Recommendations for NRCS grant thinning and Fireshed Coalition assistance to WUI communities for fire protection

—Concentrate thinning to 100 foot radius around structures and require or strongly recommend slash to be removed from property or burned. If slash is not removed, require it to at least be chipped.

—No closed tree canopy up to 30 feet from structures but clusters are OK (Jack Cohen’s recommendation).

—If substantial thinning is necessary, allow for thinning to be done in phases to reduce impact on leave trees—remove a limited amount of trees from any given area, then if more thinning is needed, do more the following year, etc. It has been observed by some WUI residents that adverse impacts on leave trees are much more severe when a large number of trees are removed at once.

—Discourage limbing unless there is a good and specific reason to limb a few trees, because limbing can weaken trees and the running sap can draw bark beetle

—Educate property owners that removal of fine fuels on a yearly basis around structures is necessary to maintain the benefits of thinning around structures.

—Educate property owners on fire proofing structures and around structures, including small items such as flammable outdoor furniture.

—Give specific date, or specific temperature that thinning must stop, or at least require permission to proceed with NRCS thinning after a certain date based on specific weather patterns, so risk of bark beetle is lessened.

—Require notification of all property owners of adjacent properties before thinning if thinning will occur near property boundary lines.

—If trees are removed on adjacent properties by contractors or other damage done, have procedures to ensure damage is remediated or compensated for.