

**Public Notice**  
**Forest Reserve Title III Proposed Project**

The Saguache County Board of Commissioners is soliciting public comment on a proposal to spend Forest Service Title III funds for the following project:

Community Firewood Project – Fire Risk to Fire Wood project is requesting funding for an initiative to assist community members with firewood for the winter by using wood from mitigated areas.

Written comments may be addressed to the Board of County Commissioners and submitted to the Saguache County Administration office located at 505 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Saguache, CO, mailed to PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149 or may be emailed to [wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov](mailto:wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov).

The deadline for comments is Friday, October 2, 2020 at 3PM. The Board of County Commissioners will review comments and make a decision on this request at their regular meeting on Tuesday, 6, 2020 at 2:00pm.

Saguache Crescent please publish in your next issue and provide proof of publication.

Thank you,  
Wendi Maez  
County Administrator

Rid  
8/4/2020

Revised  
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## Community Firewood Project - Fire Risk to Fire Wood

### Community Firewood Project -

The Community Firewood Project, an initiative to assist community members with firewood for the winter, is already active and growing. We have already collected and stored between eight and ten cords of cured, burnable firewood once it has been cut, split and stacked. We will have a mix of native woods available, including: piñon, juniper, aspen and cottonwood.

In the past few weeks, the Community Firewood Project has received the official support of the Baca Grande Emergency Services, Neighbors Helping Neighbors Crestone, Baca Grande POA Firewise Committee, The Crestone Charter School and the Crestone Energy Fair. Meetings and collaboration efforts have been established with all of these organizations. Baca Grande Emergency Services crew have assisted Corez Hines and Christina Lakish in loading and hauling firewood to several established wood storage locations. The Firewise Committee is committed to assisting the continuation and growth of the project in the future through the purchase of equipment for Firewise efforts across the board, to which Community Firewood Project would have access for use. Additionally, 'Neighbors Helping Neighbors' President, Mary Lowers, has offered her support by providing information on community members in need that have been approved by the NHN application process to ensure that our efforts can reach as many people in true need as possible. The Crestone Charter School has also offered to help connect the Community Firewood Project with families in need.

The current strategy of the Community Firewood Project is to collect cured, ready-to-burn- wood that is being removed during Firewise mitigation projects on both green belt/common areas and private property projects, and store it safely to then provide it to those in crisis during the cold months. The wood is cut as necessary fuel removal for reduction of wildfire risk and intensity. Many homeowners opt to keep the wood cut on their own property to burn for their own heat in the winter, but some do not burn wood for a variety of reasons and choose to not keep the wood produced from their mitigation projects. In these cases, the fuel must still be removed from the forest and it is given to the crew working to do with as they please. The majority of this wood is given to the Community Firewood Project.

On the greenbelt/common area mitigation projects, much of the burnable wood material removed is left in easily accessible areas for the community to collect for themselves. However, the same members of the community who are potential recipients of the wood from the CFP cannot, for various reasons, collect any of this wood for themselves. Some are physically unable, and some do not have an adequate vehicle to transport the wood with, or have no vehicle at all. For those reasons, the majority of the wood created in the process of these mitigation projects is given directly to CFP.

are nationally seeing a spike in COVID cases. Between the Baca Brush Truck currently listed as available with a crew of three to be dispatched to large fires nationally, and the valley health care system already being strained, it is imperative that we have as many first responders, EMT's and firefighters available to be on-call for our community. This project will be operating in conjunction with the Baca Firewise program and funding will be sent to the Baca Grande POA to be handled by the POA office staff in the same manner as the Baca Firewise Program. Funding given to the Community Firewood Project would allow Corez and Christina to focus on this project while continuing to be available and on call for fire and medical emergencies.