

Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management



Western Bark Beetle Initiative Grant Program (WBBI)

ARIZONA 2022 REQUEST FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

Applications must be received online at:

https://gn.ecivis.com/GO/gn_redir/T/j76ngrcn7sxh

Application Deadline:

No Later than November 14, 2022

Forest Health Program

2022 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.

Available Funding

Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) with funding provided by the USDA Forest Service is soliciting proposals from \$10,000 to \$50,000 to treat a minimum of 10 acres (contiguous preferred). Depending on total available funding, some projects may be offered only partial funding. All projects will require a minimum 10% match contribution (90% grant/10% match). Funds will be dispersed to recipients on a reimbursement basis after they incur costs and report accomplishments and expenses to DFFM.

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 \$1,112 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.

Period of Performance

Project applications will be accepted through **November 14, 2022**. Initial grants are expected to be awarded by Fall of 2022. Proposed projects should be ready for implementation upon receipt of award and should be fully achievable within the prescribed award period.

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

- **Primary Treatment:** Thinning and removal of green pine trees and related slash treatments. Reducing stand density to **60-80** square feet of basal area per acre. This reduction in stand density can improve tree health and reduce the likelihood of attacks from bark beetles. 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
- **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.
- **Proper treatment of slash:** Green pine slash should be properly treated to reduce the potential for attraction of 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 outbreaks 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.**

Examples of activities that do NOT qualify (not all inclusive)

- Removal of dead and down woody debris/biomass.
- The removal of hazard trees (see Q&A for definition) that do not fall within the eligible treatment categories.
- Pruning/trimming of pine branches.
- Insecticidal spraying of ponderosa pines for bark beetles.
- Use of pheromone lures to attract or deter ponderosa pine bark beetles.

Cost-Share/Matching Requirements

All projects will require a minimum 10% match contribution (90% Grant/ 10% Match). Matching contributions may take several forms including:

- Actual funds expended: Cash paid by the sub-recipient organization.
- In-kind expenses: Necessary costs incurred by the grant recipient or another organization to support the project. Volunteer hours are acceptable at a reasonable rate.
- Contributed time for personnel and equipment: Donated labor and/or equipment necessary to

complete the specific project.

All reimbursable and matching expenses must be fully documented before payment is made by DFFM. Rates utilized for valuing contributed resources must be specified and approved before a sub-award agreement is executed. Proposals from organizations that provide higher matching amounts may receive priority.

Match Examples:

Amount Requested (90%)	Minimum Match Requirement (10%)	Total Project Cost (100%)
\$10,000	\$1,112	\$11,112
\$20,000	\$2,223	\$22,223
\$50,000	\$5,556	\$55,556

10% Match = (Amount Requested *.1)/.9

Administrative and Accounting Requirements

All grant-funded activities and activities used as match must comply with local, state and federal laws and regulations. Sub-recipients must develop, document, administer and manage the grant in accordance with all applicable federal Cost Principles, Uniform Administrative Requirements, and Audit Requirements of federal grants, including requirements contained in subparts A through F of the Code of Federal Regulations, 2 CFR 200. The full reference (Code of Federal Regulations) is available electronically at <http://www.ecfr.gov>. Applicants that need assistance obtaining these documents should contact DFFM.

Mapping Requirements

If selected for funding, project shape files will be required before execution of a final grant agreement.

Procurement Requirements

All procurement activities must comply with applicable Uniform Administrative Requirements including requirements contained in the Code of Federal Regulations, 2 CFR 200. All Sub-recipients are responsible for developing, documenting and adhering to their own established procurement policies that include both administrative and accounting controls.

SAM Registration

Sub-recipients are required to register with the federal government System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov> prior to receiving an award. You will need a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), Taxpayer ID Number (TIN), and financial information to set up Electronic Funds Transfer in order to register properly.

Payment of Funds

Grant funds may only be used for reimbursement of actual costs. Payment will be made only after expenses are incurred, documented and reported by the sub-recipient organization. Approved project expenses will be supported by source documentation such as canceled checks, paid bills, payroll records, time and attendance records, contracts, etc. Reimbursement of funds, once approved by DFFM, may take 30-60 days. Up to 10% of the total award may be withheld until all deliverables, reports and documentation is completed and approved.

No funds will be reimbursed for expenses incurred prior to execution of the formal written agreement between the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management and the applicant organization.

Award Selection Process

Funds are awarded through a competitive application process. Grant applications are received, reviewed, scored, and ranked by representatives of DFFM with expertise in forest health management.

Evaluation will be based on how well proposals meet the defined criteria, objectives, and priorities in this request. Final recommendations and approval of awards will be made by the Arizona Department Forestry and Fire Management. Each applicant will be notified by email of the final status of their application. Additional information and instructions will be given to the selected applicants.

Notification

Announcements are anticipated by Fall 2022. Applicants will be notified of the status of their proposal after funding decisions are finalized. Upon grant award, a formal agreement will be executed between the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management and each sub-recipient organization.

Minimum Grant Requirements

The following criteria must be met for consideration of proposals:

- **Application must be complete and submitted on time.** Project applications must be submitted online at https://gn.ecivis.com/GO/gn_redir/T/j76ngrcn7sxh. Each application must be filled out and submitted by 11:59 PM on **November 14, 2022**.
- **Applicant must be a qualifying organization.** Applicant organizations are limited to fire departments and fire districts, governments (state, county, local, etc.), educational institutions, and 501(c) non-profit organizations. Private landowners qualify if working through one of the eligible applicants listed above, but cannot apply directly. For-profit companies do not qualify.
- **Grant request must be at least \$10,000 and may not exceed a maximum of \$70,000.** Grant funding will be made on a reimbursement basis after costs are incurred. Grants require quarterly progress reporting by grant recipients. Only eligible costs may be reimbursed. Specific administrative, program, and auditing requirements will apply to all grant sub-recipients.
- **Project must meet the match requirement.** No more than 90% of the total project budget may be funded by the grant. At least 10% of total project costs must be provided by the sub-recipient. The matching share can be in-kind match (which includes contributed personnel hours valued at an accepted rate, donated labor or equipment, etc.) and/or expended funds (which are actual dollars spent within the specified scope of work). All project expenses and matching contributions must be supported with sufficient documentation.
- **Physical work done by individual landowners and family members.** Physical work performed by individual landowners and family members on their own property will not be reimbursed but may be documented as a portion of the required match.
- **Project must be well-defined and measurable.** Specific treatment areas and landowners must be identified prior to grant award and the project should be considered “shovel ready” (i.e. minimal to no additional recruitment, coordination or planning should be required).

Tips for a 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. **Preference will be given to projects that can be completed within a year.**

All applications will be scored based on the following:

Is the applicant requesting funding between \$10,000 and \$70,000	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	

Application Instructions

The WBBi Application Submission Guide, WBBi Q&A PDF, along with other related materials and information are available on the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management website at <https://dffm.az.gov/grants/forest-health/western-bark-beetle-initiative-grant-program>.

Additional Contacts

Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management district offices may also be contacted for technical support related to forest health. Please see Appendix I on the following page.

APPENDIX I

Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management District Offices		
Office Locations	Contact	Contact Information
<u>Northern District –</u> Flagstaff, AZ	<i>District Fire Management Officer: Rick Miller</i> <i>District Forester: Brece Hendrix</i>	602-396-0147 rmiller@dffm.az.gov 928-215-0364 bhendrix@dffm.az.gov
<u>Northeast District –</u> Vernon, AZ	<i>District Fire Management Officer: Bob Arthur</i> <i>District Forester: Jon Orona</i>	602-396-0541 rburth@dffm.az.gov 602-980-5798 jrona@dffm.az.gov
<u>Southeast District –</u> Tucson, AZ	<i>District Fire Management Officer: Stuart Rodeffer</i> <i>District Forester: Abigail Plecki</i>	602-291-5086 srodeffer@dffm.az.gov 480-349-1706 aplecki@dffm.az.gov
<u>Central District –</u> Phoenix, AZ	<i>District Fire Management Officer: Dan Colgan</i> <i>District Forester: Abigail Plecki</i>	480-625-8630 dcolgan@dffm.az.gov 480-349-1706 aplecki@dffm.az.gov
<u>Northwest District –</u> Chino Valley, AZ	<i>District Fire Management Officer: Russ Shumate</i> <i>District Forester: Andrew Dropik</i>	928-460-3039 rshumate@dffm.az.gov 602-739-1673 adropik@dffm.az.gov