

CCWUI PROJECT FOREST THINNING GUIDELINES

As a condition of participating in the CCWUI Project, the Landowner will have to agree to implement on their property the following CCWUI Project Forest Thinning Guidelines to reduce wildfire risk and improve overall forest health. These Guidelines are for implementing work outside of the Home Ignition Zone.

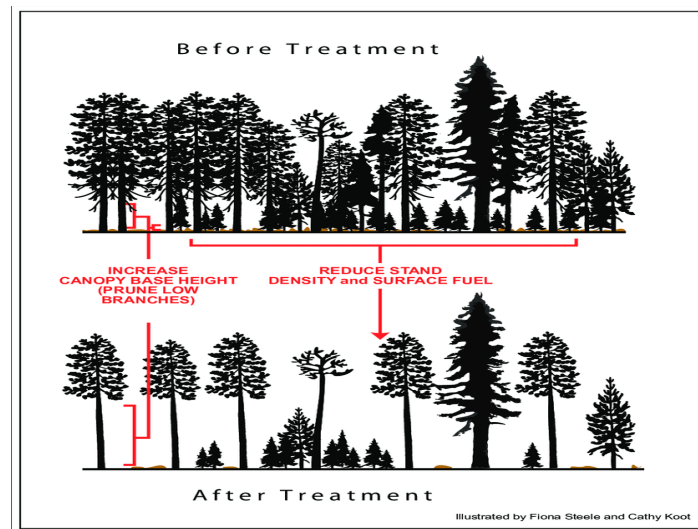


Piñon-Juniper Forest Type

- Treatments in Piñon-Juniper forests will often be site specific and are determined by wildland urban interface and defensible space factors, site conditions, ecosystem type, and landowner preferences.
- In general, Piñon-Juniper understory will be thinned where it has encroached into meadows, savannahs, and grasslands as well as Ponderosa Pine and Mixed Conifer forest types.
- In most cases, limited thinning will occur in Piñon-Juniper forests that are rocky, barren, contain little grass, and/or not prone to regular historic wildfires. The exception is within the Home Ignition Zone.

General Guidelines for all Forest Types

- Older, larger, mature trees 18" to 24" in diameter and larger will generally be left.
- Areas with conifer encroachment will generally be thinned.
- Depending upon Landowner preference, a few snags (standing dead trees) per acre will be left for wildlife habitat. Otherwise, standing dead and down trees and fuels will generally be chipped, masticated, piled, lopped and scattered, cut and stacked for firewood onsite, or hauled offsite.
- Dying, diseased, insect infested, and poor-quality trees will generally be removed.



Ponderosa Pine and Mixed Conifer Forest Types

- Most forests within the CCWUI Project Area fall into these forest types. In general, Ponderosa Pine and Mixed Conifer forests will be thinned to basal areas of 40 to 80 square feet per acre. Drier sites will tend to be on the lower end of the range, and wetter sites will tend to be in the middle or upper end of this range.
- Thinning treatments will focus on establishing uneven aged stands of healthy trees with diversity in tree species, size, and age.
- Existing and historic openings/gaps in the forest will generally be enhanced and expanded. Naturally and historically dense clumps of uneven aged trees will generally be thinned lighter to maintain higher densities.



Aspen Trees

- Aspen trees occur in Mixed Conifer and Spruce-Fir Forest Types. In general, Aspens do not pose a high wildfire risk to structures or the landscape.
- Treatments within and adjacent to aspen stands will often focus on removing conifers and promoting aspen regeneration.
- Depending upon site conditions, Landowner preference, and access, dead and down fuels may be treated and/or removed from within aspen stands.



Spruce-Fir Forest Type

- Trees in Spruce-Fir Forests are prone to windthrow (blown down, uprooted trees) when stands are selectively thinned. Selective thinning treatments in this forest type will be conservative and will focus on treating, thinning, and/or removing dead and down, dying, diseased, and insect infested trees. Selective thinning treatments may also be implemented with multiple treatment entries spaced several years apart.
- A successful treatment approach in spruce-fir forest types is patch cuts. Many fuel breaks are considered patch cuts. Depending upon site conditions and Landowner preference, patch cut treatments will often be utilized in this forest type, including in the Home Ignition Zone.



Individual Tree Marking: **“CUT TREES”** that are to be removed or **“LEAVE TREES”** that are not to be removed will be individually marked with brightly colored paint and/or flagging. When using this method, the markings must be consistent, e.g., mark only **“CUT TREES”** or only **“LEAVE TREES”**.

- **“CUT TREES”** that are to be removed will be marked in **ORANGE** paint and/or flagging.
- **“LEAVE TREES”** that will not be removed will be marked in **BLUE** paint and/or flagging.