

# ”We Couldn’t See the Deer for the Trees”

After creating defensible space, many homeowners have been pleasantly surprised seeing more wildlife. A property in compliance allows easier movement and better foraging for deer, elk, and turkey.

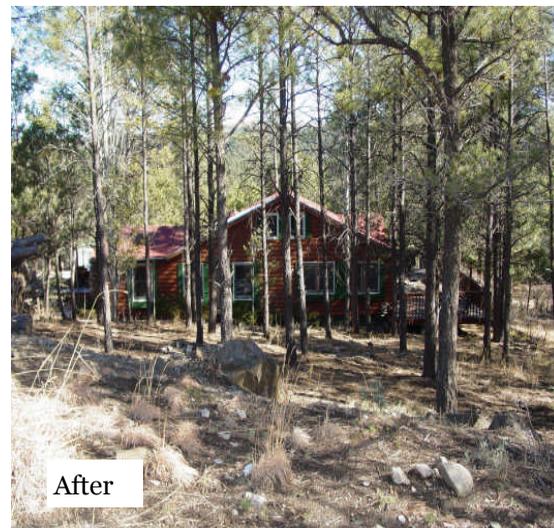
In general, reducing hazardous fuel enhances the view and allows sunlight to reach the forest floor so grasses and wildflowers can grow. In the winter, more sunlight = more radiant heat that will promote quicker snowmelt on decks, walks and driveways.

Before you decide to do it yourself or hire a hazardous fuels reduction company, think about the objectives for your property such as: maintaining privacy; creating views or forest health; etc. .



Selectively removing trees and brush from your property will improve the health of your personal forest, whether it be a quarter of an acre or larger. A less dense forest allows for the remaining trees to capture more water and nutrients from the soil with less competition, an important factor during drought years. Healthy trees can more effectively fight off bark beetles, mistletoes and other pests and pathogens.

Dead or dying trees should be removed first, followed by trees being stunted by others because they are growing too close to each other. Some small trees and different species should be retained as the next generation.



For More Information Contact:  
**Village of Ruidoso Forestry (575) 257-5544**  
**421 Wingfield Street, 8AM–5PM Mon-Fri**

[www.ruidoso-nm.gov](http://www.ruidoso-nm.gov)

State of New Mexico Forestry (575)354-2231  
[www.nmforestry.com](http://www.nmforestry.com)

Smokey Bear Ranger District (575)257-4095  
[www.fs.fed.us/r3](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3)

County of Lincoln (575) 258-9991  
[www.lincolncountynm.net](http://www.lincolncountynm.net)

Village of Ruidoso Fire Department 257-4116  
[www.ruidoso-nm.gov/Fire Dept](http://www.ruidoso-nm.gov/Fire Dept)

Village of Ruidoso Solid Waste Department  
(575)257-1502



Firewise [www.firewise.org/](http://www.firewise.org/)



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



## Increasing Your Property Value

Have you remodeled and painted but are still looking for a great way to increase the value of your property? Well, there is something else you can do, and it will also increase the safety of your neighborhood and community at the same time. Create defensible space.

**Defensible space** is not just a wildfire safety issue. Think forest health, sunlight, wildflowers, views, sunsets, sunrises, and wildlife. “Remodeling your land” will improve the aesthetics and increase its value. Properly reducing vegetation has been shown to increase property value significantly.

# Better Views and Healthier Trees

## “added value concept”

### The Effect of Tree Density on Property Value

Managing the forest on your property will help reduce the fire hazard and insect damage, and it will increase the value of your land. Trees are a very important determinant of land value. Some appraisers believe trees can be as important as a view of the mountains or proximity to water.

If there is too much vegetation, forest health and land value will decline. This is especially true of property with structures as opposed to vacant lots. In an existing home, the views, the amount of sunlight, wildlife viewing, and other aesthetic characteristics are important.

**Basal Area** is a forestry measurement that defines the density of a tree. When basal areas for individual trees are added up within one acre, it results in *basal area per acre*. The Forestry Department can help you figure this out.

Tree density affects the cumulative water and nutrient draw-down on the ecosystem by trees per acre. Fifteen small trees may draw as much as two or three large trees and could have the same basal area. What is best depends on you and your site!



The size of specific trees can make a difference. Large trees add more value than seedlings or pole sized trees.

The number of trees on your neighbor's property can affect your land value and the number of trees on your property will affect the value of neighboring land. When you thin your forest to the most favorable den-

neighbor's property, and when your neighbors thin their land, they, in turn, are contributing to the value of your property.

The “added value concept” is the single most effective tool the Village has employed to bring the general public on board with the *Community Forest Management Plan*.

