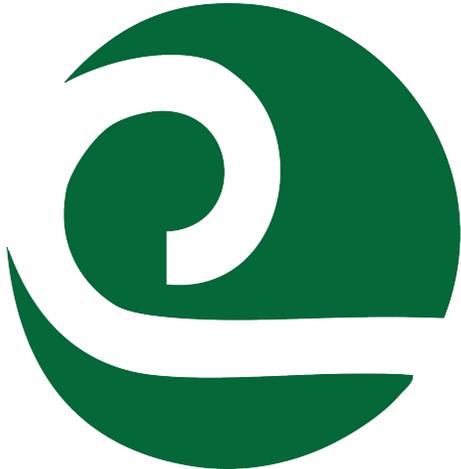
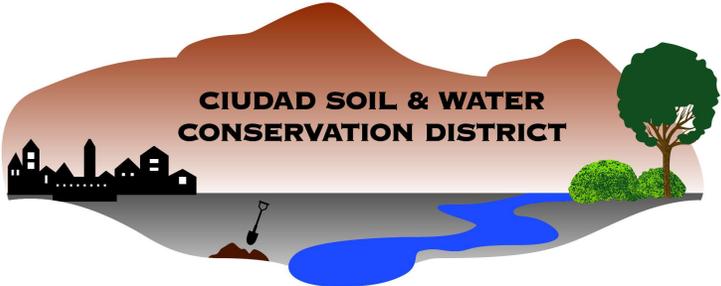


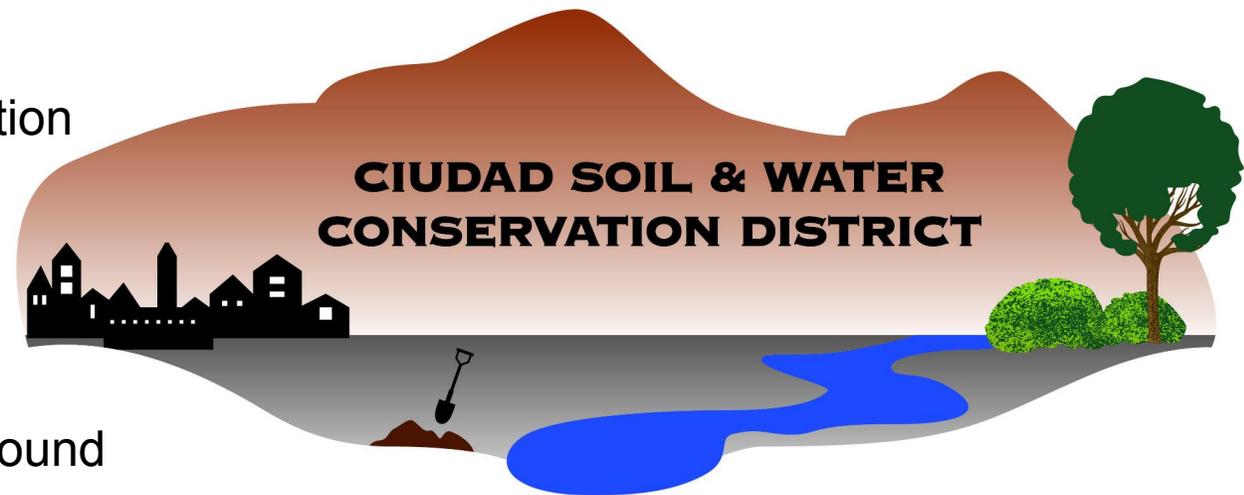
Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District: Neighborhood Chipper Event w/ Sandia Knolls

Pre-project Meeting



What is Ciudad SWCD? Est. 1944

- 1 of 47 Conservation Districts in NM, we are local government, a special district. Not Fed, State, County, or City.
- Each SWCD is unique and defined by specific location
- 7 Member Board of Supervisors
- 14+ total Staff and growing! (4 for Forestry)
- Primarily grant funded (Until Jan 2026)
- Over \$3.5 million in conservation projects on the ground in each year (Pre 2026)
- Everything we accomplish is done in partnership!



Who are we?

Ricky Reedy

Position: Forest Health Manager
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Natalie Winward

Position: Forest Health Coordinator
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ciudadswcd.org

What is the point of the chipper event?



The purpose of this chipper event is to engage the community in a practice that raises awareness and reduces the risk of catastrophic wildfire by educating and providing a service to help reduce hazardous fuel potential on the landscape.

Chipper Event Cycle

Neighborhood Requests a Chipper Event

Ciudad and Neighborhood Discuss how it works

Ciudad and Neighborhood Enter Into a Chipper Event Agreement

Ciudad and neighborhood enter into an agreement if an event is to be planned

Pre-meeting is held for the neighborhood

A meeting is held to help landowners do the cutting and know what to expect

Landowners cut and stack trees and limbs at the roadside

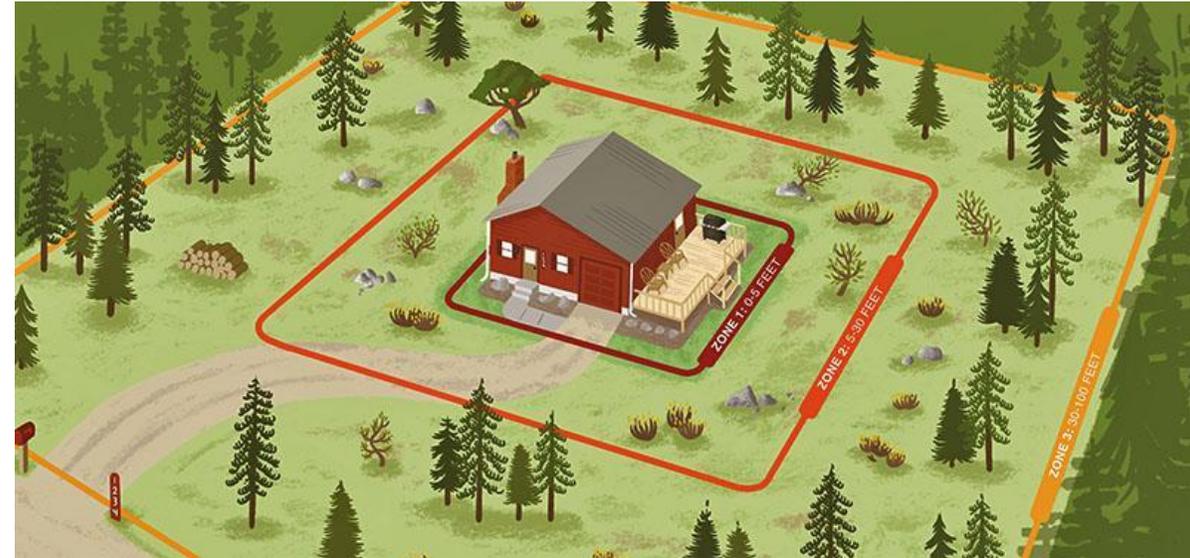
Landowners work on cutting and stacking as they have time over 3-5 weeks

Contract Crew Completes the Chipping

Ciudad's chipper contractor comes and chips all the properly stacked material over a number of days

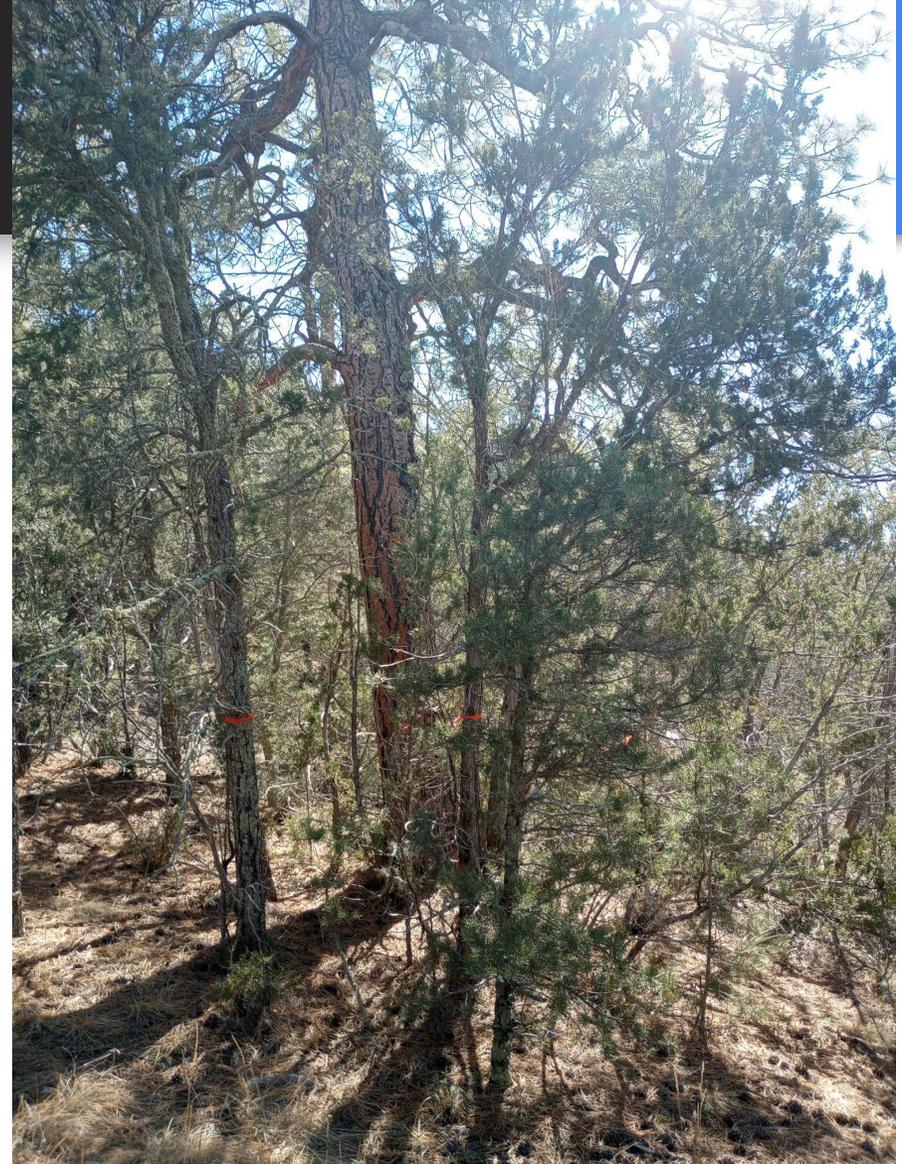
Thinning Guidelines

- Zone 1 – immediate area 0-5 Ft
 - Little to NO vegetation
 - No wood chips within 10ft of house
 - Home hardening – mesh over vents, clean gutters, Class A building materials
 - Avoid wood fences and decks touching the home
- Zone 2 - Intermediate area 5-30 ft
 - Create vertical and horizontal space
 - Create space between trees and shrubs
 - Occasional thinning and suggested seasonal pruning of existing vegetation
 - Keep grasses mowed



Thinning Guidelines

- Trim and remove conifers and junipers
- For mature trees above 15' high
 - Trim lower branches up to around 6 - 8'
- Remove most conifer saplings under larger trees
- Remove dead and down branches
- Create and maintain 10ft between canopy edge of one mature tree to the next
- Cut stumps flat and low to ground
- Review and maintain vegetation annually



Thinning Guidelines

- Leave the same mix and ratio of species that you started with
- Leave a variety of ages/sizes of trees. Some mature and some young
- Focus on the area closest to your house and work out from there
- Be careful to not overexert yourself. Forest management can be hard work!



Equipment

- Make sure you have the right tools and they are maintained!
- Loppers and hand saw often all you need to get started
- Many cuts needed are less than 3"
- Chainsaws are helpful but not always necessary



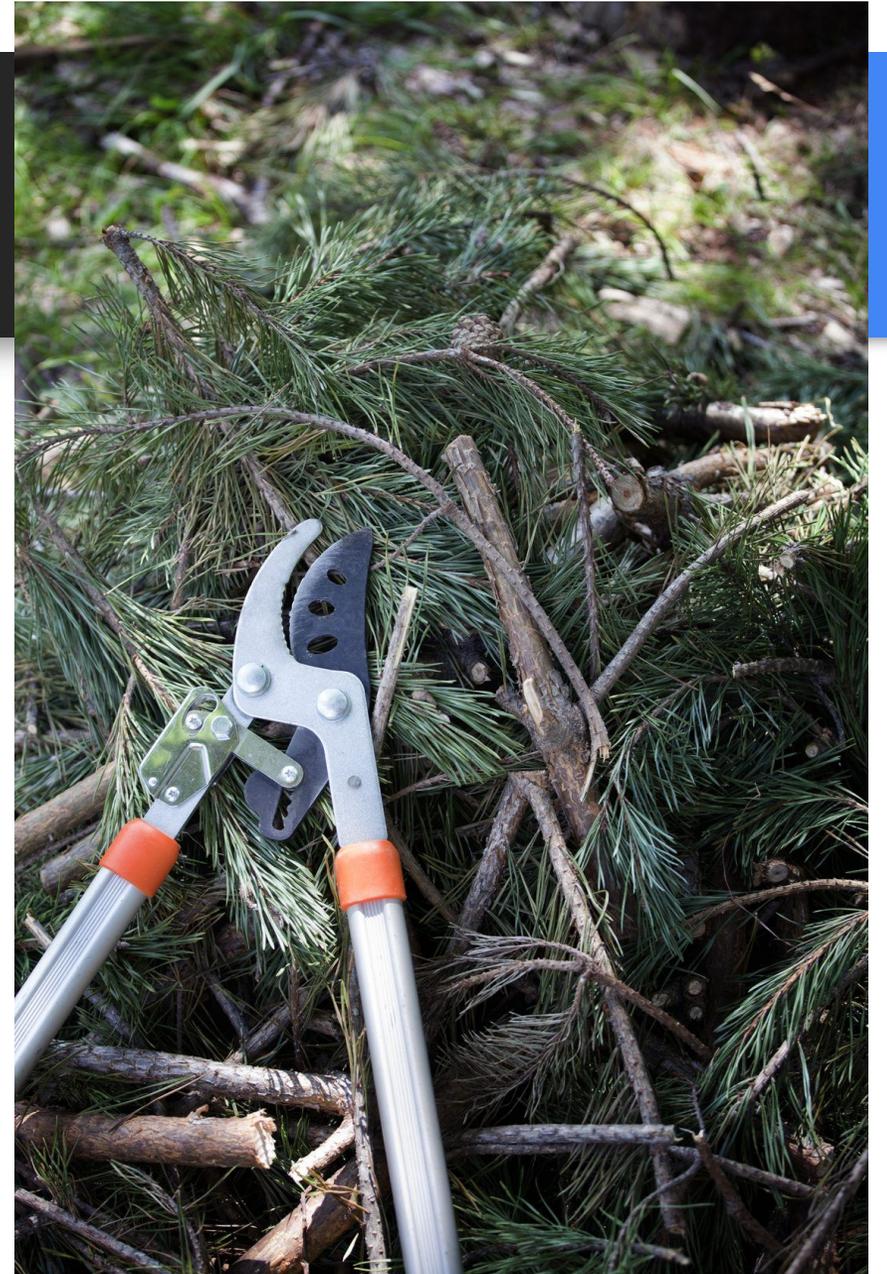
What about bark beetles?

- October through April best times to maintain forest area, beetles are a fact of life in the East Mountains. Wildfire risk generally outweighs bark beetles concerns in forest management.
- Conifer pests (bark beetle) are known to spread during warm and dry weather (April – October)
 - Pinon are particularly vulnerable
 - Pinon do not sap when cut, sign of beetle
 - Faders
 - pitch tubes
- If cutting in warm months is necessary, move cuttings daily to landfill and do not cut when there are red flag warnings or other environmental restrictions



Staging slash for chipping event

- Begin thinning and pruning to gather slash piles
- Drag slash to edge of roadway within property boundaries
- Keeping cut ends towards the street
- **DO NOT INCLUDE:** Rocks, gravel, trash, other yardwaste, lumber, electronics or building materials
- Twigs and Pine needles will not go through the chipper and will slow down the crew. Please only include limbs and branches that are 2ft or longer.
- Aim to have cut ends which are no larger than 8 inches in diameter



Staging slash for chipping event: NOT LIKE THIS



https://sahfahoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/DoNotDoThis_01.jpeg



Staging slash for chipping event: Like This!



DO NOT FEED THE CHIPPER

- Ciudad will work with your neighborhood association or HOA to coordinate a date, contractor, and service area.
- Chipper Service will arrive on site to manage branches and chipping on designated dates. Landowners job is to cut and stack in the weeks before the chipper crew arrives!
- No, we won't take the chipper up your driveway.



When will the chipper come?

- Start Prepping now
- Chipper will arrive approximately the last week of March, the crew keep returning day after day until the chipping is done.
- There may be delays due to bad weather
- Please keep piles approximately 4 feet high and 4 feet wide at max, but make as many piles as you like
- Chips will be broadcast spread back into the area from when the piles were stacked, unless a note is left of landowner talks to the chipper crew