

GH RANCH, LLC
(GHR)
SLASHBUSTING® FOR FOREST
FUELS REDUCTION



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Mastication (Mechanical Thinning)

Fuels Management

Place: Groveland CA

20 Miles from Yosemite National Park

Timber & Brush in Steep Terrain

Currently GH Ranch is working in the area noted above. In this situation we work over the top of a ridge and go down on each side to about a 45% slope. When we are done with a unit and a fire comes through you have a creeping ground fire instead of a raging wildfire. The ground that we are working is so thick with brush prior to treatment it cannot be walked through.

With our Slashbusters® we chip everything back into the soil leaving the area ready to plant. If a thinning hand crew does the work the material must be piled then burned at a later date (sometimes years later.)

GH Ranch and associates have access to 12 Slashbusters®. These machines are capable of clearing up to 3 acres per day per machine at a cost of \$250 to \$400 per acre depending on the contract specifications, ie. type and density of material, the terrain and the spacing of trees which must be left standing. Typically the worse the material types the more advantageous the use of Slashbusters®.

Wildland Urban Interface Clearing

Controlling wildfires *before* they get out of control

In response to President George W. Bush's forest health initiative GH Ranch would like to present to you a method by which we can help prevent inevitable wildfires from becoming catastrophic events such as we saw during their summer of 2002.



Wildfires are not new nor are they going to go away, NOR SHOULD THEY, since wildfires are nature's way of cleaning our forests. What GH Ranch proposes is to prevent these wildfires from endangering communities and even individual residences or businesses by providing large fuel breaks in an efficient and cost effective manner., These fuel breaks would provide an immediate and effective stop to the forward drive of a wildfire by removing the main ingredient for such a fire, THE FUEL.

Contingency Fire line Building

Controlling wildfires *after* they get out of control

GH Ranch is also capable of constructing contingency fire lines during a wildfire to help provide fuel breaks in advance of the fire



Dozers and other options simply pile up fuels, creating potentially dangerous hot spots during a wildfire.

Slashbusters® grind the fuels into small pieces thereby providing only minimal fuels for a fire to consume. The result is a creeping, slow moving front, easily attacked by fire fighters.

SLASHBUSTER[®] (using 2 Slashbusters[®])

- \$4000.00 per day for the Slashbusters[®] (10 hr day)
- \$2000.00 per day for transports
- 1 Mile of line brushed on TWO sides of road per day
- No Vehicle Traffic
- Camp for only 4 people required
- Less risk of injury with only 4 people
- Frees up Hand crews to fight fires



Slashbusting[®] is a very cost effective way to construct firebreaks or fire lines as shown in these side by side tables.

This comparison is for clearing the edges of an existing roadway.

FINAL COST/DAY = \$6,000



20 PERSON HANDCREW

- \$6000.00 per day for the Hand crew (10 hr day)
- \$1,200.00 per day for a chipper
- 1 Mile of line brushed on ONE side of road per day
- Vehicle traffic required to transport crew and equipment
- Camp for 22 people required
- More risk of injury with 22 people working near each other with no real protection
- (Extremely good crew **might** be able to do 1 mile)

FINAL COST/DAY = \$14,00



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