

# ARKANSAS FIRE & ICE LANDOWNER GRANT FAQs

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The Arkansas Forestry Commission has been awarded an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) grant through the US Forest Service for wildfire hazard reduction on property in Arkansas impacted by the ice storm of January 2009. A portion will be used to assist non-industrial private forest landowners through grants to implement forest practices on affected property.



**Where can I find a list of Consulting Foresters that are willing to work with landowners receiving the Arkansas Fire & Ice Landowner Assistance Grant?**

A consulting forester list may be obtained at the local AFC office within the eligible counties, or by visiting [www.arkansasforestry.org/arra.html](http://www.arkansasforestry.org/arra.html). The web page will include a listing of consulting foresters that have indicated they are interested in participating landowners as well as the counties they work.

**Can a landowner be reimbursed for approved practice work they perform themselves?**

Landowners can be paid for approved practice work they do themselves. The work cannot be accomplished before the practice has been approved by AFC. The landowner must notify the AFC County Forester before work begins, and work must begin within 90 days of AFC (Little Rock) approval. The practice will be compliance checked by the AFC County Forester before approved for payment. The landowner must submit an invoice to the County Forester before payment can be authorized. Once payment is received by the landowner, the landowner must submit a paid invoice to the County Forester. Invoices must be dated and received no later than September 30, 2010.

**Where can I find the practice standards for the Arkansas Fire and Ice Landowner Assistance Grant?**

The practice standards can be obtained from AFC county offices for those counties that are eligible for grant money and online at [www.arkansasforestry.org/arra.html](http://www.arkansasforestry.org/arra.html).

**What obligations does the landowner have if they receive Arkansas Fire & Ice Landowner Assistance funds?**

The landowner is obligated to obtain and provide a paid invoice to the AFC County Forester for each practice for which payment has been received. The landowner may have income tax liabilities, and should contact their tax advisor.

**How long does the landowner have to accomplish the approved Arkansas Fire and Ice Landowner Assistance Grant practices?**

The landowner must begin practice work within 90 days of AFC approval and all work must be complete by June 1, 2010.

**Will a Burn Plan be required before any approved burning practice can be carried out on the landowner's property?**

A Burn Plan must be submitted to the AFC County Forester for review before any grant related burning occurs on the property.

**Does the landowner have any burn related liabilities for escaped fires from their property?**

The landowner could be liable if the prescribed burn escapes control.

**Will the creation of interior fire lanes be funded under Arkansas Fire & Ice Landowner Assistance Grant?**

New interior fire lanes will not be eligible for fire lane construction funding but existing interior roads may be approved. Exterior fire lanes may be funded if the practice is approved by AFC.

**Will areas that have been approved for Forest Slash Treatment (\$230/acre) also be approved for prescribed burning (\$50/acre)?**

Areas that have been approved for Forest Slash Treatment will not be approved for prescribed burning. Burning within the Forest Slash Treatment area is covered with the \$230/acre grant amount.

**Will I be able to apply for an Arkansas Fire & Ice Landowner Assistance Grant for Forest Slash Treatment practice if it is currently covered under EQIP?**

The Arkansas Fire & Ice Landowner Assistance Grant may cover the landowner's required match (usually 40 percent of the implementation cost) for landowners that signed up for Forest Slash Treatment under EQIP and have NOT started implementing their practice. In order to receive this match, Arkansas Fire & Ice Landowner Assistance Grant guidelines, practice standards and time frames must be met.

**What lands are eligible for Arkansas Fire & Ice Landowner Assistance Grant?**

A landowner must have 10 acres of contiguous (sharing a boundary or touching each other physically) forest land that have been affected by the Ice Storm to be eligible.

**Will Arkansas Best Management Practices be required for fire lane construction?**

Arkansas Best Management Practices will be a requirement for fire lane construction. Specific requirements can be found in the publication "Arkansas Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality Protection" (available from AFC) and online at [www.arkansasforestry.org/bmp/bmp\\_review.html](http://www.arkansasforestry.org/bmp/bmp_review.html).

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To learn more about how stimulus funds will be distributed in Arkansas, visit the Arkansas State Recovery Office web site at [www.recovery.arkansas.gov](http://www.recovery.arkansas.gov), or call the Arkansas Recovery Hotline at 1-877-682-1515. The Arkansas Forestry Commission offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability; and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.