

Blackfoot Fuel Reduction Grant Program Landowner Information Sheet

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The Blackfoot Fuel Reduction Program is a partnership between the Blackfoot Challenge, local fire departments, state and federal agencies, and private landowners. Representatives from these groups work together on a Fuel Reduction Task Force, acting as a one-stop shop for fuel reduction and forest health improvement grants and forestry assistance for landowners in the Blackfoot Watershed. Grant funds are currently available in the entire Blackfoot watershed.

The Task Force typically provides cost-share grant funding for up to 50% of the total fuel reduction or forest health improvement project cost. The landowner is responsible for providing the other half. Revenue from wood products that are sold can help offset the landowner's cost.

The landowner is responsible for hiring their own contractor or can do the work themselves. Landowner time is valued at \$20.85/hour plus some expenses. For landowners who hire a contractor, please see attached sheet of insurance recommendations.

Grant funds are considered taxable income, and landowners will be required to complete a W-9 form, which will be provided.

Please review the fuel reduction project specifications prior to submitting your application. In general, fuel reduction specifications require thinning to create an average of 10 feet between tree crowns (tips of the upper branches), pruning up to 10 feet or 1/3rd the height of the tree (whichever is less) and treating all of the slash (pile and burn or chip). Depending on your forest this work may include removal of some larger trees. More detailed information on fuel reduction specifications can be found at: www.blackfootchallenge.org, or email cindy@blackfootchallenge.org.

Application Process:

- Landowner completes and submits application to the Blackfoot Challenge.
- Blackfoot Challenge Forestry Coordinator visits property to assess project.
- Applications are submitted to the Task Force for either "approval with funding," "approval awaiting funding," or in some cases "disapproval."
- Landowner is notified of approval or disapproval.
- Landowner sends Blackfoot Challenge quote from contractor, or if doing all or some work themselves, works with Blackfoot Challenge to create a cost estimate.
- Blackfoot Challenge and landowner enter into contract identifying amount of grant funding available and timeline to complete work.
- Landowner, contractor (if applicable) and Forestry Coordinator meet on site to initiate work.
- Contractor and/or landowner complete work.
- Forestry Coordinator visits site to review and approve work.
- Landowner pays submits invoice for reimbursement.
- Blackfoot Challenge reimburses landowner.

Insurance Recommendations

Landowners should consider requiring contractors who work on their property to carry the following types of insurance to protect the landowner if an accident happens. "Accidents" may include: damaging an improvement on the property, a fire that gets out of control, or someone gets hurt. If the proper insurance is not in place the landowner can be liable.

Listed are recommended insurance requirements for logging and tree service contractors. Contractors **should** carry several types of insurance to protect themselves and landowners.

Commercial General Liability:

Policy limits for \$1,000,000.00 per each occurrence and \$2,000,000.00 general aggregate.

Some insurance companies that write logging liability coverage to restrict their exposure whenever the contractor is within 250 feet of power lines, buildings and other structures. Just because they have \$1,000,000.00 of coverage may only mean that they are covered for x type of work but not y. Be specific! **You may want to obtain a letter from an insurance company specific to the type of work to be performed, or read the policy to make sure you are protected.**

Loggers Broad Form: (This policy covers fires)

Policy limits for \$1,000,000.00 per each occurrence with \$2,000,000.00 general aggregate.

Commercial Automobile Liability:

Policy limits in the amount of \$1,000,000.00.

Workers Comp:

Contractors **are required by law** to carry Worker's Compensation on any employees. Employees must be properly coded. The codes listed below are the only ones for logging and arboriculture. (A landscaping code is not appropriate for active logging operations)

Code 2702. Logging or Lumbering and Driver's.

Code 0106. Tree Pruning, Spraying, Repairing and Drivers.

Code 6217. Excavation. (For stump removal and stump grinding only if separate payroll records are kept for that crew. Right of way sawyers use code 2702.)

Sub-contractors:

All recommendations that apply to a contractor would apply to any sub-contractor.