



Bitter Root RC&D

Bitter Root Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.
P.O. Box 870 - 1709 North First Street - Hamilton, MT 59840
Phone: (406) 363-5450 FAX: (406) 363-5451
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TO: Landowners living in Ravalli, Mineral and Missoula Counties Wildland-Urban Interface and other interested parties

RE: Private Landowner Hazardous Fuels Treatment Grant Cost-Share Application

Enclosed is an application form for the above-referenced program. Grant funding may be available to assist private landowners and communities living in the Wildland-Urban Interface within Ravalli, Mineral and Missoula Counties as follows:

1. Assist private landowners and communities reduce the fire risk by thinning and cleaning up hazardous fuels on their property while improving forest health on private lands.
2. Help landowners create and maintain defensible space within the Home Ignition Zone around their homes from the threat of wildland fire.

Applications from individual landowners, groups of homeowners, and communities are being solicited. All project proposals will be considered; however, the following criteria will be followed in prioritizing project proposals for funding:

1. Proximity to National Forest land & the Wildland-Urban Interface boundary.
2. Location of property(ies) relative to the High Risk areas (high threat of damage from wildfire – high fire behavior potential) delineated on the current Community Wildfire Protection Plan fire risk/WUI maps and the State of Montana Forest Action Plan.
3. Projects proposed by multiple landowners and/or communities.
4. Projects to protect Municipal watershed values.
5. Projects to protect high values at risk such as, structures, historic sites, old growth areas, riparian/wetland areas, powerline corridors, electronic sites, and other values at risk from wildfire.
6. Cooperative projects that are critical fire control points to protect more than one landowner and create enhancement of access for fire protection and evacuation.
7. Landowners who have previously demonstrated a commitment to reducing fuel hazards.
8. Areas that demonstrate good, solid community support for reducing fuel hazards in areas where hazardous fuel treatment has not taken place.
9. Areas with forest health problems that will contribute to increased threat of wildfire to areas needing protection of identified values at risk indicated above.

Hazardous fuels reduction projects will be cost-shared on a 75:25 matching basis in Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties. In-kind services performed by the landowner will be considered in the cost-share calculation.

The purpose of this funding is to (1) reduce the fire risk around structures within the Home Ignition Zone, (2) reduce the fire risk by decreasing the chances of a stand replacement crown fire moving through forested areas, and (3) decrease the ladder fuels, thus decreasing the chances of a fire burning on the ground from entering the crowns of the standing trees and becoming a major fire. Specifications for treatment are to reduce the crown

density by thinning trees to an average of 10 feet between crowns; pruning lower branches up to 10 feet or 1/3rd the height of the tree, whichever is less; and treating all slash created by thinning and pruning as well as any existing fuel concentrations. These requirements may vary given the timber type, access, slope, aspect and other on-the-ground variables. The project inspection provided by RC&D foresters will also address the susceptibility of your home to wildfire intrusion and give landowners specific recommendations on how to mitigate the risk to homes and other structures.

Grant application forms are available at the Bitter Root RC&D office in Hamilton. An application form can also be obtained from the Bitter Root RC&D website at www.bitterrootrcd.org.

Applications will be accepted yearlong for cost-share funding and will be kept on file for future reference and grant opportunities. For more information, assistance on filling out the application, or for questions regarding a grant application for Ravalli or Missoula Counties, please contact one of the following Community Foresters:

Josh Smith: Cell phone: (406) 544-5126. E-mail – josh@bitterrootrcd.org, or Bitter Root RC&D: (406) 363-5450.

Community Forester Tim Hancock : Cell phone (509) 944-5302. E-mail – tim@bitterrootrcd.org,

Community Forester Warren Appelhans: E-mail – warren@bitterrootrcd.org,

Community Forester Markle Quinn: E-mail – markle@bitterrootrcd.org,

In Mineral County, please contact Community Forester M. Lynneé Maillet: Cell phone: (406) 382-0016 or by email at mlynneem@gmail.com.

Cooperative support involving the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Bitter Root RC&D, the Bitterroot and Lolo National Forests, the Bitterroot Wildland Urban Interface Task Force, and the local Fire Departments will ensure the success of this program.

Sincerely,



Pamela B. Gouse
Administrator

PBG:ldw

Date Received: _____

BITTER ROOT RC&D HAZARDOUS FUELS PROGRAM

Hazardous Fuels Treatment Grant – Cost Share Application

Bitter Root Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc. (BR RC&D)

PO Box 870

1709 North First Street

Hamilton, MT 59840

(406) 363-5450 (Office)

(406) 363-5451 (FAX)

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:			
Mailing Address:			
City/Town:	State:	Zip:	Phone:
Contact Person if not the Applicant:			
Address if different from applicant:			
City/Town:	State:	Zip:	Phone:
Physical Address of property to be treated:			
City/Town:	State:	Zip:	Phone:

PURPOSE (Check one or more)

A. Hazardous fuels reduction ☐
in the wildland (outside defensible and
survivable space* -- See last page)

B. Treat defensible and survivable space* ☐
(radius of 300 ft. around house/structures
-- See last page)

PROJECT INFORMATION

Legal Description:	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	Section	Township	Range
Total Acres to Treat: Attach Project Area Map			Total Acres of Land Owned:			
Brief Project Description (What do you want to accomplish with this project – type of treatment?):						

Type of match proposed. Would you be doing the thinning, pruning and slash disposal yourself or would you hire the work out to be done by a contractor? *[I understand that if I hire a contractor, the grant will match up to 50% of the approved cost of the project.]*: _____

Do you have a stewardship or tree farm plan for your property? (If so, please provide a copy with your application submission): _____

If you don't have a stewardship plan for your property, please fill out the following fields or visit <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/tree-farm-management-plan-templates> and develop a stewardship plan for your property. It is required that you have a stewardship plan to qualify for a cost share grant.

Previous Management Practices: _____

Landowner Goals (check importance of following goals to you):

- Enhance the Quality/Quantity of Timber Products: High_ Medium_ Low_ Don't Know_
- Generate Immediate Income: High_ Medium_ Low_ Don't Know_
- Generate Long Term Income: High_ Medium_ Low_ Don't Know_
- Produce Firewood: High_ Medium_ Low_ Don't Know_
- Defer or Defray Taxes: High_ Medium_ Low_ Don't Know_
- Promote Biological Diversity: High_ Medium_ Low_ Don't Know_
- Enhance Habitat for Birds: High_ Medium_ Low_ Don't Know_
- Enhance Habitat for Small Animals: High_ Medium_ Low_ Don't Know_
- Enhance Habitat for Large Animals: High_ Medium_ Low_ Don't Know_
- Improve Access for Walking/Skiing/Recreation: High_ Medium_ Low_ Don't Know_
- Maintain or Enhance Privacy: High_ Medium_ Low_ Don't Know_
- Improve Hunting or Fishing: High_ Medium_ Low_ Don't Know_
- Preserve or Improve Scenic Beauty: High_ Medium_ Low_ Don't Know_
- Protect Water Quality: High_ Medium_ Low_ Don't Know_
- Protect Unique/Special/Cultural Areas: High_ Medium_ Low_ Don't Know_
- Other (Specify) High_ Medium_ Low_ Don't Know_

In your own words, please describe the priority goals for your property: _____

Proximity to National Forest (How far is your property from NF land?): _____

Are you within the Wildland Urban Interface? _____

Neighborhood landowners involved or who might be interested in doing fuel mitigation work on their lands: _____

Community or neighborhood served (subdivision, community, or drainage name): _____

Will this project protect serve municipal or community watersheds? What are the other values that need protecting from wildfire on your property (i.e., historic/cultural sites, timber values, old growth, riparian areas, etc.)? _____

Have you (landowner) previously demonstrated a commitment to reducing hazardous fuels on your property? If so, how, where and how much has been accomplished on your property? _____

Would you be willing to utilize the wood products (Chips, posts, poles, pulp, small saw logs, large saw logs, firewood) that could be marketed to help you pay for your work? _____

Are you willing to meet the treatment specifications as stated in the cover letter? _____

Are there any special considerations we need to know about on your land that may limit the ability to meet the treatment specifications (i.e., conservation easement, special landowner desires, etc.)?

SITE DESCRIPTION AND LAND USE HISTORY

Soils type: _____

Range of % slope: _____ Avg. % slope: _____

Site accessibility (roaded or unroaded): _____

Prominent vegetation (i.e., timber type, grassland, riparian area, etc.): _____

Live streams adjacent to or running through the area: _____

Land use history (What was the land use as far back as you have knowledge and how is it being used now?): _____

*** “Defensible and survivable space” refers to the likelihood that a STRUCTURE could either be successfully defended (with fire-fighting apparatus on-site) or could survive (without fire-fighting apparatus). It in no way implies human survival in the event of a fire. ALWAYS evacuate when your property is threatened by fire.**

Signature of Applicant

Date

E-Mail Address: _____

Please provide a map of your property on a separate sheet of paper. Plat maps, aerial photos, USGS Topo are preferred but a sketch map is acceptable. You can also refer to the website <http://svc.mt.gov/msl/mtcadastral> to look up your property and print a map. Delineate general land use areas such as pastures, timbered areas, burned areas, etc., into management units. Include approximate locations of structures and other features (streams, fences, bridges, other improvements, etc.). Show approximate location of proposed project work area and the acreage proposed for cost-share work. If you have developed a land stewardship plan for your property, please include a copy.

As of 09/18/25