

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- ⇒ CUSP is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
- ⇒ CUSP works to improve forest health by working with property owners, we are not a contracted chipping service and the program is not meant to supplement contractor work.
- ⇒ The fee for this service varies depending on the volunteer involvement and day of the week work is scheduled.
- ⇒ CUSP can work with you if you require financial assistance. Contact us to learn more.
- ⇒ Properly stacking slash piles makes the process safe and efficient, saving you money.
- ⇒ Donations are very important for the program and are tax deductible.

**Gather your friends and neighbors!**

**Get that slash stacked!**

**Contact CUSP to schedule your chipper day.**

**719-748-0033**  
**CUSP@cusp.ws**

**Sign-up Form**  
<https://cusp.ws/forest-issues-2/chipper/>

Mailing Address

PO Box 726  
Lake George, CO 80827

Physical address

40 Cherokee Ave  
Lake George, CO 80827

# NEIGHBORHOOD FUELS REDUCTION PROGRAM



Working with property owners and HOAs to manage mitigated slash material from property mitigation projects.



## BEFORE WE ARRIVE

- ⇒ Consult the Colorado State Forest Service website or a forester to determine what vegetation you should remove.
- ⇒ Fill out the Chipping Sign-Up Form <https://cusp.ws/forest-issues-2/chipper/>
- ⇒ Stack slash close to roads or another area where it is easily accessible.
- ⇒ Stack slash with cut ends all facing toward the road in piles no taller than four feet.
- ⇒ Keep track of how many hours you spend mitigating, including cutting, dragging, and stacking slash.
- ⇒ Keep track of how many acres you mitigate.

⇒ **No root balls, trash, rocks, lumber, decomposing logs, or pine needles**

## WHEN WE ARRIVE

- ⇒ Property owner or representative must be present. If you are not able to be present, please contact the CUSP office.
- ⇒ Piles not meeting CUSP specifications will **not** be chipped.
- ⇒ Piles should be ready to be chipped, please do not add more slash to piles while we are chipping.
- ⇒ Be available to help load the chipper.
- ⇒ Wear eye protection, long sleeve shirt, pants, and sturdy shoes. CUSP will provide hard hats and hearing protection.
- ⇒ Have an estimate of how many hours you have worked and acres treated.

For information on meaningful mitigation visit the Colorado State Forest Service website:

<https://csfs.colostate.edu/wildfire-mitigation/protect-your-home-property-forest-from-wildfire/>

<https://csfs.colostate.edu/homeowners-landowners/>



Example of properly stacked pile



Example of improperly stacked pile



*Decomposing wood, root balls, lumber, pine needles cannot be chipped.*



## Coalition for the Upper South Platte

Post Office Box 726  
Lake George, Colorado 80827  
719-748-0033

EIN 84-1469785

To Our Partners,

Thank you for your continued participation in CUSP's **Neighborhood Fuels Reduction Program**. There have been some updates for the 2025 chipping season. Please read through all the changes and if you have any questions or concerns, contact the CUSP office.

These updates were made to ensure that the neighborhood fuels reduction can continue to operate and help property owners improve the health of the forest on their property. Listed below are some of the updates to the program, all the policies can be found at the CUSP website: [cusp.ws](http://cusp.ws)

Day of the week scheduled	With volunteer involvement	Without volunteer involvement
Monday thru Friday	\$95.00/hr	\$110.00/hr
Saturdays	\$110.00/hr	\$135.00/hr

### **Volunteer involvement**

- Neighborhood/HOA group: there must be a minimum of 4 or half as many volunteers as there are properties to be chipped, whichever is greater, to get the volunteer involvement rate.
- For chipping on an individual property, there must be at least 3 volunteers, including property owner(s), that are able to work dragging slash to the chipper to get the volunteer involvement rate. Consideration will be taken for hardship or disability circumstances.

If you have any further questions please contact the CUSP office at 719.748.0033.



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# Neighborhood Fuels Reduction Policies

Before signing up to participate in the Neighborhood Fuels Reduction Program offered by CUSP, please take a moment to review these policies and requirements:

1. Talk to your friends and neighbors about volunteering to help bring slash to the chipper. If you are signing up as an HOA or a neighborhood, there must be at least 4 or half as many volunteers as there are properties, whichever is greater. If you are signing up an individual property, there must be at least 3 volunteers present (including the owner. Volunteers must be capable of following safety instructions and hauling and loading slash. If these volunteer requirements are not met, increased rates will apply:

Day of the week scheduled	With volunteer involvement	Without volunteer involvement
Monday thru Friday	\$95.00/hr	\$110.00/hr
Saturdays	\$110.00/hr	\$135.00/hr

**Property owner or representative must be present, if no one is present at the job site CUSP will not chip slash.**

2. Payment to CUSP can be the day of the event or mailed to CUSP, preferably within 30 days of project completion.
3. Slash to be chipped must be generated through 'meaningful' mitigation work. This means live and dead trees have been cut to create space between retained trees. Consult the Colorado State Forest Service or a forester to determine your mitigation plan.
4. Slash piles must be stacked with cut/big ends all facing toward the road in piles no taller than four feet. CUSP will not chip files that are not properly stacked.
5. Long-dead sticks, decomposing logs, and pine needles gathered will not be chipped. Slash must not include root balls, trash, lumber, or rocks. These items quickly damage the equipment.
6. When CUSP personnel arrive, piles should be ready to chip. Please do not plan to add to piles while CUSP crew and volunteers are chipping.

7. Slash piles must be located on the side of the street or a similar location where the slash can easily be brought to the chipper. The CUSP chipper will not go off-road unless CUSP personnel have given prior consent to do so.
8. When chipping in neighborhoods and HOAs, all volunteers must come to the safety briefing in the morning and help chip all piles, *not just their own property*. The CUSP Neighborhood Fuels Reduction Program is designed to promote teamwork within communities with a goal of making the community more fire resilient over time.
9. Volunteers must wear eye protection, long sleeve shirt, long pants, and sturdy shoes. CUSP will provide hard hats and hearing protection.
10. CUSP's chipping program is not meant to supplement contractor work. We are here to help you with slash generated through your mitigation efforts.
11. Keep track of how many acres and hours you spend mitigating, including cutting, dragging, and stacking slash.
12. Please complete the Chipping Sign Up Form - Individual Property Owner or Neighborhood/HOA on the website <https://cusp.ws/forest-issues-2/chipper/>

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**Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP)**

**Chipping Volunteer In-Kind Form**

*For Individual Properties or HOA Residents*

**LOCATION/HOA:**

**DATE:**

Owner	Volunteer Name(s)	Please Initial	Phone	Email	Work Description	Acres Mitigated	Mitigation Hours	Chipping Day Hours	Travel Time
					Physical Address Chipped:				
					Physical Address Chipped:				
					Physical Address Chipped:				
					Physical Address Chipped:				
					Physical Address Chipped:				
					Physical Address Chipped:				
					Physical Address Chipped:				
					Physical Address Chipped:				
					Physical Address Chipped:				
					Physical Address Chipped:				

Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

**TBD** Billed To: \_\_\_\_\_

Hours: \_\_\_\_\_