

RULES FOR USING SLASH AREA

The definition of “slash” is any open space where timber cuttings, branches, and waste vegetation are dumped, usually for future burning or disposal. Our slash area is located behind the Community Building past a locked gate. Property owners may use the area free of charge provided dues have been paid. To gain access you will need to call one of the numbers on the gate. You will need to let us know what type of slash you will be dumping. If approved, you will receive the combination and instructions. It is important to call because the combination will be changed often. Spot inspections may be conducted. If the rules for using the area are not followed, the privilege may be denied and any costs incurred by the HLPOA may be passed along to the property owner. Respect the sign that tells where to dump.

Each year the HLPOA obtains a burn permit from the Teller County Sheriff’s Department. When weather and snow amounts permit, the Divide Volunteer Fire Department conducts a prescribed burn. This is the only time open burning, that is, burning that is not contained in a permitted fire ring or enclosure, is allowed in Highland Lakes.

The HLPOA feels that providing the slash area to the property owners is a great benefit that encourages wildfire mitigation. It also saves the property owner time and money in not having to haul the cuttings elsewhere and pay for dumping.

RULES FOR USE:

1. **ONLY** tree limbs and branches, some shrubs and vegetation, and small amount of leaves and pine needles are permitted.
 - a. Duff, which is partially decayed organic matter, must be separated and spread on top of the pile of branches. Large amounts of this type of material are not allowed and should be taken to a landfill. Do not dump large amounts or clumps of this material at the slash area because it is difficult to burn. Leaves and pine needles may also be bagged and picked up by your trash collection company. Check with your company for details.
2. **NO** construction materials, lumber, debris, cardboard, paper or garbage is allowed. **No** tree stumps or logs larger than 8” dia. **No** personal trash. **No** plastic trash or leaf bags. We want to protect the firefighters and environment by not having toxic materials burning at the site.
3. The slash area is **ONLY** for cuttings and vegetation from the Highland Lakes Subdivision and is not to be hauled and dumped from neighboring subdivisions.
4. The slash area is **NOT** for large commercial projects. It is intended for your smaller trees, cuttings and vegetation. It is not for limb removal from large trees that you cut down. Have your contractor haul material away and/or chip and spread the material on your property. Wood chips (and pine needles) are OK if spread well away from your house and are only 1-2 inches deep. Another suggestion is to take advantage of the slash/mulch program that is located in Divide near the post office. There is a small tax deductible charge per load. If you are not sure about the material you have, give us a call.
5. **Recycle!** Cut the butt ends of branches into 18 to 24 inch logs (3 inch dia. or greater) and stack them at the far end of the slash area next to the mulch pile. This is also a good place for larger logs. You can also take what is there for firewood. Help yourself to the mulch.

Thanks for being FireWise!