners used to support the Chipping Program are intended to reduce the risk of wildfire in our most at-risk communities.

To ensure we can fund existing programs and manage them to better meet program and funding objectives, we are making some changes (outlined below) to the Chipping Program for the upcoming 2020 season.

CHANGE #1. ADJUSTMENTS TO WHERE AND HOW HOMEOWNERS COMPLETE EFFECTIVE MITIGATION

Research has shown that creating and maintaining adequate "Defensible Space" within 100-150 feet of a home is effective in reducing the likelihood of a home ignition. One of the main goals of the Community Chipping program is to reduce wildfire risk around homes; therefore, **we request that materials for chipping come from within the 100-150 feet "Defensible Space Zone" around your home and/or within the first 24 feet along the driveway or access routes.** See diagram below for more information.

Given our focus on "Defensible Space," in 2020, material from **vacant lots or from larger lots where material is cut beyond 150 feet from the home will not be accepted** as part of the Community Chipping Program.



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CHANGE #2. ADJUSTMENT TO THE REQUIRED NUMBER, SIZE, SPECIES, and DIMENSIONS OF CHIPPING MATERIAL & PILES.

As a first step in realigning the management of the Chipping Program to meet the intended program/funding goals, in 2020, WRWC will institute the following changes to chipping piles. The 2020 changes are noted below and full pile requirements are outlined in the Participant Guidelines & Requirements.

www.cowildfire.org/chipping/

- **Required Minimum Number of Piles and Minimum Pile Size:** To encourage effective fuel reduction around homes we are requiring a **minimum number of piles for each individual homeowner is 5 piles and that each of the 5 piles must have the of dimensions of 5 ft x 5 ft x 7 ft (see photo at right)**. We will chip up to 8 piles for free, and charge \$30.00/pile for each additional pile beyond 8 piles. We want to discourage people from using this program as a landscaping or yard clean up service and instead focus on reducing fuel loading around homes to mitigate wildfire risk.
- **Required Species for Piles:** We are also restricting piles to be composed of wood plant materials /species that contribute to wildfire risk. These include evergreen trees (including Ponderosa, pinyon, and other pines, spruce, fir), sage brush, juniper, gamble oak, cottonwood, aspen, and serviceberry. No fruit trees or berry bush stems will be accepted, or herbaceous/non-woody plant material such as grass and flower clippings.
- **Required Length of Material Pieces:** To make it safer for our chipping contractors and more effectively chip material, we are requiring that **individual pieces of material are at least 2.5 feet in length**.
- **Required Diameter of Material Pieces:** Also for the safety of our chipping contractors and to more effectively chip material, we are asking that **individual pieces of material are at between 1 inch to 8 inches in diameter**.

NOTE: IF YOUR PILES DO NOT FULLY MEET THE REQUIREMENTS THEY WILL NOT BE CHIPPED!



CHANGE #3. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TIMELINES FOR CHIPPING EVENTS IN COMMUNITIES IN PINYON PINE FORESTS.

After the 2018 and 2019 seasons, we saw evidence of outbreak levels of pinyon ips beetle activity in pinyon pine forests across the landscape in our region. We learned from entomologists that cutting, masticating, and/or chipping pinyon trees releases volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that *can* attract adult ips beetles during their flight period (April 15 to October 15). In 2020, WRWC will use seasonally adjusted timelines for our chipping events in communities in pinyon forests, which are outlined below.

- All WRWC Community Chipping Events in pinyon pine forests will be **scheduled after October 15th, 2020**. Anticipated Registration Deadlines Dates are listed at: www.cowildfire.org/chipping/
- Homeowners in these communities are encouraged to **wait until after October 15th, 2020 to do the cutting, pruning, and piling of slash material**.
- Additional information about vegetation management within the pinyon Pine forest can be found here: <http://www.cowildfire.org/chipping/>

If the WRWC Community Chipping Program does not fully meet your need accomplishing effective wildfire mitigation, visit our website for information on our other wildfire reduction programs.

WWW.COWILDFIRE.ORG