

ARKANSAS FIRE & ICE ARRA LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE

Serving Arkansas Since 1931



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.



- Landowners seeking assistance through the Arkansas Fire & Ice Grant must meet the following criteria.

◊ The property must be located within the following counties:

Baxter	Franklin	Mississippi
Benton	Fulton	Newton
Boone	Greene	Poinsett
Carroll	Independence	Pope
Clay	Izard	Randolph
Cleburne	Jackson	Searcy
Conway	Johnson	Sharp
Craighead	Lawrence	Stone
Crawford	Madison	Van Buren
Cross	Marion	Washington

◊ The landowner must own a minimum of 10 contiguous (sharing a boundary or touching each other physically) forested acres that were damaged as a result of the January 2009 ice storm.

- Applications are available online at www.arkansasforestry.org/arra.html, www.recovery.arkansas.gov, or by calling the Arkansas Forestry Commission at 1-800-324-2417.
- The Arkansas Fire & Ice Landowner Assistance Grant maximum is \$25,000 dollars per landowner/joint landowners.
- The Arkansas Fire & Ice Landowner Assistance Grant eligible practices and associated rates are as follows:
 - ◊ Forest Stewardship Hazard Mitigation Plan written by a Consulting Forester who has successfully completed the Forest Stewardship Training provided by the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC). (\$10/acre for new plan and \$8/acre for revised plan)*
 - ◊ Forest Slash Treatment (\$230/acre)*
 - ◊ Fire Lane Construction (\$.45 linear foot)*
 - » *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.

» *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.*

◊ Prescribed Burning (\$50/acre)*

» *A burn plan must be submitted to the AFC County Forester for review before any grant related burning occurs on the property. The landowner could be liable if the prescribed burn escapes control.*

» *Areas that have been approved for Forest Slash Treatment will not be approved for prescribed burning.*

* *Specifications for each practice are further defined in Arkansas Fire & Ice Landowner Assistance Grant Practice Standards from the AFC. These standards are available online at www.arkansasforestry.org/arra.html or by contacting your local AFC office.*

- A random drawing will be held beginning at 10 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009, at the White Oak theater, Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View, AR.
- Funding is limited, and applications will be prioritized for consideration in the order in which they are drawn. AFC personnel will conduct a site visit to determine the property meets eligibility requirements within the grant criteria.
- The landowner will be notified by letter of approval for funding for a written Forest Stewardship/Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan will determine the appropriate practices and amount of requested funding.

- A consulting forester list may be obtained at the local AFC office within the eligible counties, or by visiting www.arkansasforestry.org/arra.html. The web site includes a listing of consulting foresters that have indicated to AFC they are interested in working with participating landowners.
- A consulting forester is eligible to write the required Forest Stewardship/Hazard Mitigation Plan as long as they are a Registered Forester and have received AFC Stewardship Training.
- Once the Forest Stewardship/Hazard Mitigation Plan is approved by the AFC County Forester, the landowner will receive written notification from AFC Headquarters in Little Rock of funding and practices approved.
- The AFC County Forester must be notified before approved recommended practice begins. Work must begin within 90 days of AFC approval.
- The Landowner will turn in an invoice to the AFC County Forester for each completed approved practice.
- The AFC County Forester will inspect the practice for compliance before submitting the invoice to AFC Headquarters at Little Rock for payment.
- Upon receiving payment, the landowner shall pay the appropriate vendor and provide

a paid invoice to the AFC County Forester.

- All work on the property must be completed by June 30, 2010.
- All practice invoices must be received no later than September 30, 2010.
- Landowners can be paid for approved practice work they do themselves. The work cannot begin before the practice has been approved by the AFC. The landowner must comply with all grant requirements as listed above. The landowner must submit an invoice to the County Forester before payment can be authorized. Once payment is received, the landowner must submit a paid invoice to the County Forester. Invoices must be dated and received no later than September 30, 2010.
- For landowners that signed up for Forest Slash Treatment under EQIP and have NOT started implementing their practice, the Arkansas Fire & Ice Landowner Assistance Grant will cover the landowner's required match (usually 40 percent of the implementation cost).
- The Arkansas Fire & Ice Landowner Assistance Grant may have income tax implications for the landowner. The AFC recommends that landowners consult their tax advisor with respect to grant tax considerations.

Arkansas Forestry Commission
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 Phone: 501-296-1940
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www.arkansasforestry.org/arra.html

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, 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.