

February 2, 2020

We are excited to announce that our application for the 2019-2020 Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Program “**Ongoing Sheep Creek Landowner Association Fuel Reduction**” has been approved for funding by the Colorado State Forest Service.

The \$30,000 grant is for treatment of **30 acres** and the project period deadline is June 1, 2023.

The details and scope of the work to be completed are below.

Work to be completed deliverables:

- All work will be monitored and assessed by the CSFS field representative. The methods utilized will be those that have been established and shown to be effective in this regard and include the removal of downed fuel wood, identification of trees that need to be removed for thinning, reducing crown density and other purposes, and removing ladder fuels from under canopies
- Trees will be pruned from 6' to 10' from ground level. Aspen trees will be favored for natural fuel breaks. Large diameter material (> 4" dia.) will be cut into 5 foot poles/posts or shorter lengths for firewood. Smaller diameter material (< 4" dia.) will be chipped and left on site. All cut and chipped material will be made available for residents and neighbors for personal use
- The proposed project work will include removing dead/down woody debris from the bottomland along Sheep Creek and the cottonwood bosque along the Conejos River
- Plans and progress as well as the effectiveness of efforts will be monitored by staff from the CSFS from their Alamosa Field Office. These efforts are expected to complement and add to the efforts from the prior grant-funded and volunteer efforts in the subdivision and those in the adjacent Bear Creek subdivision
- The prescribed fuels and forest health treatments associated with the project are expected to reduce wildfire risk and promote forest resilience and improve the forest ecosystem in treated and adjacent areas. SCLOA will work closely with CSFS staff to use standard methods and also implement any new or improved methodologies to meet emerging forestry issues with CSFS guidance

As you may know, applying for, collecting required data, and monitoring grants takes a huge amount of time, dedication, and effort. Thank you Bob Newcomer and James Eanes who work tirelessly for the benefit of all of us in Sheep Creek.