

Alpine Area Wildfire Protection Coalition

Lincoln County Fuels Mitigation

Alpine Fire Department

2022 Community Wildfire Defensible Space Program



About the Program

Through the Community Wildfire Defensible Space Program (CWDS), the Alpine Area Wildfire Protection Coalition (AAWPC) offers several programs to aid you and your neighbors to become more knowledgeable and prepared in the event of a wildfire in or surrounding your community. Programs include wildfire awareness, education on defensible space, vegetation removal recommendations to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire, Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) evaluations, and slash removal.

This program is a service sponsored by the Bridger- Teton National Forest (BT), Caribou-Targhee National Forest (CT), and administered by the Alpine Fire Department, Alpine Area Wildfire Protection Coalition (AAWPC) and Lincoln County Emergency Management with the support of Coalitions and Collaboratives, INC. (CoCo) grants.

What Do We Offer?

Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Evaluations

AAWPC offers free HIZ evaluations to review the vulnerability of your house and landscape to wildfire and ember ignition. During this assessment, an evaluator will review defensible space and home hardening principles and make specific recommendations based on your property.

Evaluations are performed by trained volunteers and AAWPC staff and take about 45 to 60 minutes to complete. A summary of their recommendations along with additional resources and materials is provided at the end of the evaluation. The homeowner is under no obligation to complete any of the recommendations, though we will also follow up to find out if the homeowner decided to do any of the improvements, and if not, what barriers to completion the homeowner encountered and how we might be able to assist in overcoming those barriers.

Homeowner Association (HOA) Meetings

AAWPC offers to participate in your annual HOA meeting to share information about being prepared for a wildfire and how you can make your community fire-adapted.

Neighborhood Wildfire Ambassador Program

The Neighborhood Ambassador program is how AAWPC empowers local residents to be catalysts for wildfire adaptation in their local communities. The program provides structure regarding how we recruit and train volunteers, work with partners, fund local efforts, support community events and more. A Neighborhood Wildfire Ambassador is a member of your community that receives training and information to aid their neighborhood in reducing ignition potentials.

Slash Disposal Program

The primary objective of the slash disposal program is to assist community members in their wildfire preparedness. AAWPC is committed to taking action to reduce wildfire risks before a wildfire occurs. Property owners have many options to remove their slash.

Alpine Community Slash Pile

This Alpine Community Slash Pile is a privilege to the community of Alpine and if abused it will not remain accessible to the public. The slash pile is located behind Melvin's Brewery and is only accessible when the water is low. In the spring/ summer the Alpine Fire Department burns the pile. **The pile is for vegetative slash only, no construction material or garbage allowed!** We ask that you try to pile up you slash as close as possible to the existing pile.

Chipping Program and Chipper Day

The Chipping Program was initiated in 2020 to assist subdivisions in the community a way to clean up their properties and have the vegetation picked up while creating defensible space in the event of a wildfire. AAWPC saw that while community members were willing to clean up their properties and make them more fire safe, there was not a mechanism to easily remove the vegetation off site. We recognized that other communities in the county and other areas had similar programs with outstanding participation, so we decided to initiate the Chipping Program. AAWPC has had 3 very successful Chipper Days with a total amount of 150 cubic yards of vegetation chipped.

To be eligible for the chipping program and to facilitate your own neighborhood Chipper Day:

1. Member of AAWPC must present to you and your HOA the importance of Defensible Space.
2. It is highly recommended that a certified member of AAWPC conduct a Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) evaluation. This will provide you valuable material and suggestions on how to harden your home and create defensible space in the event of a wildfire*.
3. Decide if a Chipper Day is the best option for you and schedule one through AAWPC.
4. Volunteer to help on day of chipping, provide in-kind funding or donate monetarily to maintain chipper and equipment **.

*Given the number of participants and the amount of funding available, we do not have the capacity to chip extremely large amounts of slash per landowner at one time. It is best to work systematically through your property starting from your home outward. Work with your AAWPC contact to determine how much material is too much for the Chipping Program to accommodate at one time and what method of slash disposal might be best for you and your neighbors.

**AAWPC has facilitated four Chipper Days over the past two years with participation from USFS (Bridger-Teton & Caribou-Targhee), BLM, Alpine Fire Department, Lincoln County, and public. With personnel costs, the chipper, dump trailers and trucks, the Chipper Day costs AAWPC upwards of \$8,000 - \$10,000 per event. Your assistance hauling material or towing a trailer is extremely helpful! If you are unable to assist during the Chipper Day, you may want to consider a monetary donation (See [Donations](#) below).



Figure 1. Chipper Day – September 2021.

Where do the chips go? Chips will be blown into a trailer and removed from the property to an offsite company or location that will utilize the chips. **If you would like the chips to remain on your property please note on your Time, Activity, and Equipment Reporting Form (See below).** Chips may be utilized on your property. However, it is not recommended to use the chips as landscaping due to the fire hazard.

Lincoln County Road and Bridge has kindly donated the chipper this year!!!

Contractor Options

A contractor might be a better option for you. There are several contractors in the Star Valley, Teton County, and Idaho areas who could help you remove it. These contractors are knowledgeable in Firewise landscaping and can help you in removing your vegetation. AAWPC has a list of these contractors and would be glad to give you a copy upon request.

Tracking, Activity, and Equipment Reporting Form - All

Aspects of AAWPC operates on grant funding so **YOUR TIME COUNTS!!!** Your personal investment of time and cash helps to provide “matching” contributions to the project and future grants; enabling AAWPC to provide administrative services for the program, to the Alpine Fire Department for firefighter time and other costs in lieu of a contractor and pay it forward to help your neighbors.

Track all landowner contributions on the attached [Time, Activity, and Equipment Reporting Form](#): which includes *In-kind Cash Contributions* and *In-kind Time Contributions*. *Cash* contributions include contracted work, gas, mileage, etc. *Time* contributions are labor or hours working in your yard that results in defensible space. These contributions show grantors that you have invested time and money and are willing to do the work to become fire-adapted. Turn in the reporting form to your Neighborhood Ambassador, Lincoln County Mitigation Specialist, or to the Alpine Fire Department.

FAQ:

1. Can I be reimbursed?

Services rendered by a third party, such as hiring for brush removal/thinning and paid for by the landowner are not eligible for reimbursement. However, the expenses can be considered an in-kind match if the receipt for good and services is attached to and documented on the Landowner Release and Reporting Form.

2. To take advantage of any of the AAWPC programs offered, is it required that I provide a specific in-kind hour donation?

While AAWPC does not have a required specific in-kind hour donation, we encourage each landowner to pursue fuels reductions on their property and record their hours they put into fuels-based fire mitigation on their property.

Landowner Release – Required for Chipper Day

Complete and submit the attached [Landowner Release Form](#), including receipts for services rendered, to AAWPC. If we do not receive the Release Form, the chipper will not be scheduled to chip at your home. AAWPC or Alpine Fire may perform a cursory assessment following the form submittal deadline to ensure that piles meet the Guidelines specified below prior to Chipping Day.

Donations

We would very much appreciate your help on the day of the chipping event in your neighborhood or in other aspects of our CWDSP, but if that is not an option for you then a monetary donation will be accepted. Your donation will go to an Account for AAWPC that is held by High Country RC&D in Idaho who is acting as a fiscal sponsor for AAWPC. Donations will go towards repairs, rentals, or printing educational material to advertise the chipper days in the community.

Fuels Reduction/Defensible Space Guidelines

Modifying the amount of vegetation near a home is important to reduce fire behavior in the event of a wildfire. We encourage landowners to:

- 1) Reduce vegetation, brush and limbs within 30 feet of their home and then move outward,
- 2) Create safe evacuation routes for yourself and emergency vehicles, and
- 3) Remove understory vegetation to improve forest health.

Landowner created safe evacuation route and clear path for emergency vehicles.



Landowner removed small trees and brush to reduce fire risk and improve forest health. Excess material was chipped and scattered on site to return vital nutrients to the soil.



Defensible space is created by modifying vegetation around structures out to a minimum of 30 feet.

Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Guidelines

The home ignition zone is broken up into three different zones and help reduce the chance of fire reaching your home, see below. ***In order to participate in the chipper day in your neighborhood you must receive a Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) evaluation by a member of the Alpine Area Wildfire Protection Coalition (AAWPC).*** This evaluation will help you see where your home and property stand in the event of a wildfire. When receiving this evaluation, we will talk to you about how to harden your home as well as create a defensible space. Once your evaluation is completed you will be told which zone to work. The following is a breakdown of the zones and the recommendations in each.

1. Immediate zone: 0-5ft
 - a. Use hard scape such as concrete or noncombustible rock mulch around your home.
 - b. Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles.
 - c. Store firewood and other combustible materials away from your home, garage or attached deck.
 - d. Prune away touching or over-hanging branches from the roof to a distance of at least 10 feet.
 - e. Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.
 - f. Rake and remove flammable vegetation, such as leaves and needles or wood mulch, from underneath your deck and away from your home.
 - g. Use non-wood, low-growing herbaceous vegetation. Succulents, or other fire-resistant plants, are recommended choices.
2. Intermediate zone: 5-30 ft or property line
 - a. Create vegetation groups or islands to break up continuous fuels around your home.
 - b. Remove ladder fuels to create a separation between low-level vegetation and tree canopies and keep fire from climbing into trees.
 - c. Remove leaf and needle debris from the yard.
 - d. Keep lawns, native grasses, and wildflowers less than four inches in height.
 - e. Store firewood and other combustible materials away from outbuildings, such as a shed or barn.

- f. Move trailers, recreational vehicles, storage sheds and other combustible structures out of this zone and into zone 3. If unable to move, create defensible space around them as if they were a part of your home.
- 3. Extended zone: 30-100ft or property line
 - a. Create and maintain a minimum of 10 feet between the tops of trees.
 - b. Safely remove ladder fuels up to a height of 10 feet, while retaining at least 75% of the foliage to create separation between the ground and tree branches. This keeps fire from climbing into the canopies of the trees.
 - c. Store firewood in this area, keeping a safe distance from your property.
 - d. Create space between shrubs and trees to eliminate a continuous fuel bed at the ground level.
 - e. Remove dead trees, shrubs and all other dead or dry vegetation.
 - f. Create separation between your property and neighbors. Consider your trees may pose a greater risk to your neighbor than to your home.

Pile Specifications for Chipper Day

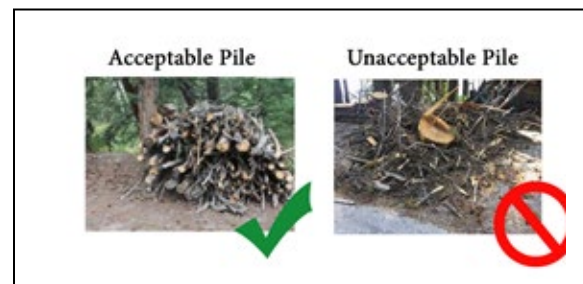
Acceptable Piles and Access

- ✓ Piled woody limbs and branches only, up to 4" in diameter.
- ✓ Stack piles neatly (no bags), with cut ends facing the road.
- ✓ Piles must be within 5' of the roadway or driveway, but please do not block the drainage ditches in case a storm comes through after you pile.
- ✓ Limit pile size to 5' high
- ✓ No limit to the length of limbs or branches (longer lengths are preferable)
- ✓ No limit as to the number of or length of piles
- ✓ Chipping services will be provided so long as access for the chipping equipment is safe and adequate for turning around.

Unacceptable Piles and Access

- ✓ Old, rotten wood greater than 4" in diameter
- ✓ Construction or building materials
- ✓ Bags
- ✓ Trash, weeds, vines, flower stems, and other trimmings such as sticks and twigs
- ✓ Root wads, stumps, dirt or rocks
- ✓ Grass clippings or leaves
- ✓ Woody material with nails or wire

Unacceptable piles or materials will not be chipped.



Contacts

For more information, please reach out to:

Lincoln County Mitigation Specialist: Patty Pringle **Phone:** 307-679-8574 **Email:** ppringle@lcwy.org

AAWPC Chair: Chuck Butterfield **Phone:** 307-413-4800 **Email:** chuck@y2consultants.com

Alpine Fire Department **Email:** alpinefire.vogt@gmail.com

See us on Facebook at [facebook.com/AlpineWildfireProtection/](https://www.facebook.com/AlpineWildfireProtection/)

2022 Chipping Program

Landowner Release- Page 1 of 1

LANDOWNER Name

Property Address

The 2022 Chipping Program is a program of the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS), Coalitions and Collaboratives, Inc. (CoCo), and Lincoln County Office of Emergency Management (LCOEM), administered by the Alpine Area Wildfire Protection Coalition (AAWPC), and Alpine Fire Department (AFD).

Work Must Be Completed to Specifications. All work must be completed according to written specifications provided. The LANDOWNER is responsible for ensuring completion of the work, whether by contracting independently or performing “do-it-yourself” labor.

Eligible Landowner Contributions. In-kind contributions such as “do-it-yourself” labor or contracted work are considered eligible landowner contributions. The LANDOWNER must furnish all necessary equipment for “do-it-yourself” labor. If you have any questions, please contact AAWPC BEFORE beginning any work.

The LANDOWNER is able to contract independently, separate from this agreement, to accomplish work. If the LANDOWNER utilizes a contractor, the LANDOWNER is responsible for selecting, entering into a contractual agreement with, and compensating the contractor. No payment from the USFS, AAWPC, LCOEM, AFD or CoCo will be made directly to contractors or to landowners.

Equipment purchases and/or general landscaping practices are not considered eligible contributions. Work not related to the Chipping Program remains ineligible and is not reimbursable.

Reporting & Eligibility Landowner practices must be completed, and the Landowner Release and Time, Activity, and Equipment Reporting Forms, and proof of payment for contracted work must be reported to AAWPC by the LANDOWNER to be eligible for this program.

Landowner is Responsible for Property Boundaries LANDOWNER is responsible for ensuring that piles and chips are on LANDOWNERs legal property. The USFS, AAWPC, LCOEM, AFD, CoCo or any sub-division, agent, contractor or staff thereof are not responsible for any damages sustained as a result of inaccurately marked property boundaries or to LANDOWNERs property.

Property Access LANDOWNER(S) agree to allow USFS, AAWPC, LCOEM, AFD, CoCo staff, or persons authorized by such agencies access to the property to determine needs, feasibility, and specifications; to enter the property to complete chipping operations; and to certify practice completion. If LANDOWNER(S) cannot be present during site assessments or the day of chipping operations, LANDOWNERs hereby grant permission to USFS, AAWPC, LCOEM, AFD, and CoCo and persons authorized by such agencies to complete the work described above.

Limitation on Liability The LANDOWNER(S) agree to hold harmless the USFS, AAWPC, LCOEM, AFD AND CoCo , or any sub-division, agent, contractor or staff thereof, for damages sustained to persons or property as a result of this agreement. The USFS, AAWPC, LCOEM, AFD and CoCo do not make any express or implied warranties. In no event will the USFS, AAWPC, LCOEM, AFD and CoCo and/or their agents be liable to you or any other person or entity for any damages whatsoever, including, without limitation, direct, incidental or indirect damages, special or consequential damages arising out of the services provided hereunder, even if they are foreseeable or have been advised of the possibility of such damages.

The LANDOWNER(S) consent that the USFS, AAWPC, LCOEM, AFD, AND CoCo may utilize photographs of the property for the purposes of reporting, verification, illustration, broadcast, or distribution in any manner. Consent is given without further consideration or compensation.

Cancellation If at any time you decide to cancel your application for chipping, you must advise AAWPC. In case of cancellation, you, the LANDOWNER, are still responsible for compensating any hired contractors for services performed in a timely manner.

Thank you for your participation in the Chipping Program!

I hereby authorize the above work and necessary assessments to be accomplished on my property and allow the USFS, AAWPC, LCOEM, and AFD authorized representatives and contractors to enter onto my property for purpose of conducting said work. I have reviewed the boundaries of the work and certify that I am the owner of the property on which the work is to be performed.

Please sign and send to address below

Landowner Signature _____ Phone _____ Date _____

Please mail to: Lincoln County Emergency Management—PO Box 1364—Kemmerer, WY 83101

Any questions please contact:

Lincoln County Mitigation Specialist: Patty Pringle **Phone:** 307-679-8574 **email:** ppringle@lcwy.org

AAWPC Chair: Chuck Butterfield **Phone:** 307-413-4800 **Email:** chuck@y2consultants.com

AAWPC/ AFD Community Wildfire Defensible Space Program
Time, Activity, and Equipment Reporting Form—Page 1 of 2
Incidental Expense Record (In-kind Cash Contributions)

Please record the date and a detailed description of the expense and the total amount. **Submit all receipts with this record.**

Eligible expenses: saw gas, blade sharpening, tool maintenance, contractor expenses, \$0.56/mile for vehicle usage to attend HOA meetings or to remove slash from your property to the dump or the Alpine Slash Pile.

Ineligible expenses: Tool/ equipment purchase.

Date	Description of Expenses **Attach Receipts (or copies)	Amount
Example: 3-10-2021	Saw gas (1 gallon)	\$2.88
Example: 3-10-2021	Travel—Mileage 2 miles x \$0.56/mile	\$1.08
Example: 3-15-2021	Green Forest Inc. Pruning & Thinning Contract	\$256.00
TOTAL:		\$259.96

Date	Description of Expenses **Attach Receipts (or copies)	Amount
TOTAL:		

Name: _____

Number of Acres Treated: _____

Any questions please contact:

Lincoln County Mitigation Specialist: Patty Pringle **Phone:** 307-679-8574 **email:** ppringle@lcwy.org
AAWPC Chair: Chuck Butterfield **Phone:** 307-413-4800 **Email:** chuck@y2consultants.com

**AAWPC/ AFD Community Wildfire Defensible Space Program
Time, Activity, and Equipment Reporting Form – Page 2 of 2
Landowner Time Sheet (In-Kind Time Contributions)**

Please record each activity separately. If more than one person is working, place total hours worked in the hours column.

Eligible Activities: project related travel time to HOA meeting with AAWPC presentation, planning (HIZ evaluation), thinning, pruning, brush removal, piling slash

Date	Description of Activity	Hours
Example: 3/10/2021	Pile slash (2 people for 3 hours each)	6
3/15/2021	HIZ Evaluation (2 people for 1 hour each)	2
Total:		8

Date	Description of Activity	Hours
Total:		

Name: _____
 Signature: _____
 Number of Acres Treated: _____
 (1 acre is approximately 1 football field)

Any questions please contact:
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