



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION

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This letter serves as the hazardous fuels reduction treatment prescription for your property. The objective of this treatment is to reduce loss of lives, properties, and resources by decreasing the threat of a catastrophic fire on your property. This treatment will improve upon the existing survivable space around your home through thinning of trees and brush as required and cleaning up the forest floor. Treatment will improve forest health by removing unhealthy trees, lowering the risk of insect or disease outbreaks, and creating improved conditions for remaining trees, shrubs, and forbs.

Few trees and shrubs should be located within 30 feet of your home. Vegetation remaining in this first zone should be fire resistant, not containing volatile oils and resins, and should be maintained and well watered. Grass within this zone should be mowed to less than four inches. Trees within this zone should be spaced at least 30 feet apart and 10 feet from your home.

Within zone two, 30 to 100 feet from your home, more ornamental vegetation can be planted. Sparse juniper and other coniferous shrubs can be located within this zone. More coniferous trees can be located in zone two than zone one. Trees within this zone should be spaced no less than 25 feet apart.

Zone three is 100 to 300 feet from your home. Treatment of Ponderosa Pine will consist of thinning to actual spacing of no less than 25 feet between crowns. Treatment of spruce will result in scattered groups of 5 to 10 trees spaced approximately 20 feet apart.

The health of deciduous (hardwood) trees can be increased if coniferous trees are clear-cut at least 25 feet around the stand. Larger dominant and co-dominant coniferous trees that are straight, with good form and vigor, should be left if they meet the minimum spacing requirements. Diseased; snow bent; deformed; broken, dead, or forked top trees will be removed. It is recommended that trees with defects be removed first, with remaining trees being cut next until the desired spacing is achieved. Stumps shall be no higher than 6 inches on the uphill side. Pine within the prescription area should be limbed to a minimum of 10 feet from the ground or higher on steep slopes; spruce trees are typically not limbed but will be limbed if remaining around structures. Fuels from the forest floor that may consist of broken tree tops, branches, and brush will also be treated by piling, removal, or chipping.

Felled trees and limbs (thinning slash) and broken tops, and previously dead and downed material that is not a result of prior treatment will be removed, chipped and spread to a maximum 4" depth, or piled for later burning when conditions are favorable (with permit approval by SD Wildland Fire Suppression). Burn piles will not be located on top of stumps or under the drip line of any tree. The project will not be considered complete for cost-share reimbursement until all fuels are eliminated through burning or removal.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Andrew Tate
Urban Interface Specialist
South Dakota Wildland Fire Suppression
605-394-2584