

Other Vegetation Management Tools

This booklet is focused on livestock grazing as a land management tool to reduce fire fuel loads. Below, we highlight other options that can assist you in reducing fire fuels. For more information on the vegetation management tools described here, please reference the community resources on page 18-19 for resources and technical assistance.



Timber Harvest

Timber harvest events can range from small-scale efforts such as reducing trees around your home to large-scale efforts such as prescribed forest thinning on large landscapes. Timber harvesting can prevent the active spreading of fires from one tree crown to the next through the canopy.



Pile and Burn

Woody debris from mechanical treatments or tree cutting can be piled and burned to reduce hazardous fuels. These piles can be small slash stacked by hand or large piles created by machines. Before burning, be certain slash is dry, there are favorable weather conditions, and you have safety measures in place. Be sure to obtain a burn permit and burn on an allowable burn day.



Chipping

Chipping can be used to repurpose the vegetation that has been cleared around homes, across a property or along roadsides. Potentially hazardous fuels don't have to be removed from the property, but rather can be chipped and spread on-site away from homes and buildings.



Mastication

A masticator is a large piece of equipment that grinds, shreds, or chops understory vegetation (brush) and small trees. Mastication breaks up fuel patterns by removing ladder fuels that can catch trees on fire and decreases combustibility by placing fuels on the ground. The chopped up vegetation will decompose on the land. This tool can slow the rate of fire spread during a wildfire, assisting suppression efforts.



Prescribed Fire

The implementation of prescribed fire is an important tool to reduce fuels. The use of fire in predetermined conditions can provide a wide range of land management benefits, including decreasing fire fuel loads, improving livestock forage quality, reducing invasive species, and decreasing woody encroachment. The most effective prescribed fire treatments typically have an integrated approach, involving mechanical thinning followed by prescribed fire.