



Neches River and Cypress Basin Watershed Restoration Program

2018 Prescribed Fire Grant Application

**Grant Funded Through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Award #F16AS00007 & #F17AS00015
CFDA #15.631**

Scope of Project: To provide assistance to landowners in utilizing prescribed fire for ecological improvement to the Neches River and Cypress Basin watersheds. This program will benefit the public and natural resources through improvement of water quality and quantity, control of invasive species, and enhancement of wildlife habitat. Treatment areas will be private property in the Neches River and Cypress Basin Watersheds. Priority will be given to prescribed burn treatments that promote native ecosystem restoration, are in priority watershed protection zones, and near public land. Additionally, priority will be given to landowners that were approved in the 2017 grant process but were unable to complete their burn project. The funding for this program is anticipated to be a total of \$128,825.00.

Grant recipients will be reimbursed actual per acre costs associated with conducting the prescribed burn, not to exceed the maximum reimbursement rate of \$22.50 per acre with a total limit of 800 acres per recipient.

TFS will supply the grant recipient with an approval to burn letter when all TFS required paperwork has been completed by recipient. Any burning on an approved project prior to receiving an approval to burn letter from TFS will not be eligible for reimbursement.

Application packages post marked on or before Friday, October 13, 2017 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
2127 S. First Street, Lufkin, Texas 75901
Attn: Fuels Coordinator**

All applicants will receive a notification of decision letter of either approved or denied no later than December 8, 2017. TFS will also publicize the listing of approved recipients on our website. The grant funding period is from December 8, 2017 to July 31, 2018. No application deadline extensions will be granted.

We will be happy to help with any questions. Please call Andy McCrady, Fuels Coordinator, at (936) 689-9393 or wmccrady@tfs.tamu.edu or Tammy Russell, Business Associate III, at (936) 273-2261 or trussell@tfs.tamu.edu.

Applications Must Include:

- Complete landowner information on page 1 including signature and date
- Complete contractor information on page 1 including the vendor's TDA license number
- A comprehensive burn plan along with the "Burn Unit Location" information requested on page 2 of application. **Contracted burn vendor must be a Licensed TDA Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Manager and must sign and date their submitted burn plan.** See the Texas Department of Agriculture web site for details of a comprehensive burn plan at:
<http://www.texasagriculture.gov/Home/ProductionAgriculture/PrescribedBurnProgram/SampleBurningPlanDocuments.aspx>
- Location map displaying proximity of burn unit to roads
- Burn unit map displaying boundary and acreage of burn unit
- Lat/Long of burn unit (Degrees/Minutes/Seconds)
- County and physical address of burn unit location **or** distance and direction to nearest intersection

Additional Information for Applicant:

- Multiple applications may be submitted per individual, but grant is competitive and selection will be based on the goal of promoting native ecosystem restoration. All applications will receive a notification of decision by mail by December 8, 2017.
- **The completed application package must be received by TFS or post marked on or before October 13, 2017.** Deadline for applications is firm. No fax or e-mailed applications will be accepted. Selection process will begin immediately.
- Name on application, grant agreement, and invoice for payment must match.
- TFS personnel may contact and speak directly with recipient's burn vendor about burn dates after the recipient has received the approval to burn notification letter from TFS.
- Grant is to be used only for the reimbursement of costs to landowners for private contractor to conduct a prescribed burn (maximum of \$22.50 per acre and maximum of 800 acres of total burns).
- Grant funds do not apply and will not be provided to reimburse charges for application or creation of burn plans by a private contractor.
- TFS may complete an on-site assessment prior to approval of recipient's application.

If you are selected:

- TFS will mail a notification of decision letter to the applicant containing all grant documents including Grant Subrecipient Agreement (if applicable), Terms and Conditions of Individual Grant Award (if applicable) and any other certifications required by the USFWS. All required forms must be completed and signed by applicant and approved by TFS before the prescribed burn can take place.
- TFS staff member will make a short site documentation visit and take pre-burn photos of vegetation condition along with a final post burn inspection and photos of vegetation after the burn
- **TFS will supply the recipient with an approval to burn letter when all TFS paperwork has been completed by recipient. Any burning on approved project prior to receiving this notice may forfeit recipient's prescribed burn funding.**
- No exchange of land tracts will be allowed. Reimbursement made only upon approved contracted land tract.
- **Recipient's burn contractor should notify TFS at least 24 hours prior to the prescribed burn taking place, along with notifying TFS when the burn has been completed. Contractor should call Andy McCrady, TFS Fuels Coordinator, at (936) 689-9393 or secondary contact Bobby Dixon, TFS Resource Specialist, at (904) 204-5698 with this notification.**

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Landowner/Applicant Information

Landowner Name, Company Name, Partnership Name, or Trust Name –CIRCLE ONE

Mailing Address	City, State	Zip Code
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Home/Business Phone Number	Cell Number	E-Mail Address
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Landowner/Applicant Signature	Date
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Note: Signatory must be authorized to sign legal documents for applicant.

Contractor Information:

Prescribed Burn Vendor Name	TDA Prescribed Burn Manager License #
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Mailing Address	City, State	Zip Code
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Phone Number	Cell Number	E-Mail Address
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Burn Unit Location

Latitude: _____

Longitude: _____

County: _____

Physical address of burn unit or nearest intersection: _____

City: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Was this same tract of land approved in the NRCBW 2017, but failed to complete burning?
NO YES

Are any of the acres covered by this application currently receiving federal funding for habitat improvement?
NO YES *If yes please identify:* _____

Is there currently a federally listed endangered species present on this treatment site?
NO YES *If yes please identify:* _____

Is longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) the dominant tree species on the site?
NO YES

Is shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*) the dominant tree species on the site? (This is not referring to Loblolly pine)?
NO YES

Pages 1 & 2 of application must be completed.

Please attach the following with your two page application:

- Comprehensive Prescribed Burn Plan- **Signed by TDA Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Manager.**
- Property Location Map
- Burn Unit Boundary Map