



State Fire Capacity near Federal Lands in East Texas Prescribed Fire Grant

2025 Prescribed Fire Grant Application

Grant Funded Through USDA – Forest Service

Award #20-DG-11083148-001, #21-DG-11083148-001, #22-DG-11083148-001,
#23-DG-11083148-001 & #24-DG-11083148-001*
CFDA #10.664

Scope of Project: Reduce the hazard of high-risk fuels on private lands and non-federal public lands through the use of prescribed burning. Treatment areas will be in 20 East Texas counties that contain concentrations of federal lands, have a high social vulnerability index rating, and high risk fuels (See map of eligible counties). The goal is to protect communities and aid in ecosystem restoration by utilizing prescribed fire to consume excess vegetation before it contributes to catastrophic wildfire. Priority will be given to treatments sites that are within a CWPP, located near federal lands, a Firewise USA site, and near homes based on Texas Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (TxWRAP). Priority will also be given to landowners that were approved in 2024 SFC-CETX grant process but were unable to complete their burn.

Grant recipients will be reimbursed actual per acre costs associated with conducting the prescribed burn not to exceed the maximum reimbursement rate of \$30.00 per acre with a total limit of 500 acres per recipient. No cost shares are involved with this grant program. The maximum reimbursement rate for treatment sites that completed burning and received funding in the 2023 SFC-CETX or CPP Grant is \$22.50 per acre if they pursue funding this year. (Details on page 3).

Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS) will supply the grant recipient with an approval to burn letter when all 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.

*** Grant number is preliminary and may be updated prior to funding period.**

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.
- 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 SFC-CETX 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 reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire near communities. 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 faxed, 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 landowner 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.

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- The maximum reimbursement rate for a new project is \$30.00 per acre. The maximum reimbursement rate for a project that received funding in the 2023 cycle of this grant and is reapplying for this 2025 cycle is \$22.50 per acre. For projects that last received funding in 2022 or any year prior the reimbursement rate goes back up to \$30.00 per acre. These rates are to encourage first entry burns and 3-year fire return intervals, while leaving flexibility for individual sites and management programs to burn as often as every 2 years.
- The maximum acres that will be reimbursed per applicant annually is 500 acres.
- 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:

- All grant documents including agreement must be completed and signed by applicant and approved by Texas A&M Forest Service before the prescribed burn can take place.
- 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 TAMFS 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 contact 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.

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