

What are my Options?

Set Objectives

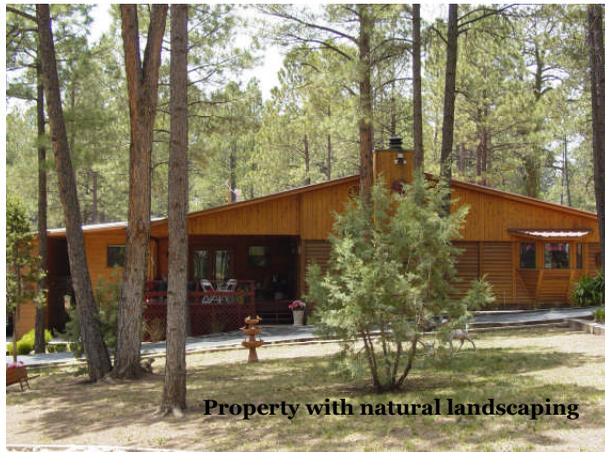
Before you decide to do it yourself or hire a hazardous fuels reduction company, think about the objectives for your property.

The required minimum standards (Section 42-80) balance three objectives:

- Fire Hazard Reduction
- Forest Health
- Natural Landscape Opportunities

Property owners may emphasize one objective over another to customize their lot and still achieve compliance. **”There is more than one way to skin the cat.”**

You may have future site development to consider like building a home on a vacant lot. Village Forestry offers a free professional forestry assessment to work with property owners to maximize value.



Other things to Consider

Do I have a 1/4 acre or ten? You may want to concentrate your efforts close to structures first if you can't do the work all at one time.

How much time do I have to complete the work? Generally, Village Forestry allows 14 months for property owners to bring their properties into compliance with Section 42-80.

Is any financial help available? A Cost-Share Program grant is sometimes available. Call Village Forestry for details.

Is your house on flat ground or a steep slope? If it's on a steep slope, you will want to increase treatments below your house.

Do you have a bark beetle infestation or mistletoes infection? Contact Village Forestry for advice or a free lot assessment.

For More Information Contact:

Village of Ruidoso Forestry (575) 257-5544

421 Wingfield Street, 8AM–5PM Mon-Fri

www.ruidoso-nm.gov

State of New Mexico Forestry (575) 354-2231

www.nmforestry.com

Smokey Bear Ranger District (575) 257-4095

www.fs.fed.us/r3

County of Lincoln (575) 258-9991

www.lincolncountynm.net

Village of Ruidoso Fire Department (575) 257-4116

www.ruidoso-nm.gov/Fire Dept

Village of Ruidoso Solid Waste Department

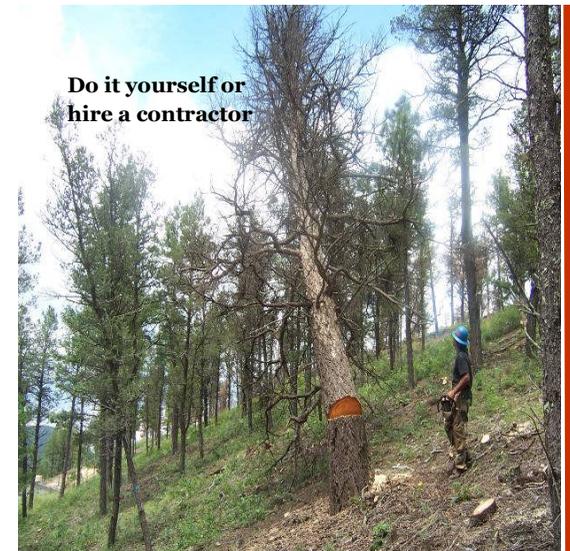
(575) 257-1502



Firewise www.firewise.org/



This brochure is produced by:
The Village of Ruidoso Forestry Department



Getting the Work Done

What is required?

Defensible space is probably the single most important factor in saving a home from wildfire. Thinning out vegetation and removing flammable materials around homes creates defensible space. Village Forestry offers free lot assessments to help you understand your options.

Who can do the work?

Creating defensible space around your home can involve a lot of work. Some home owners have the time, energy, and tools to do the job themselves. Others decide to hire hazardous fuel reduction companies to do the work for them. We recommend you call, click or come in to Village Forestry (see reverse) for a current Courtesy Contractor List of thinning contractors

Hazardous Fuels Reduction Companies

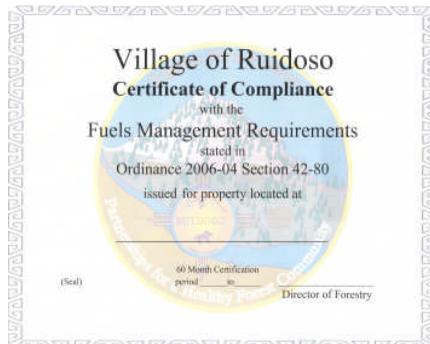
Courtesy Contractor List—companies must do three things to get on the list:

- Secure a Ruidoso business license
- Submit three jobs to Village Forestry for review and approval prior to getting on the list
- Stay current by attending quarterly meetings with Village Forestry.

Is the company insured? A professional company carries both general liability and worker's compensation, to protect the client and their employees. **Village Forestry does not regulate insurance or fee rates.**

Ask for certificates of liability issued directly to the client from an insurance agency. A copy of an insurance binder is not the same as proof of current insurance.

Ask for an on-site inspection and estimate. Get a price quote from several companies. When you've decided on a company, get a contract for work that guarantees compliance with Village of Ruidoso (Section 42-80). These standards are required to secure a five year Certificate of Compliance



What to do with the Slash

As a resident of Ruidoso, you are paying for yard waste removal from curbside through your water bill (if you have water service) or you are billed quarterly for vacant lots as part of the *Community Forest Management Plan*. Placing yard waste at curbside completes your obligation for ordinance compliance.

Disposal by Village of Ruidoso Solid Waste Department—Yard waste (pine needles, brush, tree trunks, etc. also called slash) should be placed 5 feet away from a dumpster or in front of the Homeowners property as close to the road as possible, making sure it does not block the road or cover a water meter.

Requirements for slash piles:

- Create one or two large piles rather than multiple small ones.
- Do not place piles under low hanging electrical or telephone lines, as well as low hanging tree branches.
- Cut and pile branches no more than six feet long.
- Separate tree stumps from slash piles as they are processed independently.
- **Do not** bag pine needles, place needles on the slash piles.



Slash Utilization and Safety

Chipping—A portable chipper can be brought to your property to create wood chips from branches and small trees. The chips can be scattered across your property or piled to use as mulch. Chips will hold moisture, benefiting the remaining vegetation. Chips may not be spread within thirty feet of a structure unless placed as mulch in an irrigated planting bed.

LoP and scatter— On slopes greater than 40% Village Forestry may approve this method as a safety precaution for sawyers or erosion control. This process involves not removing slash to curbside but scattering the slash across the property. Slash should not be concentrated in one spot or piled. Village Forestry can explain details.

Do it Yourself

For a forested home, defensible space is as important as a good foundation.

If you decide to do the mitigation work yourself, be careful! Equipment such as chain-saws and brush chippers are dangerous. Use correct personal protective equipment, such as hard hats, safety glasses, earplugs, saw chaps, and gloves. Follow all recommended safety precautions while using a chainsaw or brush chipper. Cutting down trees can be dangerous if safe procedures are not followed.

Remember to drink plenty of water, especially during hot weather. Physical labor is exhausting. Don't over do it.

When the work is done, call Village Forestry for a final inspection. Once your property is in compliance, your monthly yard waste fee will be reduced from \$8.80/lot/month to \$3.00/lot/month.

