Vegetative fuel breaks are trees and shrubs systematically planted adjacent to fields, homesteads, or feedlots as a barrier to reduce or redirect the wind. Overall, vegetative fuel breaks enhance aesthetics, increase land value, reduce soil erosion, protect buildings and/or equipment and establish wildlife habitat. During the 2017 fire season, it was observed that a well maintained and irrigated vegetative fuel break or homestead windbreak could impact wind-driven fire behavior and provide time for residents or firefighters to evacuate before the fire impacts the adjacent home or structure.

**Scope of Project**: Reduce the risk of home loss to wildfire through the use of green vegetative fuel breaks. Projects will be located in the Texas high plains. 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 up to $2,500 for actual costs associated with creating a green vegetative fuel break, consisting of a minimum of 3 rows of trees and 400 feet in length. Reimbursable costs include services of a landscape/planting contractor, trees, weed barriers, ground staples, protection tubes, stakes, tree shades, wire wickets, drip irrigation systems, the rental of a tree planter and the rental of a fabric layer.

Application packages post marked on or before February 15, 2019 will be accepted and considered for funding. **No faxes or e-mailed applications will be accepted.** Please return the completed and signed application packages by mail to:

**Texas A&M Forest Service**  
**Mitigation & Prevention Department**  
**15110 Jones Maltsberger STE 101 San Antonio, TX 78247**

All applicants will receive a notification of decision letter of either approved or denied no later than March 15, 2019. Any work on an approved project prior to receiving an approval letter from Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) will not be eligible for reimbursement. TFS will also publicize the listing of approved recipients on its website. The grant funding period is from March 15, 2019 to July 31, 2019. No application deadline extensions will be granted.

We will be happy to help with any questions. Please call Logan Scherschel, Wildland Urban Interface Specialist, at (210) 556-9374 or lscherschel@tfs.tamu.edu, Jonathan Motsinger, Program Leader, at (806) 281-4091 or jtmotsinger@tfs.tamu.edu, Brian Scott, Staff Forester, at (806) 316-6560 or bsccott@tfs.tamu.edu.

**Project support provided by the U.S. Department of Agricultural, Forest Service, Southern Region, State and Private Forestry Program. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.**
Applications Must Include:

- Complete landowner information on page 1 including signature and date
- Vegetative fuel break map displaying boundary and length of the proposed fuel break
- Lat/Long of proposed vegetative fuel break (Degrees/Minutes/Seconds)
- County and physical address of proposed vegetative fuel break location or distance and direction to nearest intersection

Additional Information of Vegetative Fuel Break Grant:

- **The completed application package must be post marked on or before February 15, 2019.** Deadline for applications is firm. No fax or e-mailed applications will be accepted. Selection process will begin immediately.
- The grant is competitive and selection will be based on the goal of reducing wildfire risk. All applications will receive a notification of decision by mail on or before March 15, 2019.
- Multiple applications may be submitted per individual for different properties.
- Name on application, grant agreement, and invoice for payment must match.
- TFS will complete an on-site assessment prior to approval of recipient’s application, and contact applicant after receipt of the approval notification letter from TFS to discuss the project.
- Grant is to be used only for the reimbursement of costs to landowners for planting a vegetative fuel break. (Minimum of 3 rows of trees and 400 feet in length). These costs are limited to expenditures directly related to the installation of the vegetative fuel break including services of a landscape/planting contractor, trees, weed barriers, ground staples, protection tubes, stakes, tree shades, wire wickets, drip irrigation systems, the rental of a tree planter and the rental of a fabric layer. Receipts or paid in full invoices are required documentation prior to TFS reimbursing actual costs.

If you are selected:

- All grant documents must be completed and signed by applicant and approved by Texas A&M Forest Service before the creation of the vegetative fuel break.
- TFS staff member will make a short site documentation visit and take pre-planting photos of vegetation condition along with a final post planting inspection and photos of vegetation.
- **TFS will supply the applicant with an approval letter if selected for grant award.** Any planting on an approved project prior to receiving this notice may forfeit applicant’s grant funding.
- No change of property location will be allowed. Reimbursement will be made only for property listed on approved application.
- **Recipient should notify TFS when the planting has been completed.** Recipient should call Logan Scherschel, Wildland Urban Interface Specialist, at (210) 556-9374 or secondary contact Jonathan Motsinger, Program Leader, at (806) 281-4091 with this notification.
State Fire Assistance for Hazard Mitigation
2019 Vegetative Fuel Break Grant Application

Grant Funded Through USDA – Forest Service
Award #18-11083148-001, CFDA #10.664

Landowner/Applicant Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landowner Name, Company Name, Partnership Name, or Trust Name –CIRCLE ONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home/Business Phone Number</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landowner/Applicant Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Note: Signatory must be authorized to sign legal documents for applicant.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contractor Information (If applicable):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vendor Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone Number</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vegetative Fuel Break Location

Latitude:__________________________________________________________

Longitude:________________________________________________________

County:___________________________________________________________

Physical Address of fuel break or nearest intersection: ________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

City:___________________________ Zip Code:__________________________

Pages 1 & 2 of application must be completed.

Please attach the following with your two page application:

- Vegetative Fuel Break Boundary Map.
TERMS & CONDITIONS OF VEGETATIVE FUEL BREAK GRANT

(Applicant) has applied to participate in the Texas A&M Forest Services’ (TFS) State Fire Assistance for Hazard Mitigation Vegetative Fuel Break Grant. Applicant agrees to the following terms and conditions:

1. Applicant certifies that he/she is the legal owner, or has legal authority to act in the legal owner's behalf, of the land described on the application.

2. Grant payments will be made upon completion and passing TFS review of the vegetative fuel break.

3. Applicant must maintain project records in accordance with all federal regulations. This includes the following: (1) records shall comply with generally accepted accounting principles and (2) records shall be maintain cost records for three years from the date of payment.

4. TFS will inspect the site to determine if the vegetative fuel break was completed to program guidelines/standards.

5. If the vegetative fuel break does not meet the program guidelines/standards due to factors beyond Applicant’s control, TFS may approve reimbursement if TFS is satisfied that a reasonable effort was made to meet the intent, purpose, and objectives of the program.

6. Applicant is responsible for requiring its contractor to maintain and supervise all necessary safety precautions, and shall ensure that the work does not create a dangerous condition or otherwise endanger public health and safety. Applicant will undertake the activities under the grant award for his or her own benefit and not as an agent of TFS.

7. If Applicant materially fails to comply with any terms of the application and Terms and Conditions for Individual Grant Award, TFS may temporarily withhold reimbursements pending correction of the deficiency by Applicant, disallow all or part of the cost of the activity or action not in compliance, wholly or partly suspend or terminate the current award for Applicant, or seek other legally available remedies.

8. If Applicant, successor, or assignee uses any scheme or device to unjustly or illegally benefit from the Vegetative Fuel Break Grant Program, Applicant shall provide a refund of all reimbursements. A scheme or device includes, but is not limited to, coercion, collusion, fraud or misrepresentation, false claims, or any business dissolution, reorganization, revival, or other legal mechanism designed for, or having the effect of, evading the requirements of the Vegetative Fuel Break Grant Program.

9. The laws of the State of Texas shall govern. In addition, Applicant shall comply with all applicable federal laws. Applicant shall certify that Applicant has not been debarred from this or any other federal program and shall comply with restrictions on lobbying Congress.

10. The Director of TFS, Texas A&M University System auditors, State of Texas auditors and the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their authorized representatives, may access any pertinent books, documents, papers, or other records of Grant Recipient which are pertinent to the grant in order to make audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcripts.

11. Applicant may choose to terminate the grant award without cause, prior to its expiration by giving TFS a written notice.

12. Applicant shall indemnify and defend TFS, The Texas A&M University System, its regents, officers, employees, and affiliates against any claim, proceeding, demand, liability, or expenses (including legal expenses and reasonable attorneys’ fees) which relates to injury to persons or property or against any other claim, proceeding, demand, expenses and liability of any kind arising out of or in connection with this application and subsequent grant award.

13. Each party shall provide all notices or communications to the other via hand delivery or U.S. certified mail, postage prepaid and will be deemed delivered on the date hand-delivered or deposited in the mail.

I have read, understand, and agree to all Terms and Conditions of Individual Grant Award and the terms outlined in the application.

Applicant’s Signature: ___________________________  Date: ____________________
State Fire Assistance for Hazard Mitigation
2019 Vegetative Fuel Break Grant Reimbursement Form

Grant Funded Through USDA – Forest Service
Award #18-11083148-001, CFDA #10.664

Grant recipients will be reimbursed up to $2,500 for actual costs associated with creating a green vegetative fuel break a minimum of 3 rows of trees and 400 feet in length. Reimbursable costs include services of a landscape/planting contractor, trees, weed barriers, ground staples, protection tubes, stakes, tree shades, wire wickets, drip irrigation systems, the rental of a tree planter and the rental of a fabric layer.

Recipient should notify Texas A&M Forest Service when the planting has been completed. Recipient should call Logan Scherschel, Wildland Urban Interface Specialist, at (210) 556-9374 or secondary contact Jonathan Motsinger, Program Leader, at (806) 281-4091 with this notification.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Itemized Costs</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Trees</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Weed Barriers</td>
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<td>Ground Staples</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protection Tubes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stakes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tree Shades</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wire Wickets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drip Irrigation System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tree Planter Rental</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fabric Layer Rental</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Copies of all receipts must be attached to this form

Mail completed reimbursement form and all receipts to:

Texas A&M Forest Service
Attn: Logan Scherschel
15110 Jones Maltsberger STE 101
San Antonio, TX 78247