



Town of Carbondale  
511 Colorado Ave  
Carbondale, CO 81623  
(970) 963-2733

Permit #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Wildfire Mitigation Permit

#### PART 1 – APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Property: \_\_\_\_\_

#### PART 2 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

General project description:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Lot Size: \_\_\_\_\_ # Dwelling Units: \_\_\_\_\_

Zone District: \_\_\_\_\_

#### PART 3 – SIGNATURES

I declare that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature Date

**Signature of all owners of the property must appear before the application is accepted. Partnerships or corporations may have the general partner or corporate officer sign as the authorized signature (attach additional pages if necessary).**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner Signature Date

#### PART 4 - SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Proof of Ownership of Property and Property Boundaries Clearly Marked
- Letter Describing Work Plan
- Wildfire Mitigation Plan

All work shall be in compliance with the letter from Rocky Mountain Ecological Services, Inc. dated July 19, 2012. No work may commence until the Town has approved the permit.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approval Signature Date



# TOWN OF CARBONDALE

## PUBLIC WORKS

511 Colorado Avenue  
Carbondale, CO 81623

TO: Oak Run and Graceland Drive Homeowners

FROM: Larry Ballenger, Carbondale Public Works

DATE: July 31, 2012

RE: Wildfire Mitigation Permits

The Town of Carbondale has established a Permit for wildfire mitigation in the riparian zone. We have received input from Colorado Parks and Wildlife (former Department of Wildlife) and the Carbondale Fire District. John Groves, District Wild Life Manager provided the following:

*"As you and I discussed on our site visit, Colorado Parks and Wildlife is not in the habit of recommending riparian vegetation removal. We do understand the need to mitigate fire danger and as such agree that the recommendations from Rocky Mountain Ecological Services are a good starting point for homeowners. We do not oppose these recommendations so long as no removal of vegetation occurs on the town property located at the base of the slope. We also recommend that homeowners mitigate the immediate vicinity of their homes prior to removal of any vegetation on the slope."*

Bill Gavette, Carbondale Fire Marshall, voiced similar advice: *"We always stress to folks that they should concentrate their efforts on the area directly around your home."*

I have been researching wildfire mitigation and have learned that the first fifteen feet around your home is critical. This is your first zone of defense. We have compiled a lot of information to help you make your home more defensible during a wildfire. If you would be interested in having the Town organize an evening meeting and listen to what the experts advise, we would be more than happy to organize that effort; or, we can copy our information for you. The recommendations in the Rocky Mountain Ecological Services report is where we begin.

Larry Ballenger, 115 Oak Run  
Office 510-1217  
Home 963-3053  
Cell 618-7254  
E-mail [lballenger@carbondaleco.net](mailto:lballenger@carbondaleco.net)

fuels. Rather, these recommendations are designed to help make these homes more defensible in the event of a wildfire, and would help fire-fighting resources operate around the homes to help protect life and property.

**A. Hazardous Fuels**

1. Homeowners should properly identify their lot boundaries to avoid trespass onto other lots or Town property.
2. Brush, debris and non-ornamental (i.e., non-irrigated) vegetation should be removed within a minimum 15-foot perimeter around the home, or to lot lines.
3. No coniferous (evergreen) shrubs or small trees should be within 20 feet of a home. Juniper, bristlecone pine, and other evergreen shrubs and trees contain high amounts of flammable resins, and can burn with very high intensity. The presence of these evergreen shrubs and trees makes it very hazardous for fire fighters to work in proximity to these fuels, and greatly reduces the defensibility of a home. No shrubs of any species should be within 10-feet of a home on the western sides of these homes- only grasses and forbs should be within at least 10-feet of the home.
4. Cottonwood and aspen trees, while being flammable, do not often contribute significantly to fire behavior aside during times of extreme drought.
  - a. All dead limbs should be pruned from these deciduous trees to the extent practicable.
5. No trees should be within 15-feet of a window on the western sides of the homes.
6. Any deciduous trees or shrubs within 35 feet of the home should be irrigated during the summer and fall to keep live fuel moistures high.
  - a. Care should be taken to not waste water or cause erosion issues on the steep slopes
7. During most years, oakbrush does not burn very well, but during droughts, live fuel moistures can be very low, which allows this species to easily burn.
  - a. All dead limbs should be removed to the extent possible
  - b. Trees should be pruned to a height of at least 10-feet above the ground, if possible, to remove ladder fuels.
8. All understory shrubs should be flush-cut with the ground surface to lot boundaries. While many of these species will re-sprout, the new growth will have much higher fuel moistures, and would not burn as well as the older stems that occur in the area.
9. All dead material (twigs, limbs, branches, etc.) should be removed to the edge of lots.
10. Grasses and forbs should be mowed to less than 3-inches in height in proximity to the homes
11. On lots with relatively continuous canopy cover, one would not want to have more that 10-20% of the slopes have tall fuels. Thinning should be more pronounced closer to the home, as and one gets further from the home, more canopy cover may remain.
12. There should be no branches that extend over the roof eaves, and all branches within 15-feet of chimneys should be removed.
13. All deadfall and standing dead trees to lot boundaries should be removed.
14. No flammable mulches should be placed within 2-feet of a residence.



3. All flammable materials shall be stored on a parallel contour a minimum of fifteen (15) feet away from any structure.
4. Weeds and grasses within the ten (10) foot perimeter shall be maintained to a height of not more than six (6) inches.
5. Firewood/wood piles shall be stacked on a parallel contour a minimum of fifteen (15) feet away from the structure.
6. Fences shall be kept clear of brush and debris.
7. Wood fences shall not connect to other structures.
8. Each structure shall have a minimum of one ten (10) pound ABC fire extinguisher.

These recommendations are provided as minimum standards for defensibility, and long-term maintenance of fuel conditions would be necessary and under the responsibility of the homeowner to ensure defensibility. Homeowners should also consider contacting the Carbondale & Rural Fire Department ([www.carbondalefire.org](http://www.carbondalefire.org)) or the Colorado State Forest Service ([www.csfs.colostate.edu](http://www.csfs.colostate.edu)) for more information.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

Eric Petterson  
Rocky Mountain Ecological Services, Inc.

