

Table 1. Fuels Reduction Options

This table shows the effects and costs of various fuels reduction methods when used as stand-alone treatments.

Method	Effect (when considered as a stand-alone treatment) on ...			Contract cost (\$/acre)	Notes
	Surface fuels	Ladder fuels	Crown fuels		
Thinning	Increase	Reduce	Reduce	Highly variable depending on slope and other terrain factors, stand density, tree size, equipment available, etc. Up to \$800 per acre for smaller, noncommercial material but can yield money from larger commercial material.	Not a stand-alone treatment; requires post-operation slash abatement. Pre-commercial thinning to reduce ladder fuels can result considerable surface fuel on the ground that must be abated. Commercial thinning can utilize most woody material for biomass or saw logs. The value can help offset the cost of treatment and slash abatement.
Pruning	Increase	Reduce	Little to no effect	\$50-\$250 per acre depending on height and number of trees pruned	Usually done in conjunction with thinning. As a stand-alone treatment (without removal of pruned material), may substantially increase surface fire intensity at base of tree.
Cut-and-scatter	Increase	Reduce	No effect	\$25-\$45	Use where fuel loads are light. May substantially increase surface fire intensity.
Prescribed underburning	Decrease	Decrease	Little to no effect	\$50-\$250	Often an initial mechanical treatment is needed to "step down" fuels to a point where safe burning is feasible; liability concerns make it risky for most private owners; smoke management required.
Cut, pile and burn	Small decrease	Reduce	No effect	\$275-\$1,500. Major cost is piling.	
Cut, chip-and-scatter	Redistribute	Decrease	No effect	\$500-\$1,500	
Mowing	Redistribute	Little to no effect	No effect	\$40-\$150	Only fine fuels
Slashbusting/mastication	Increase/redis tribute	Decrease	Little to no effect	\$250-\$700	