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NEBRASKA FOREST SERVICE

Financial Assistance Programs

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Nebraska's rural and urban forests are important natural resources that contribute to the environmental, social and economic vitality of the state. Unfortunately, our forests are under constant threat from damaging agents such as wildfire, severe weather, insects, diseases and inadequate management.

To help sustain Nebraska's forests, the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) offers a wide range of financial assistance programs to help landowners, businesses and communities address these threats, foster more sustainable use of our forest resources and improve our quality of life.

COST-SHARE FUNDS FOR REDUCING FOREST FUELS

To minimize damage and loss from wildfires, NFS offers several financial assistance-only programs to help both private and non-federal public landowners reduce forest fuels.

Hazardous Fuels Reduction Grants

Thinning of dense forests and removal of ladder fuels—live or dead vegetation that allows a fire to climb from the landscape or forest floor into the tree canopy—from private or state land **adjacent to United States Forest Service (USFS) property.**

Cost-share: NFS reimburses the landowner up to 100 percent of the costs for tree removal, piling and burning (if necessary). No landowner cost on eligible properties.

Eligible Locations: **Must be adjacent to USFS property in the Pine Ridge.**

Eligible Applicants: State and private forest landowners

Forest Fuels Reduction Grants

Thinning of dense forests and removal of ladder fuels.

Cost-share: NFS reimburses the landowner up to 75 percent of the costs (per-acre caps apply) for tree removal, piling and pile-burning (if necessary); remainder paid by landowner.

Eligible Locations: Pine Ridge, Niobrara Valley and Wildcat Hills

Eligible Applicants: State and private forest landowners

Redcedar Forest Management

Thinning of redcedar on forest lands.

Note: NFS cost-share CANNOT be used to remove all tree vegetation from a location. A forest stand with cedar crop trees must remain after management.

Cost-share: NFS reimburses the landowner up to 75 percent of the costs (per-acre caps apply) for redcedar forest management, including tree removal, piling and pile disposal; remainder paid by landowner.

Eligible Locations: Statewide (outside of the Pine Ridge, Niobrara Valley and Wildcat Hills)

Eligible Applicants: State and private forest landowners

Burned Land Fuels Reduction Grants

Thinning burned forests by removing dead or damaged trees on lands that have experienced wildfire.

Cost-share: NFS reimburses the landowner up to 75 percent of the costs (per-acre caps apply) for tree removal, piling and burning (if necessary) on forest lands burned by wildfire; remainder paid by landowner.

Eligible Locations: Pine Ridge and Niobrara Valley

Eligible Applicants: State and private forest landowners

Forest Restoration Grants

On burned lands, actions to stabilize, restore and replant burned forest areas around "islands" of unharmed trees.

- Removal of dead and damaged trees
- Erosion control
- Tree planting and broadcast seeding
- Weed control
- Animal damage control
- Fencing

Cost-share: NFS reimburses the landowner up to 75 percent of the costs (per-acre caps apply); remainder paid by landowner.

Eligible Locations: Burned forest lands statewide

Eligible Applicants: State and private forest landowners

Firewise Defensible Space Grants

Removal of flammable trees and shrubs to create "defensible space" around homes or other buildings.

Cost-share: NFS reimburses the landowner up to 75 percent of the costs (per-acre caps apply); remainder paid by landowner.

Eligible Locations: Statewide

Eligible Applicants: State and private forest landowners

Contacts:

Pine Ridge & Wildcat Hills:
Doak Nickerson • 308-432-3255
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Fred McCartney • 308-432-8158
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Niobrara Valley:
Sandy Benson • 402-684-2290
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Rich Woollen • 308-728-3221
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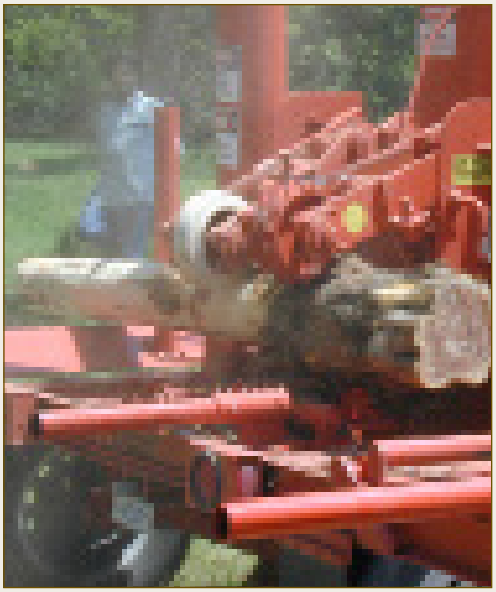
Other Areas:
District forester in your area
or 402-472-2944

Quick Guide to State and Private Landowner Forest Management Financial Assistance Programs

What Do You Want To Do?	Approved Locations	Grant Program	% NFS Cost-Share
Thin Unburned Forests	Pine Ridge Niobrara Valley Wildcat Hills	**Hazardous Fuels Reduction Grants** IF on qualifiying lands adjacent to Nebraska National Forest land	100%
		Forest Fuels Reduction Grants if NOT adjacent to Nebraska National Forest land.	75%
	Statewide (Outside of Approved Locations)	**Redcedar Forest Management** Best if used in conjunction with NRCS EQIP Program	75%
Thin Burned Forests	Pine Ridge Niobrara Valley	Burned Land Fuels Reduction Grants	75%
Stabilize/Restore Burned Forests	Statewide	Forest Restoration Grants	75%
Create "Defensible Space" Around Buildings	Statewide	Firewise Defensible Space Grants	75%

FUNDS FOR FOREST PRODUCTS & UTILIZATION

The NFS Forest Products Utilization program works with partners to develop sustainable markets for wood products as well as to develop new wood products.



TREES Heat Nebraska Program

Engineering Feasibility Study Grants

Funding available to interested facilities for contracted engineering feasibility studies that investigate the potential for wood energy use.

Cost-share: NFS reimburses the facility owner up to 50 percent of the cost ($10,000 maximum) for the completion of an engineering feasibility study conducted by an approved contractor.

Eligible Locations: statewide

Eligible Applicants: Public, private and/or non-profit agencies and organizations

Facility Conversion Grants

Funding for converting a facility to utilize woody biomass for thermal heating and/or cooling. Includes the construction of new facilities and renovation or expansion of existing woody biomass systems and associated facility infrastructure.

Cost-share: NFS reimburses the facility up to 50 percent of contracted engineering, construction and installation costs upon completion of project. Maximum reimbursement is dependent on annually appropriated funding.

Eligible Locations: statewide

Eligible Applicants: Public, private and/or non-profit agencies and organizations

Contact:
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FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY LANDSCAPES

The Community Forestry & Sustainable Landscapes program oversees funds that are jointly administered by NFS and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA) to provide key services to municipalities, green industry professionals and community tree advocacy groups and organizations.

Trees for Nebraska Towns

Funding and technical assistance to improve tree species diversity and foster better planting practices and maintenance for trees and associated landscapes.

Projects must emphasize planting of trees with a mature height of greater than 40 feet but can include other plantings. Part of ReTree Nebraska initiative. Funded by Nebraska Environmental Trust and sponsored by the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum.

Cost-share: Up to 50 percent paid by NSA; remainder paid by community or partner organization.

Eligible Locations: Communities statewide

Eligible Applicants: Community-based organizations and municipalities

ReTree Mini-grants

Funding to support and enable fall tree-planting activities in conjunction with ReTree Nebraska Week. Maximum of 10 trees per project. Funded by Nebraska Environmental Trust and sponsored by Nebraska Community Forestry Council and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum.

Cost-share: Projects are required to contribute in-kind match by including an outreach, educational and/or media component to increase public awareness of tree planting and care.

Eligible Locations: Communities statewide

Eligible Applicants: Community-based organizations and municipalities

Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

For more on these programs, call 402-472-2971 or go to arboretum.unl.edu.

Find us on Facebook, Twitter & Pinterest.

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For general information on all other NFS programs, contact the NFS main office, 402-472-2944 or go to nfs.unl.

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