

Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management



Western Bark Beetle Initiative Grant Program (WBBI)

ARIZONA 2021 REQUEST FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

Application Deadline:

Applications must be received online at:
https://gn.ecivis.com/GO/gn_redir/T/w7vr9glzix00

No Later than: December 31, 2021 by 11:59 PM

Forest Health Program

2021 Western Bark Beetle Initiative Grant Program

Grant Guidelines

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, due to overcrowded conditions. 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 Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) with funding provided by the USDA Forest Service is soliciting proposals from **\$10,000 to \$85,000** to treat a minimum of 10 acres (contiguous preferred). This is a reimbursable grant program. **Grant applications require a minimum 10% match**; meaning that 90% of the total grant project can be grant funds, and 10% needs to be match. For example, a grant request of \$10,000 would require an additional \$1,000 in match. **Preference will be given to projects that can be completed within a year.**

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. Treatments can **only** be applied on Non Federal Lands (Private, State, County, Municipal, etc).

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 ecosystem
- **Protect** high value trees and forest

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 to **60-80** square feet of basal area per acre can improve tree health and reduce the likelihood of attacks from bark beetles.
- **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 (preferably within 30 days for treatments conducted in spring or summer), piling and burning (where safe and legal), chipping and mulching in early fall and winter for treatments conducted after peak beetle flight (May-August). 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.**

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.
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Grantee Responsibilities

Match

This program requires a **10% match**. For every 10 dollars of funding requested, a dollar of match must be provided.

Grant Requirements

The grant request must fall between **\$10,000 and \$85,000**. 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.

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 DFFM 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 \$85,000	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, partner names)		Score = 1-10
Does the project clearly demonstrate longevity and maintenance of the site after treatment? (monitoring, tracking of effectiveness, etc.)		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

DFFM 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 DFFM, Forest Health Program.

Reimbursement

DFFM 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, DFFM personnel may 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

Please review the *WBBI 2021 Application Submission Guide* located in the “File” section of the grant solicitation page for information on navigating the online portal.

Application Due Dates

The 2021 Western Bark Beetle Initiative Grant application must be submitted online at https://gn.ecivis.com/GO/gn_redir/T/w7vr9glzix00 no later than 11:59 PM on Friday, December 31, 2021.

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