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**Mattole Restoration Council**

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Dear interested party,

Thanks for expressing interest in forest restoration and fuels reduction. The MRC has recently developed a new opportunity to help out landowners with the cost of clearing hazardous fuels: our 'Fire-Safe Forests and Homes' Program. This hazardous fuels cost share will make fire safety more affordable and easier to undertake. We endeavor to ensure that landowners are fully informed and give complete consent for participation. Best of all, the program has been created so that paperwork, site visits and administration will be as efficient, easy and enjoyable as possible.

Our goal is to increase the fire safety of forests and homes, and to increase the aesthetic, wildlife and economic values of your forests. We'll contribute part of the cost of the work you do on your property, in recognition of the fact that it doesn't just make your homestead more secure: it also protects wildlife habitat from catastrophic fire, and will help safeguard your neighbors, not just you and your family.

Here's how it works: you do the fuels work (either yourself or by hiring someone else) and the MRC will give you money to help with part of the cost. The practices listed on the next page allow flexibility for most forest restoration projects as long as most surface fuels, along with the slash created during the project, are cleaned up. Please note the different rates listed for the different practices, and that driveways and areas prioritized in a Fire Plan will be supported at a higher rate.

We invite you to participate in this free program. The funds will be available for work starting in January 2007 and fuels will need to be cleaned up by the end of the CDF declared burning season, generally sometime after May 1<sup>st</sup> 2007, unless chipping is involved. Extensions for an additional year may be given for remaining work or any new projects.

Since I have already visited your property, the next step will be to discuss your interest in the project, develop a budget, establish timelines, and then set up a visit to flag out boundaries and measure the area for work. As always, you can reach me at 629-3514 (work), 629-3652 (home) or [andy@mattole.org](mailto:andy@mattole.org).

Sincerely,

Andy Chittick  
Community Forestry Coordinator