

How the North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) Windbreak Renovation Initiative (WRI) Works

Step 1

Determine if your trees are a Windbreak

Many of North Dakota's important forest resources are in need of maintenance, but not all of them are eligible for WRI. Many tree plantings block the wind and yet are still not windbreaks. For WRI, we define a windbreak as a *system of multiple rows of trees and shrubs primarily designed and engineered to modify the flow of wind.*

Most Likely a Windbreak:

- L-shaped or U-shaped tree planting surrounding a rural farmyard consisting of multiple rows of trees and shrubs with each row being the same species within the row, but most rows being different from one another.
- Long, linear tree plantings across a farm field, usually from field edge to field edge. May be a system of single rows or one multiple-row planting.
- Living snow fence parallel to a roadway.

Most Likely **NOT** a Windbreak:

- Block-style wildlife plantings
- Native forest
- Shade trees (yard trees)
- Privacy screens
- Timber plantations or tree farms

NDFS offers Technical Assistance to owners of all TYPES OF FORESTS!

Even if your trees aren't a Windbreak and therefore not eligible for WRI, we still want to help you maintain and protect them.

Please Contact Us for More Information!

If you're not sure if your trees are a windbreak, please ask!

Step 2

Request a Windbreak Assessment [Link to Google Form https://forms.gle/SYmrKam9j1Wy1rZK6](https://forms.gle/SYmrKam9j1Wy1rZK6)

Your Windbreak Assessment will include recommendations for maintaining, enhancing and improving your windbreak's functionality. You may decide to follow the recommendations—or not! If not, you won't need to go to Step 3.

Step 3

Develop and Finalize a Windbreak Renovation Plan

If you decide to implement the recommendations right away, you will work with an NDFS forester to develop and finalize a two-year WRI Renovation Plan. This plan will be very detailed and specific areas and acreages where windbreak practices will take place will be delineated on a map.

If you already have a Windbreak Renovation Plan it will likely need to be updated to be sure it meets the current standard for WRI.

Now You're Ready to Apply for a WRI Grant! *Turn the page for the next steps*

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Step 4

Apply for a WRI Grant

- Please navigate back to the NDFS website for specific details about the WRI Grant Application.
- Grant Applications are only accepted during certain time periods and contracts are written during certain times and these are not year-round.
- You will be notified if your application is successful and will be sent a Windbreak Renovation Contract that will be signed by you and then by the State Forester. Once the contract is signed by both parties, your grant is officially in place.
- All relevant dates and timelines are posted on the NDFS website and we highly recommend you review them to be sure they meet your needs.

Step 5

Complete Your Renovation

You are the manager of your renovation project and you are responsible for making sure you meet all the applicable project deadlines and keep track of your receipts. But you are not alone— the North Dakota Forest Service is available to assist you along the way.

Step 6

Request Final Inspection

When your Renovation is complete, you will contact NDFS and request a final inspection. The inspection will verify that the WRI Renovation Plan was followed.

Step 7

Submit Receipts and Reimbursement Documentation

NDFS staff will assist you with gathering your receipts and other documentation and submitting your reimbursement request. You will receive a check reimbursing you for a portion of your project costs (see forms for specific details.)

For More Information About How WRI Works, Contact:

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