

Cuchara Area Cost-Share/HMGP

Statement of Understanding

Concerning the “Cuchara Area Cost-Share” of this Hazard Mitigation Grant Project (HMGP):

Property Owner agrees to participate freely in this project. Property Owner agrees and consents to forest fuels reduction work being undertaken on Property Owners property. Property Owner understands that the Contractor is fully insured, certified, and qualified to perform forest fuels reduction work resulting in a Defensible Space conforming to the standards promoted by the Firewise Communities/USA program. Property Owner also understands that the Contractor will not perform any work for which it is not qualified, certified, or properly equipped to complete.

Property Owner agrees with and will sign the Mitigation Contract for forest fuels reduction work on the Property Owner property prior to the beginning of any work. Property Owner agrees to pay one half of the project cost in a timely manner upon receipt of the project completion invoice.

Property Owner understands that funds from this program may be used for activities that result in a Defensible Space which follows the standards outlined in the Firewise Communities/USA program. Depending on initial interest in this opportunity, funding may also be made available to unimproved properties in the 5 areas targeted by this project.

Property Owner understands that the required contract signing and/or tree marking stages may need occur prior to the regular Cuchara Area summer season and that funding and timeline constraints restrict excessive site visits, special appointments, or excessive delays. If deemed necessary, Property Owner agrees to be available to grant personnel in a manner that facilitates the timely execution of this grant opportunity.

Property Owner agrees that the scheduling of actual mitigation work will be determined by the Contractor and that the Property Owner will not be able to arrange for forest fuels reduction on a specific date and time.

Property Owner agrees to bear responsibility for maintaining overtime any defensible space created by this project. Maintenance activities will include annual raking and disposal of pine needles, leaves, fallen branches, and pine cones within 30ft of any structure; annual cleaning of leaves/needles/etc. from roof and rain gutters; periodic thinning of new tree sprouts, shrubs and tree limbs to ensure appropriate clearances; and annual mowing or weed-wacking of grasses within 30ft of any structure. In addition, Property Owner understands that compliance with NFPA Firewise standards regarding construction materials, storage of hazardous materials, and firewood placement is strongly recommended for properties in the forested areas of Huerfano County.