

## **Central Texas Communities at Risk (CTX CAR) - Mechanical Fuel Reduction Grant FAQ**

Can you apply for both Hand-cutting to Create Defensible Space and Hand-cut/Mulched Fuel Break?

- No, you may only apply for one treatment per application. Landowners may submit more than one application. Treatment dimensions on one application should not overlap another application. Landowners may be approved for more than one application, but each application will be reviewed individually and prioritized for funding based on best use of the available funding to meet program goals.

What if your contractor backs out after application is signed and returned?

- We require a signed application with current contractor information. If you would like to change contractors after submitting a signed application, you will need to email us and request to change contractors. If approved to change contractors, we will need a new signed application completed with the new contractor's information. If the contractor declines or fails to complete any work by the deadline, then the applicant may re-apply the following grant cycle. This is only available on the first occurrence. Failing to complete the work 2 years in a row will result in automatic disqualification the 3rd cycle/year.

If debris is left on site from contractor, can landowner be reimbursed?

- We will not reimburse until the debris is removed from the property or mechanically reduced to chips, which will be verified by the post-treatment inspection.

What can be reimbursed?

- Reimbursable costs are limited to those expenditures listed on a contractor's invoice that are directly related fuel reduction for defensible space, the installation of the fuel breaks, and/or the rental of equipment that is directly related to the fuel reduction activities or installation of the fuel breaks. The purchase of equipment is not reimbursable. Invoices must have project address and county, description of work conducted, acreage completed and show the balance paid in full or zero balanced.

What if the contractor cannot complete all the acreage before 180 days?

- If work is not completed by the end of the 180-day term, the landowner can be reimbursed for the acreage that was completed.

What if I complete more than originally accepted?

- We will only reimburse what was approved on your acceptance letter for acreage or max reimbursement amount.

What if I want to switch treatment types after acceptance?

- If the landowner wishes to change treatment method, project location/ dimensions, or reimbursement maximum, then the landowner will need to reapply for the next grant



## Central Texas Communities at Risk (CTX CAR) - Mechanical Fuel Reduction Grant FAQ

cycle with their changes. Once the acceptance letter and signed documents are received, only the contractor can be changed.

What if I turn in an incomplete map that does not have all the requirements?

- Your application may not qualify.

Can I submit more than one application?

- Individual landowners may submit more than one application per different project location.
- Landowners may be approved for more than one application, but each application will be reviewed individually and prioritized for funding based on best use of the available funding to meet program goals.

Can previous work be accepted?

- Previous work conducted before pre-inspections will not be accepted.

How were the eligible counties selected?

- The 4 eligible counties were a stipulation that was defined in the federal grant that Texas A&M Forest Service received to fund this program. Goal of this program is to protect homes and structures where the concentration of high-risk fuel types and increasing populations meet with problematic fuel driven fire behavior. Eligibility counties may change from year to year based on funding source.

How are the applications scored?

- These applications will be scored on a matrix system which includes wildfire mitigation prioritization values like: problematic fuel type, burn probability, number of homes protected by treatment, establishment of defensible space, community protection zone, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and Firewise USA Sites into consideration.

Why is debris burning not an acceptable debris removal method in this grant program?

- Debris burning is one of the leading causes of wildfires in the state of Texas. While debris burning can be done safely in certain locations, the short timeframe of this grant program, the time of year, and the populated locations do not make it an acceptable option for this grant program. Additionally, Texas A&M Forest Service procedures require that burning in any of our grant programs utilize contractors that are Texas Department of Agriculture- Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Managers. This removes the liability from the landowner if the burn escapes. Currently securing the services of a Commercial Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Managers to conduct debris/pile burning for projects of this type is challenging and cost prohibitive.
- If your contractor wants to burn the debris generated by the fuel reduction project Texas A&M Forest Service policy will not allow us to fund your project and you would forfeit the grant.