

HSA Inc. Thinning Plan for Common Areas

Purpose:

- Vehicle and Pedestrian Safety
- Fire Prevention
- Forest Health
- Liability

Thinning Definition:

Removal of **unhealthy, unsafe and overcrowded** bushes and trees.

Guidelines:

Remove only those **trees 9-inch in diameter or less** that have irregularities in their stems or crowns caused by damage from Bark Beetles, Borers, Mistletoe, etc. Then address **overcrowding** by removing those that are closer than **10 to 30ft apart** trunk to trunk based on slope of terrain. Selection is made by preserving the healthiest trees and retaining a variety of species. Remaining trees and brush will be trimmed considering ground fire flame lengths and possible fire ladders that could lead to crown fires.

Plan:

- Thin **35 to 60ft depending on slope or visibility**, each side of all roads on common lands, starting at road intersections and curves, to provide a fire break and improve visibility / safety for vehicle and pedestrian traffic.
- Thin those areas on the periphery of HSA. This will not only help prevent fires from moving into our area but would also prevent fire on our land from moving onto private or public lands, for which we could be liable.

Expected Benefits:

- Increased **visibility safety for vehicles and pedestrians**.
- **Decrease** the probability of **ground fires** becoming a disaster.
- **Increased forest health** by eliminating competition for nutrients between the remaining trees and those removed.
- Demonstrate that we have made a **reasonable effort to prevent fires** and/or keep fire from moving off our land, which may create a liability situation.

Please follow these simple rules if you are going to thin

1. Trim and pile/stack slash in an open area (no tree canopy above the slash pile) so that the slash can be burned during snow cover.
2. Trim back main trunk and section to less than 18" and remove for firewood, or leave, so that someone else may remove for firewood.
3. Stay on common property. Please do not thin on private property that is not yours.
4. Stick to the guidelines approved by the board. See attached.
5. Be safe, wear eye protection, and be aware of others in your immediate area.