**FUELS MITIGATION PROJECTS**

**Goal:** Reduce threat to life and property by conducting fuels mitigation practices within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Practices include: Prescribed burning, mechanical methods and fuelbreak installation.

**National Fire Plan WUI Mitigation Funds** – Available for tracts that meet the following specifications:
1. Tract is located near at-risk community which is defined as a community that has completed a Wildfire Risk Assessment with a rating of moderate or higher and is comprised of at least 10 houses clustered within sight of one another.
2. Treated area must be within 1.5 miles of the assessed at-risk community.

**Grant requests involving Firewise Communities/USA will receive highest priority**

Priority of funding within those requests involving a Firewise Community/USA:
1) First time requests from Firewise Community/USA fulfilling CWPP recommendations
2) Other requests that meet CWPP Recommendations
3) Fuel Reduction requests:
   a) Initial request
   b) Maintenance request
4) Maximum funding for community projects: $10,000.
5) Requests will be accepted until October 1 and will be scored and selected for funding based on priorities noted above. Funding notifications will be sent by November 15 to those funded. Those not funded will remain in the pot until April 15 in case of additional funds coming available. After April 15 those not funded will have to reapply if still interested in being considered for future funding.

**Grant requests involving Fuels Mitigation practices for Non-Firewise Communities/USA or woodland landowners**

Priority of funding (assuming tract qualifies):
1) Requests on hand from previous year (will hold one year if not done in previous year)
2) Requests that would benefit a Firewise Community/USA (within one mile of)
3) Requests that involve a tract within area covered by a CWPP
4) Other first time requests
5) Requests from private landowners who have previously been funded
6) Requests from publicly held tracts
7) Requests will be accepted until October 1 and will be scored and selected for funding based on priorities noted above. Funding notifications will be sent by November 15 to those funded. Those not funded will remain in the pot until April 15 in case of additional funds coming available. After April 15 those not funded will have to reapply if still interested in being considered for future funding.

**Tracts requesting funds within 10 miles of USDA Forest Service lands** will be considered for funding separate from those requests not within 10 miles of USDA Forest Service land. This is due to the different grant funds available (see below).

Funding will not be allocated for work completed prior to notification of approval.
Maximum refundable rates:
$40 per acre for prescribed burning (to include plowing costs); maximum per landowner per year of $10,000.

$600 per acre for mechanical treatments; maximum per landowner per year of $10,000.

And there is a maximum total amount that can be reimbursed to a landowner of $10,000 if utilizing only mechanical or a combination of both treatments.

Payments for fuels mitigation treatments will be considered on a case by case basis. Reimbursement for entire tracts may not be possible, but the areas closest to the communities at risk will receive greater priority and consideration. Additional areas treated beyond that deemed necessary may be borne by the landowner. Other factors considered will be related to number of requests on hand and available funding.

If SCFC does firebreak plowing and/or prescribed burning, the landowner will be required to sign the Fuels Reduction Request Form and also document the work completed by completing the lower portion of the form. For SCFC purposes, funds will be transferred to the region’s operations account in the amount that would have been charged the landowner for the services rendered.

If a vendor performs the services: SCFC must approve all requests prior to the work being done. Landowner must sign a Fuels Reduction Request Form and a W-9 before the work is done in order to be reimbursed if using a contractor. Once the vendor is paid by the landowner the landowner sends a copy of the paid invoice to SCFC for reimbursement. Reimbursement rates will be paid as noted above.

Funding Levels:
- Acreage being funded for the first time will be funded 100% for the rates above for firebreaks and burning.
- Acreage being funded for the second time will be funded 50% for the rates above for burning and 100% for firebreaks.
- For a third burn on previously funded acreage only the costs for the installation or improvement of fuelbreaks will be funded. The landowner will be responsible for all expenses related specifically to the burning.

Important Note: Funds and funding levels are guaranteed only for tracts allocated funding this year. Allocated money will carry over for the same tract into next year if it wasn’t possible to burn the tract this year. However, as with any grant program, funds and funding levels are not guaranteed to be available in future years. Therefore landowners receiving funds for the first time should be told that the 50% funding for the second burn is not guaranteed and will have to be applied for and approved as a new request.

There are several sources of funds depending on tract location:

1. SFA Community Fire Protection Funds (i.e. Stevens funds prior 2012-15) are available for those tracts within 10 miles of USDA Forest Service land and which would reduce the threat to a community within 1 mile interface of the burn.
Would require a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) OR an assessment defining the community at moderate or higher risk prior to the burn.

2. **NFP WUI Mitigation funds** are available for tracts within **1.5 miles of a community at risk**. These funds will be used for tracts that are not within ten (10) miles of USDA Forest Service land. A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) OR an assessment defining the community at risk as defined above will be required.

**Fuels Reduction Request Procedure:**

1) If internal request from SCFC personnel, submit Fuels Reduction Request Form to SCFC Firewise Field Coordinators (Drake Carroll for the Coastal Area and Bill Wiley for the Piedmont Area and cc Steve Moore) along with the community assessment and map. The map must include the name of landowner, county, latitude and longitude, name of the community at risk, distance (in tenths of a mile) from treatment area to community at risk, distance of treatment area (in miles to the nearest tenth) from USDA Forest Service land if applicable, and acreage identified and estimated for treatment. If request coming from outside the SCFC, a Fuels Reduction Request Form should be completed along with a map showing all details as mentioned above.

2) Outside requests for assessments will be taken continuously. If the community does not meet the requirements to be a community at risk (moderate or higher) then the request will not be considered for funding.

3) Requests will be accepted until October 1 and will be scored and selected for funding based on priorities noted above. Funding notifications will be sent by November 15 to those funded. Those not funded will remain in the pot until April 15 in case of additional funds coming available. After April 15 those not funded will have to reapply if still interested in being considered for future funding.

4) **For first burns**, which are funded 100%, use the Fuels Reduction Request (FRR) form.

5) **For second burns conducted by the SCFC**, which are funded 50%, applicants will need to use both the Fuels Reduction Request (FRR) form and the Prescribed Burning Request (PBR) form. Half of the burned acreage and all the firebreaks will be reported on the FRR form for reimbursement to the Region. The other half of the burned acreage will be billed directly to the landowner and will need to be reported on the PBR form. As with other services forms, once the fuel mitigation burn has been conducted the services forms are to be sent to the Regional office (not to Columbia) for processing. Forms are available on the SCFC employee’s website. Attach a copy of the tract location map, map of burned area and the assessment form when you send in the completed services form.

6) **For third burns**, only the installation of firebreaks will be funded.

**IMPORTANT:** You are responsible for keeping a record of all forms and maps on file at your office. Accurate maps are needed to ensure that the same acre is not fully funded for more than one burn from either source of funds and to validate the allocation of funds especially when audited by federal agencies.