PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR LANDOWNER APPLICATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HAZARDOUS FUEL TREATMENT ON NON-FEDERAL LANDS THAT WILL REDUCE THE FIRE THREAT TO NEW MEXICO’S COMMUNITIES

Taos County is seeking applications from landowners who are interested in receiving financial and technical assistance to thin trees on their properties to reduce the risk of wildfire. Eligible applicants must be located in the vicinity of Valle Escondido, Taos County, New Mexico.

In partnership with the Carson National Forest and the Valle Escondido Firewise Committee, Taos County intends to submit a proposal to the 2022 Hazardous Fuel Treatments on Non-Federal Lands (NFL) program to reduce the fire threat to New Mexico’s communities. If the proposal is awarded, funding will be available to thin private properties to reduce hazardous fuels. To receive funding, landowners must submit a Request for Assistance Form to the contact info below by no later than April 15, 2022.

Applications from landowners will be ranked by a selection committee based on the following criteria.
Each criteria is given equal weight as part of the ranking process:
• Properties must be located in the vicinity of the community of Valle Escondido (See attached map).
• Properties should be located adjacent to or near fuel reductions treatments on Forest Service and/or private lands, and will build connectivity between past and proposed treatments.
• Properties should have an unnaturally high density of trees that contribute to an elevated wildfire risk that would be significantly reduced by thinning treatments.

Landowners who are interested in being considered for assistance through this grant must complete and submit a Landowner Request for Assistance form (attached). Forms must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. on April 15, 2022 to be considered eligible. The form can also be downloaded from www.taoscountywildfire.org. Submitting a form does not represent a commitment from the landowner, but it is required to be considered eligible for assistance under this grant.

All applications should be submitted by email to the Valle Escondido Firewise Committee % Ellen Roberson. Completed Request for Assistance forms can be emailed to elrobben@yahoo.com, or mailed to: Valle Escondido Firewise, 47 Clint Rd., Taos, NM, 87571.

To learn more about this grant opportunity, a Zoom call/webinar hosted by Taos County WUI Coordinator J.R. Logan has been scheduled for March 22, 2022 at 10 a.m. A link to the Zoom meeting is posted below. Email johnrogerlogan@gmail.com for more information.

Valle Escondido Non-Federal Land Grant Informational Webinar Zoom Link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87418296178?pwd=ZlZoYzk2ZUZ3VkpYbWF3Q3pEdkIxUT09
Meeting ID: 874 1829 6178
Passcode: 851587

Posted March 1, 2022
Valle Escondido Non-Federal Lands Grant
Proposed Project Area and Eligible Acres

Legend
- NFL Grant Project Area
- Private Lands with Trees (997.6 acres)
- Property Boundaries (481 properties)
- Carson National Forest
EXHIBIT 1 (Mandatory)
LANDOWNER REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

PROJECT TITLE: 2022 Valle Escondido Non-Federal Lands Grant

NAME: __________________________________________
ADDRESS: ______________________________________ ZIP: __________
PHONE: __________________ e-mail: __________________

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T____ R____ SEC_____

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION: (subdivision)__________________________________________
________________________________________

PROPERTY OWNER: YES___ NO___ PROOF OF INSURANCE: YES___ NO___

TOTAL ACRES: __________

INTERESTED IN THINNING ___ DEFENSIBLE SPACE___

FOREST TYPE: PINON/JUNIPER _______
PONDEROSA PINE_________
MIXED CONIFER ________

PRIOR ACTIVITY (Please describe any forestry, erosion control, or wildlife enhancements performed in the last five years) ____________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

I understand that the defensible space and fuel reduction work will need to be maintained and agree to complete the maintenance work as long as I own this land.

SIGNATURE: ___________________________ DATE: ______________________

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OFFICE USE: APPROVED ______ FOR________________________________________

REJECTED ______ REASON_________________________________________________

PRIORITY ______ CCCFC___________________________________________________