

State Fire Assistance for Mitigation- Mechanical Fuel Reduction Grant

2022 Application

Grant Funded Through USDA – Forest Service

Award # 20-11083148-001, #21-11083148-001, & #22-11083148-001

CFDA #10.664

Scope of Project: Reduce the risk of home loss to wildfire through the use of accepted mechanical fuel reduction practices. Projects will be located in 32 counties in Central Texas identified by Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS) Mitigation and Prevention Department and Applied Technology Department as high priority, (see attached map). The goal of the grant is to protect high risk communities by reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire on private and public lands.

Grant recipients will be reimbursed for actual costs up to the thresholds listed below for conducting mechanical fuel reduction projects on their property. Work will be conducted by a private contractor of the landowner's choosing or by the landowner and his or her employees.

Maximum Total Reimbursement per recipient: Grant recipients will be reimbursed actual costs not to exceed \$750 per acre for hand-cut fuel breaks or \$2000 per acre for mulched fuel break. Total limit of reimbursement per grant recipient is \$10,000. Grant is to be used only for the reimbursement of costs to landowner for creating a mechanical fuel break meeting the requirements listed below. These costs are limited to expenditures directly related to the installation of the fuel break, including services of a contractor, rental of equipment, fuel, lubricants, chainsaw chain and mulcher teeth. Receipts or paid in full invoices are required documentation prior to TAMFS reimbursing actual costs.

Hand-cut Fuel Break (\$750/Acre) – Fuel break is a minimum of 66' wide. Trees are thinned with hand cutting tools so open gaps are created in crown overstory. Branches of remaining trees are pruned up; dead woody debris and understory brush is removed. Hand cut fuel breaks should be located in strategic locations throughout the property to be used as contingency lines or to reduce fuel loading near a prescribed burn unit boundary. These projects may also occur as landscape-wide treatments within wildland areas between homes in a community.

Mulched Fuel Break (\$2000/Acre) – Fuel break is a minimum of 66' wide. Trees are thinned with a mechanical brush cutter, forestry mulcher (masticator), hydro-axe or similar piece of equipment so open gaps are created in the crown overstory. Branches of remaining trees are pruned up. Mulched fuel breaks can be linear or landscape wide. Linear mulched fuel breaks should be in strategic locations throughout the property to be used as contingency lines or along the perimeter of a prescribed burn unit to reduce fuel loading near the boundary. Landscape-wide mulched fuel breaks can include all or portions of future prescribed burn units.

Application Process: Interested landowners should contact their local Texas A&M Forest Service Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Coordinator to schedule a site visit. [Link for WUI contact information map](#). The WUI Coordinator will determine if the proposed projects would reduce wildfire risk to adjacent communities and work with the landowner to identify strategic locations for the mechanical fuel reduction projects. For help contacting potential vendors in your county, please visit this [link](#).

The landowner and WUI Coordinator will create a map of the proposed projects and calculate the estimated reimbursement using the attached Grant Reimbursement Estimate Sheet. The WUI Coordinator will forward the application packet to Program Specialists, Victoria Wenkman and Jake Gosschalk, for initial review.

Grant is competitive and selection will be based on the goal of reducing wildfire risk to homes. Deadline for application is August 31, 2022. Applications will then be reviewed by Texas A&M Forest Service and approved/declined based on the intent of the grant. Approval or declined notification letters for applicants will be made by September 30, 2022. If approved, the letter will include a Form W4 and a Terms of Conditions Form for the landowner to sign and return to TAMFS. Once all documents are received by TAMFS, the landowner will receive a letter confirming work may begin and will have 90 days to complete the work and submit the paperwork for reimbursement. If work is not completed by the end of the 90-day term, the landowner can request a 30-day extension at the discretion of the grant approval committee.

For more information contact Program Specialists:

Victoria Wenkman
vwenkman@tfs.tamu.edu
(254) 633-8612

Jake Gosschalk
jgosschalk@tfs.tamu.edu
(361-571-6923)

Helpful Links:

WUI Contact Information Link: https://ticc.tamu.edu/Documents/Home/WUI_Map.pdf

Potential Vendors List: <https://txfipdev.tfs.tamu.edu/MyLandManagementConnector/>

TAMFS Mitigation and Prevention Dept Map: https://ticc.tamu.edu/Documents/Home/Mitigation_and_Prevention.pdf

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Landowner/Applicant Information

Landowner Name, Public Entity, Company Name, Partnership Name, Trust Name, or Non-Profit
CIRCLE ONE

Mailing Address

City, State

Zip Code

Home/Business Phone Number

Cell Number

E-Mail Address

Landowner/Applicant Signature

Date

Note: Signatory must be authorized to sign legal documents for applicant.

Contractor Information (If applicable)

Vendor Name

Mailing Address

City, State

Zip Code

Phone Number

E-Mail Address

Project Location

Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Community/Neighborhood Protected: _____

County: _____

Physical address of gate or directions from nearest intersection: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Project Description

Mechanism: (Circle One) Mulching Hand-cutting with Chainsaw

Dimensions: (Acres or Length x width) _____

Debris disposal method: _____

Plan for future management/maintenance: _____

Project Map: Please attach a project map displaying property owner’s boundary, location of proposed fuel treatment or fuel break, dimensions of treatment, and landowner name with aerial imagery as map background.

Grant Reimbursement Estimate: Please complete the attached sheet explaining estimated costs.

- 1) Pages 1 & 2 of application must be completed.**
- 2) Project Map must be attached**
- 3) Grant Reimbursement Estimate Sheet must be attached**
- 4) Additional supporting documentation such as local risk assessments, project identification in a CWPP, or Firewise Site documentation are acceptable but not required.**
- 5) WUI Specialist should submit packet to SFAM Mechanical Grant Review Committee by emailing to vwenkman@tfs.tamu.edu and jgosschalk@tfs.tamu.edu**

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Grant Reimbursement Estimate Sheet

*This document must accompany pages 1 & 2 of the application as well as a project map, to qualify as a complete application packet.

Hand-cut Fuel Break Description:

_____ Acres of Hand Cut Fuel Break @ \$750/Acre = _____

Mulched Fuel Break Description:

_____ Acres of Mulched Fuel Break @ \$2000/Acre = _____

Estimated Total Grant Reimbursement

\$ _____

(MAX: \$10,000)