

Arizona State Forestry



Western Bark Beetle Initiative Grant Program (WBBI)

ARIZONA FALL 2015 REQUEST FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

Application Deadline:

Applications must be received at:

Arizona State Forestry
WBBI Grant Program
1110 West Washington, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

No Later than: November 20, 2015 by 5:00 PM

Arizona State Forestry

Forest Health Program

Fall 2015 Western Bark Beetle Initiative Grant Program

Criteria and Instructions

Introduction

Arizona and other western states are experiencing forest health challenges primarily due to climate change, drought, insects and disease, and past forest and fire management practices. Various bark beetles are infesting individual, or stands of, stressed and unhealthy trees, some of which may be natural processes at work. However, landowners and land managers can take steps to create healthier forests more resistant to bark beetle attacks, and minimize extensive tree mortality on their land.



Ponderosa pine stand thinned to a 60-80 ft²/acre basal area to prevent bark beetle infestation.

Arizona State Forestry with funding provided by the USDA Forest Service is soliciting proposals from **\$10,000 to \$115,000** to treat a minimum of 10 acres (contiguous preferred). This is a reimbursable grant program, and preference may be given to projects that can be completed by September 2016.

Eligible Applicants

- Units of local government (counties, municipalities, cities and towns)
- Non-Profit Organizations 501(c)3
- Public educational institutions

Individuals working in partnership with their neighborhood association may apply if they work through or in conjunction with one of the above groups.

Individuals and for-profit companies do not qualify for direct funding. Money may not be spent for treatment on tribal lands.

The Western Bark Beetle Initiative Grant Program does not discriminate against any person or organization because of race, color, religion, disability, sex, age or national origin.

Grant Objectives

- **Create and maintain** healthy stands of trees
- **Reduce bark beetle attacks** and tree mortality
- **Reduce wildland fire risk** secondarily
- **Encourage landowners** to implement prevention and restoration projects
- **Restore and maintain** healthy ecosystems
- **Protect** high value trees and forests

Allowable Activities

- **Removal of infested pine trees:** Removal of trees from the project area that are currently infested with bark beetles can help reduce the local source of infestation.
- **Thinning of green pine trees:** Reducing stand density can improve tree health and reduce attacks from bark beetles. An average residual basal area of **60-80** square feet per acre will reduce the likelihood of bark beetle infestations.
- **Proper treatment of slash:** Green pine slash should be properly treated to reduce the potential for attraction to bark beetles. Proper techniques include hauling green slash off site and away from host type, piling and burning (where safe and legal), chipping and mulching in late summer and early winter. These practices will reduce the potential for on-site bark beetle eruptions and the infestation of adjacent lands. It is preferred that these techniques are performed away from the Wildland Urban Interface (see Q&A for definition). Slash must be green and suitable for bark beetle brood production. **Grant funding is not for treatment of dried, dead or other material not suitable for bark beetle brood production.**

Reference the following link: <http://cals.arizona.edu/pubs/natresources/az1449.pdf>

Eligible Treatment Categories

The focus of these dollars is to implement forest management practices on non-federal lands to reduce adverse bark beetle impacts.

Primary Treatment

Grant funding may be used to conduct primary treatment of stands to prevent future bark beetle infestations. "Primary treatment" is the thinning and removal of green host trees and related slash treatments, where ponderosa pine is the main host tree.

Thinning with proper slash treatment of dwarf mistletoe is also allowed in ponderosa pine stands as it decreases the intensity and spread of the infection and helps reduce the trees susceptibility to bark beetles. The following link can be used as a reference to manage dwarf mistletoe in the Southwest.

http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5238459.pdf

Secondary Fuel Reduction

Thinning for bark beetle prevention and dwarf mistletoe reduction will also reduce wildland fire risk.

Examples of practices that do **NOT** qualify (not all inclusive):

- Removal of dead and down woody biomass.
- The removal of hazard trees (see Q&A for definition) that do not fall within the eligible treatment categories.
- Pruning of pine branches.
- Insecticidal spraying of ponderosa pine trees for bark beetle prevention.

Grantee Responsibilities

Match

This program requires **50/50 match**. For this solicitation **ONLY** we may consider projects that show less than a one-to-one (1:1) match. Reduced match may be allowed, but priority will be given to projects that can be completed by September 2015 and those that have a higher match provided.

Grant Requirements

The grant request must fall between **\$10,000 and \$115,000**. Applicants must have a project that is managed by a **professional land manager** and is ready to treat a **minimum of 10 acres** (contiguous preferred). The option to treat additional unspecified acres is available. A Tax ID and DUNS number must be obtained by the grant activation date.

Applicants should clearly describe the project area and how the grant objectives and project goals will be met. A realistic project time frame and budget should be presented along with how the project will remain effective over time. Project work is limited to a **maximum of 24 months** with this funding.

Grant Reports and Reimbursement Requests

Applicants that receive a grant will need to appoint a specific representative to manage the grant's programmatic and fiduciary responsibilities. Grant recipients will need to submit reimbursement forms and documentation of all expenditures along with quarterly reports.

Tips for Successful Project

It is preferred that a **forest management plan** (see Q&A for definition) is developed for the project area and can be developed concurrently with the project. (If needed, forest management plan development and assistance is available from Arizona State Forestry at no cost to the landowner) Take a cooperative approach with your neighbors to encourage community forest health treatment practices.

All applications will be scored based on the following:

Is the applicant requesting funding between \$10,000 and \$115,000?	Yes = Eligible for scoring	No = Ineligible	
Is the project area clearly identified? (location, acres, etc.)	Score = 1-10		
How well does the project meet the grant objectives and project goals?	Score = 1-10		
How well does the project clearly demonstrate an achievable time frame and budget?	Score = 1-10		
Does the project clearly demonstrate measurable objectives? (# of acres treated, cost per acre, etc.)	Score = 1-10		
Does the project show collaborative elements and partners? (confidence level)	Score = 1-10		
Does the project clearly demonstrate longevity and maintenance of the site after treatment? (Note: preference may be given to those projects clearly showing how it will remain effective over time.)	Score = 1-10		
Does the proposed project area have a current forest management or stewardship plan?	Yes = 5	No = 0	

State Responsibilities

Provide Forestry Technical Assistance

Arizona State Forestry will assign a designated point of contact to work with each awarded grant project. The point of contact will be able to provide, or coordinate on-the-ground expertise and offer recommendations to properly implement forest health management projects. This person will review all reimbursement requests, quarterly reports and be the main contact for the Arizona State Forestry, Forest Health Program.

Reimbursement

Arizona State Forestry will coordinate funding from the USDA Forest Service and reimburse grantees after eligible expenses and match are incurred and documented. All match must be from a non-federal source. The allocated grant amount must be matched at the agreed upon rate by the recipient. The matching share can be soft match (i.e. labor, equipment, etc.) and/or hard match (which are actual dollars spent other than federal grant funds within the specified scope of work).

Site Visit

Prior to selection of proposals, Arizona State Forestry personnel prefer to conduct a site visit and review the project area. Site visits to monitor project progress and completion will also be performed.

Application Instructions

The fillable application form can be found online at <https://azsf.az.gov/grants/forest-health>.

1) All blocks are fillable and character locked. Applicants must fit all information into the allotted character space. **Applications that have been modified for any reason will be considered ineligible by the review committee.** Attachments or addendums may be included if necessary and will only be considered by the review committee if approval is received from Arizona State Forestry prior to submittal.

2) Application guidelines by box number:

- **Box 1 & 2-** Basic applicant and community/communities at risk information.
- **Box 3 & 4-** The totals in these boxes add automatically when all data is entered into the fields and you tab to the next fillable box. **Do not enter numbers into contributors' space.** If the contributors name contains a number spell out that number so that it will not add into the total column. Check that all numbers add up correctly and have transferred correctly to the Official Use only box on the top of page 1. Do not put the grant amount requested into box 3 as that will make box 3 and 4's match totals different and points will be deducted for these boxes not matching.
- **Box 5-** Check as many boxes as apply to the project. Some questions may need to be elaborated on in the required box.
- **Box 6-** The project area description should give a **brief** overview of the project to point out the problems and clearly show the need for work in this area. This is where the acres treated will be discussed and qualifications of the person(s) managing the project.

- **Box 7-** This grant has specific goals and objectives to meet. This box is used to describe how your project will meet such goals and objectives.
- **Box 8-** The scope of work should explain exactly how the grant dollars will be spent on this project. Unlike the overview, this will provide the specific details of the project. Remember to be concise. Say exactly what will be done with grant funds and not what you expect the reviewer wants to hear.
 - *An example of a scope of work is:* The project will fund about 300 person days of forest health improvement work, operating expenses for treatments (i.e. fuel, oil, expendable parts, etc.). In conjunction with the community effort, will assist in public outreach, training, scheduling of work, assessment of treatments, processing of accomplishment data and payments, etc.
 - The project timeline should include such things as: begin/end dates, milestones, quarterly accomplishments, etc.
- **Box 9-** Describe the contributions each partner will make to the project by stating the contributing partners name and what they will be contributing to the project such as manpower, equipment, matching funds, etc.
- **Box 10-** Clearly show who, what, when, where, why and how this project will remain effective over time. Include all applicable time frames, milestones and measurables.
 - *Some examples of clearly defined planned maintenance would be*—delegating a portion of homeowners’ dues to maintain thinned areas; project sites will be maintained by landowners per signed cost share agreements. Include specific timelines and measurables.

Application Due Dates

The 2015 Western Bark Beetle Initiative Grant application form must be used. This form should be filled out and submitted to Arizona State Forestry no later than **5 PM on Friday, November 20, 2015**. Proposals received after this date will **not** be accepted. Proposals should either be mailed to **Arizona State Forestry, Attn: WBB Grant Program, 1110 West Washington, Suite 100 Phoenix, Arizona 85007-2935** or sent by email to: grants@azsf.gov

Any project match or reimbursable costs accrued prior to a signed agreement with the State Forester will NOT be eligible for reimbursement.