

Cedar Mesa Ranches Homeowners Association, Inc.

PO Box 1625
Cortez, CO 81321

President • Terrence Micheal, DC
Phone: (970) 564.0158

July 23, 2004

Re: Fire Mitigation Grant & Website

Dear CMR HOA Member,

As most of you already know, CMR was awarded an \$8,000 grant to pursue fire mitigation efforts in our subdivision. At the last board meeting the Fire Committee was given the green light to proceed with that effort. We will be hiring Fire Ready to do the following work:

Phase I of the fire mitigation work calls for the creation of a fire break within 18 feet (the setback) of either side of the main road (Road 35). The branches of trees will be limbed within 18 feet of either side of the road if they pose a fire danger. Fire Ready will use their expertise and good judgment to make the trees aesthetically pleasing. This fire break is intended to create a break in the continuity of flammable fuels to reduce the threat of a high severity and fast moving wildfire threatening our ingress and egress access route. If there is time to work on other side roads we will direct the crew to do so.

Phase II of the proposed work calls for chipping the slash of lot owners. The slash piles must be at the edge of the access roads so that the mitigation crew can easily load the slash into their chipper. Slash piles along private driveways may be included for chipping but only as directed by the lot owner. The slash should be stacked as described in the attached document in order to facilitate getting as much slash chipped as possible, and nothing over 10 inches in diameter should be placed in the slash piles. All chips will be spread back into the wooded areas on the main roads. However, if requested by the HOA, Fire Ready can pile chips in a few designated locations for later disbursement by the lot owners. We recommend you go to www.fireready.com if you would like to obtain more knowledge about Defensible Space and Fire Mitigation work.

We are at a bit of a disadvantage in judging how long each Phase will take and the job requires some coordination on our part to see that the optimum result is achieved. The maximum time for chipping any single lot owner's slash pile is currently limited to 45 minutes. This should allow Fire Ready to chip at approximately 50 different sites. If we have less than 50 lot owners participating that time will be increased. If we have more than 50 lot owners participating we will have systems in order so that you can pay Fire Ready for additional time on your slash pile if you so desire. Hence, it is imperative that you communicate with

the Fire Committee during this process. The contact information will be available on our website as will some guidance with respect to the approximate size of a 45 minute slash pile. If you intend to participate we will need your name, phone number, e-mail address and lot number. In order to give each of us a reasonable amount of time to complete the required work on our lots, we have asked Fire Ready to begin Phase II of this project the week of September 13, 2004. Fire Ready will decide when they begin the first phase of this project.

A lot owner commented at our last board meeting that the creation of fire breaks and some slash removal isn't enough. Frankly, he is correct. However, at least it's a start. It's up to each of us to take personal responsibility for mitigating our land and preserving our property values. Please do what you can to help us in this effort by taking fire danger seriously and doing your part in making this a safe community.

Website:

We are also pleased and excited to announce that volunteer extraordinaire (and lot owner), Nick Bird, has designed and launched our CMR HOA website. There you can access archived minutes, relevant documents, resource material and even communicate with fellow lot owners. The site is still under construction and Nick hopes to have separate web pages for Roads, Fire Mitigation (including Fire Evacuation Plans), Noxious Weeds and even Covenant issues. However, for the time being, we encourage you to go to www.cedarmesarancheshoa.org and check it out. Nick is open to recommendations and suggestions to make this website even more useful and beneficial to all members so please feel free to communicate your thoughts and opinions. The Board of Directors is very pleased with this new addition to our ensemble and wish to extend our sincere appreciation to Nick for the countless hours he has spent on this valuable website.

We will post on our website recommendations and suggestions for slash stacking and even volunteer opportunities to assist with the fire break work. Please continue to keep your ear to the ground as we work to make our community a safer and friendlier place to live. After all, isn't that what "community" is all about?

We appreciate your support and thank you in advance for your participation, both on the Fire Mitigation project and the Website.

Regards,

CMR HOA Board of Directors &
Fire Committee

