



South Central Mountain RC&D partners with New Mexico State Forestry and Otero County to plan and implement Community Protection at Circle Cross

In 2007, SCM RC&D began a partnership with NM State Forestry in a forest health and wildfire hazard reduction “*Cost Share*” tree thinning program. SCM applied for grant funding and once awarded, became the project manager and fiscal agent. The Circle Cross project provided \$220,000.00 for tree thinning, utilization and mastication of forest debris on 470 acres in a strategic location providing wildfire protection for the community of Timberon, New Mexico.



Two additional grants were secured in 2009 totaling \$550,000.00 for additional projects in Otero County. Landowners can use “in-kind” services to supply their share of the match, generally 30% of project cost. NRCS provides “sand table” demonstrations to complement field implementation of projects.

South Central Mountain RC&D Inc.

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Highlights

- ◆ Project provides much needed wildfire hazard reduction.
- ◆ Two jobs maintained and one created at Circle Cross.
- ◆ Contractor buys machine that leverages other fuels reduction projects.
- ◆ Administrative fees collected allow SCM to offer direct grants back into community.
- ◆ Projects like this provide natural resources educational demonstration opportunities.

