Application Instructions for Fuel Mitigation Grants

Please make sure you ask the landowner if the tract has already received funds from any other grant because this will affect the amount they are eligible to receive moving forward.

Work completed by SCFC (Burn / Breaks)

1. Meet with Landowner and make sure that their property qualifies for a WUI grant.
   a. Determine whether the tract will be funded under Steven’s or WUI mitigation grant.

       *See Fuel Mitigation Facts section below to determine funding guidelines*

   b. Determine if this is the first time the tract would be receiving one of these grants for funding of the mitigation treatment.

       *If second treatment on same acreage, Please indicate on the form so that WUI office will know to pay 50% of the cost and then bill landowner for remaining 50%*

2. Complete Fuels Reduction Request Form
   a. Work with landowner to complete Fuels Reduction Request (Front Page)

       -Please Estimate funding amount and indicate if this is the 1st treatment on this tract to be funded with WUI grant.

3. Complete a risk assessment on the nearby community.
   a. Complete the Community Assessment Form for at least one community for the tract.

       *See Fuel Mitigation Facts section below to determine the distance the community needs to be away from the tract. Community also must rate at a Moderate risk or higher for the tract to be eligible for funding.*

4. Create Maps
   a. Provide a map of the tract, which should show the area for fuel mitigation treatment.
   b. Provide a map showing distance from tract to community.
   c. Provide a map showing distance from the tract to the US Forest Service Property.

       (Only for Stevens Funds Grant applicants)

5. Have Landowner complete W-9 form
   a. Landowners that have not previously requested a grant will need to provide a W-9 for tax purposes.
6. Submit Forms for approval
   a. Forms: **Fuels Reduction Request (Copy of front page) *will need original for payment**
      
      Necessary Maps
      
      Community Assessment form
      
      W-9 (if applicable)

   Submit all necessary forms to your WUI Field Coordinator and/or State Coordinator for approval of the grant funding.

7. Once approval is received, the work can be completed
8. Once work is completed
   a. Notify the Field Coordinator and/or the State Coordinator that the work has been completed.
   b. Submit the *Original* Fuels Reduction Request completed (front and back) to your regional headquarters for payment.
      
      -Please indicate on back of form in the charges section on whether the funding is 100% WUI funds or 50% WUI funds. This will help the finance department in the billing process.
   c. Region will submit paperwork to Columbia for processing and the WUI funds will pay the Region for the work.

*If this is the second time the tract is being funded by a WUI grant, please indicate this on the Fuels Reduction Request form when you submit it to your regional office. This will ensure that when the form is submitted to Columbia, that the finance department will know to bill WUI for 50% of the cost and send an invoice to the landowner for the remaining 50%.

**Work not performed by SCFC (Burn / Breaks)**

1. Meet with Landowner and make sure that their property qualifies for a WUI grant.
   a. Determine whether the tract will be funded under Steven’s or WUI mitigation grant.

      *See Fuel Mitigation Facts section below to determine funding guidelines*
b. Determine if this is the first time the tract would be receiving one of these grants for funding of the mitigation treatment.

*If second treatment on same acreage, Please indicate on the form so that WUI office will know to reimburse the landowner for 50% of the cost*

c. Determine what type of treatment the property needs and is being requested.

   Be sure to inform landowner about the treatment facts and limitations associated with the grant reimbursement.

2. Complete Fuels Mitigation Project Request Form (Work not Performed by SCFC)

   a. Work with landowner to complete Fuels Mitigation Project Request

      - Please Estimate funding amount and indicate if this is the 1st treatment on this tract to be funded with WUI grant.

3. Complete a risk assessment on the nearby community.

   a. Complete the Community Assessment Form for at least one community for the tract.

      *See Fuel Mitigation Facts section below to determine the distance the community needs to be away from the tract. Community also must rate at a Moderate risk or higher for the tract to be eligible for funding.*

4. Create Maps

   a. Provide a map of the tract, which should show the area for fuel mitigation treatment.

   b. Provide a map showing distance from tract to community.

   c. Provide a map showing distance from the tract to the US Forest Service Property.

      *(Only for Stevens Funds Grant applicants)*

5. Have Landowner complete W-9 form

   a. Landowners that have not previously requested a grant will need to provide a W-9 for tax purposes.

6. Submit Forms for approval

   a. Forms: *Fuels Mitigation Project Request*

      *Necessary Maps*

      *Community Assessment form*

      *W-9 (if applicable)*
Submit all necessary forms to your WUI Field Coordinator and/or State Coordinator for approval of the grant funding.

7. Once approval is received, the work can be completed
8. Once work is completed
   a. Notify the Field Coordinator and/or the State Coordinator that the work has been completed. You and/or a member of the WUI staff will need to inspect the work that was completed. See Fuel Mitigation Treatment Facts/limitations section below to be sure the treatment met the goals of the WUI program.
9. Once work has been approved
   a. Have the landowner complete Request for Reimbursement Form
   b. Collect paid invoices of work completed. (Copies or originals)
   c. Have landowner complete W-9 form if they have not filled one out previously
10. Submit Forms for Reimbursement
    a. Forms: Request for Reimbursement
       Paid invoices for contractor or expenses
       W-9 (if applicable)

There may be a situation that requires both types of application steps, where SCFC will be performing some of the work and there may be an outside contractor performing additional work. In these cases, the landowner will have to fill out both Request forms and allow the work flow to follow the corresponding process. In these situations, please reach out to your field coordinator or the state coordinator for assistance and they will be happy to make sure the paperwork is in order.

All forms can be found on the SCFC Employees only website under, Wildland Urban Interface section.
State Firewise & Prevention Coordinator  
Drake Carroll  843-601-9121  
dcarroll@scfc.gov  
136 Airport Ct  
Mullins, SC 29574

Firewise Field Coordinator (Coastal)  
Andy Johnson  843-509-4611  
ajohnson@scfc.gov  
7695 Hwy 64 E  
Barnwell, SC 29812

Firewise Field Coordinator (Upstate)  
Chris Revels  803-360-8264  
crevels@scfc.gov  
2790 Firetower Rd,  
Rock Hill, SC 29730
Fuel Mitigation Grant Facts

SFA Community Fire Protection Funds (Stevens Funds)

- Tract must be within 10 Miles of USDA Forest Service land.
- Tract must be within 1 mile of Community At Risk (CAR). CAR are defined as communities with a Wildfire Risk Assessment rank of moderate or high risk level.
- Community must be comprised of 10 or more homes in close proximity to one another. (Homes must be within 1500 feet of their neighboring home.)

NFP WUI Mitigation Funds

- Tract must be within 1.5 miles of a Community At Risk (CAR). CAR are defined as communities with a Wildfire Risk Assessment rank of moderate or high risk level.
- Community must be comprised of 10 or more homes in close proximity to one another. (Homes must be within 1500 feet of their neighboring home.)

Limitations (Both Grants)

- The maximum funding a landowner can receive in one year is $10,000. This maximum funding level may change from year to year. Please check with your field coordinator or state coordinator at the beginning of each fiscal year to check the max amount.
- For multiple applications on a same tract (treating the same acreage) over time, the available grant payments are:
  - 1st Year landowners are eligible for 100% of cost incurred for firebreaks and fuel mitigation efforts up to $10,000 maximum.
  - 2nd Year landowners are eligible for 50% of cost for firebreaks and fuel mitigation efforts up to $10,000 maximum.
  - 3rd Year or more landowners are eligible only for 100% of fire break cost.
Fuel Mitigation Treatment Facts/Limitations

Prescribed Burning

*Prescribed burning cost will be reimbursed up to a rate of $40/ac including firebreaks; up to the max grant amount.*

- Understory burning, fuel reduction, forest improvement, etc.
- At least 50% of understory fuel consumption is to be burned to gain a satisfactory rating of treatment.

Mechanical Treatment (Mastication)

*Mechanical treatment cost will be reimbursed up to a rate of $600/ac up to the max grant amount.*

- Mastication is the “mulching” of understory vegetation (fuel) while leaving the overstory of the stand intact.
- At least 50% of understory fuel must be mulched down in the treatment area to receive a satisfactory rating of the treatment.

  EX: If you have a young pine stand with a lot of competition (fuel). The masticator can go between the rows, or even every two rows and mulch down those areas between your pine rows. This will reduce the overall fuel load on the stand and meet the fuel reduction goals set forth for the grant. The machine does not have to remove or “treat” the entire acre for it to count as acre treated.

- Mechanical treatment could also be used to create fuel breaks near communities. This will reduce the amount of fuel (typically between a property boundary and a nearby community) so that in the event of a fire, the fire’s intensity will be reduced if it is spreading toward the community.
- It is recommended that these fuel mitigation lines be a minimum of 30 feet wide to increase defensible space. If the width is less than 30 feet then the field/state coordinator need to inspect the tract to ensure that it meets the goals of the fuel mitigation grant.

Chemical Treatment

*Chemical treatment cost will be reimbursed up to a rate of $80/ac up to the max grant amount.*
• Chemical treatments should be recommended by a forester or chemical rep to ensure that the proper chemicals are used to treat the targeted species as well as to be sure the chemicals do not affect the overstory.
• At least a 50% of the targeted understory species should be killed after treatment to receive a satisfactory rating on the treatment.
• This application will most likely be a good maintenance application after a burn or mechanical treatment to keep the understory regeneration down as a more cost-effective option of treatment.

**Firebreak Installation/maintenance**

*Firebreak installation/maintenance will be reimbursed up to a rate of $200/ hour to the max grant amount.*

• Firebreaks should remove all vegetation and litter down to mineral soil
• Firebreak width should be at least 4 feet in width to meet the goals of the fuel mitigation grant.

**Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal**

https://www.southernwildfirerisk.com

• Give good information on risk from Wildfires
• Once access is requested, can get access to professional viewer and community assessor application
• Community assessor will allow you to submit assessments for communities and have a running catalog of those assessments for the state.