

WOOD / FIRE PROTECTION POLICY

The Casas Board is responsible for managing the Commons on behalf of all individual members. The principal purpose of removing branches, brush, ladders, and downed trees on the Commons is to suppress fire fuels that endanger homes or structures; there may also be important considerations for removing branches or woody materials that may be a hazard to people or property.

1) The Board will oversee woodcutting with consideration of:

- Sonoita/Elgin Fire Department recommendations
- Members' and residents' reports of downed or hazard trees
- Wildlife habitat

2) Every three to five years the Board will assess the need for wood removal. When grants are available, the Board will contract with the SEFD for fuel suppression on the Commons and will bear a percentage of the cost. In the absence of grants and after determining the need for wood removal, the Board will contract with a qualified woodcutter.

3) All firewood from fuel suppression projects will be divided equitably among members who request wood. To offset the cost the Board may ask for a donation from those who receive wood.

4) Members or tenants are not permitted to cut firewood from downed or dead trees on the Commons without permission from the Board. The Board may grant permission to members to cut downed branches or trees that block roads or driveways or that present imminent fire danger to homes or structures.

5) Members are urged to remove slash, ladders, and fire fuel from their property and to mow a fire defense of 50 to 100 feet from the house.

20 February 2017