



Neches River and Cypress Basin Watershed Restoration Program

2025 Prescribed Fire Grant Application

**Grant Funded Through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Award #F23AS00030 & #F24AS00021
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 land and non-federal public land 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. Priority will also be given to landowners that were approved in the 2024 grant process but were unable to complete their burn project.

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.

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

Applications must be filled out online at the Texas A&M Forest Service webpage:
<https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/PrescribedFireGrantsApplication/>

Application packages must be submitted online before 5:00 pm Monday, September 30, 2024 or they will not be considered for funding. **No faxes, mailed, hand delivered, or e-mailed applications will be accepted.**

All applicants will receive a notification of decision letter of either approved or denied no later than December 10, 2024. TAMFS will also publicize the listing of approved recipients on our website. The grant funding period is from December 10, 2024 to July 31, 2025. No application deadline extensions will be granted.

Please e-mail your questions to ETxRxGrants@tfs.tamu.edu or call Andy McCrady, Program Coordinator, at (936) 689-9393 or Tammy Russell, Business Associate III, at (936) 273-2261.



Applications Must Include:

- Complete landowner information on page 1.
- 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. **The burn boss conducting the treatment must be a Licensed TDA Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Manager (CIPBM) and must sign and date their submitted burn plan.** See the Texas Department of Agriculture website for details of a comprehensive burn plan:
<http://www.texasagriculture.gov/Home/ProductionAgriculture/PrescribedBurnProgram/SampleBurningPlanDocuments.aspx>
- Coordinates: Latitude & Longitude of burn unit (Degrees/Minutes/Seconds).
- County and physical address of burn unit location or distance and direction to nearest intersection.
- Burn unit boundary map: showing proposed burn perimeter, acres to be burned, coordinates, and aerial or satellite imagery as background.
- Box must be checked certifying that the applicant is the landowner or has the expressed permission of the landowner to submit the application on their behalf.

Additional Information of Prescribed Fire Grant:

- Burn units that received payments in the 2024 grant process are not eligible for funding in the 2025 grant.
- Priority will be given to burn units that were approved in 2024 grant process but were unable to complete their burn project.
- Burn units that were selected for funding and failed to complete their burns two years in a row, will not be eligible for funding the following year.
- 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 10, 2024.
- **Complete application packages must be submitted online before 5:00 pm Monday, September 30, 2024, or they will not be considered for funding.** Deadline for applications is firm. No fax, mailed, hand delivered or e-mailed applications will be accepted.
- Name on application, grant agreement, and invoice for payment must match. If a Private CIPBM applies and conducts a burn on their own property, the invoice to the landowners should represent actual expenses incurred for the burn.
- TAMFS 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 TAMFS.
- Grant is to be used only for the reimbursement of costs to landowners for a prescribed burn conducted by a licensed TDA Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Manager (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.



- Grant funds will not be provided for equipment work or fire breaks that are itemized as a separate expense on the paid invoice.
- TAMFS may complete an on-site assessment prior to approval of recipient's application.

If you are selected:

- TAMFS 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.
- **Due to Federal funding requirements, all recipients who are not acting exclusively in the role or capacity of a "natural person" must provide Texas A&M Forest Service with a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number which is obtained by registration on SAM.gov.** The federal government defines a "natural person" as a person that is acting for purposes which are outside his or her trade, business, or profession and in which the operation is unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization he or she may own or operate in his or her name. Examples of organizations that are not "natural persons" and are therefore required to provide a UEI number include but are not limited to: sole proprietorships, partnerships, C corporations, S corporations, trusts, and limited liability companies. The UEI number is required information on the signed agreement for accepted applicants in December, but is not required during the application process in September.
- TAMFS 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
- **TAMFS 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 TAMFS at least 24 hours prior to the prescribed burn taking place. Contractor should call Andy McCrady, TAMFS Program Coordinator, at (936) 689-9393 or secondary contact Bobby Dixon, TAMFS Resource Specialist, at (904) 204-5698 with this notification. This notification does not represent: an approval by TAMFS of the safety of the project, any review of environmental conditions, or liability for the burn manager's decision to conduct the prescribed burn.**
- **Following the prescribed burn taking place, the recipient's burn contractor should notify TAMFS and provide the number of acres that was treated and will be billed to the landowner. TAMFS will conduct a post burn inspection in a timely manner to verify the treatment acreage.**



Please attach the following to your application:

- **Comprehensive Prescribed Burn Plan-** Signed by TDA Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Manager.
- **Burn Unit Boundary Map-** showing proposed burn perimeter, acres to be burned, coordinates, and aerial/satellite imagery as background.