

North Dakota Forest Service Forest Restoration/Windbreak Renovation Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What practices will this grant pay for?

This program will provide financial assistance for forestry Best Management Practices that **restore, protect and enhance planted or native forest**. These practices **may** include:

- **Thinning**- selective harvest to remove trees of poor quality and closely spaced trees to give the remaining trees more room to grow.
- **Row removal** – removal of entire row of trees. May be cut above ground, at ground level or below ground (with stumps removed) depending on recommendations. Trees may be removed with a tree spade and moved to an alternate location; the cost of this may be eligible for reimbursement.
- **Coppicing**- removing the above ground growth of a tree or shrub to stimulate shoot development from the existing roots. In species that respond to coppicing, when the above ground portion of the plant is severed from the roots, root buds are stimulated to produce shoots that become new above ground stems. These new shoots use the existing root structure to obtain water and nutrients and therefore grow very quickly. Some of the species that may respond to coppicing are: Aspen, cottonwood, willow, redosier dogwood, bur oak, caragana and lilac.
- **Tree/ shrub pruning** - restoration pruning to increase the health and vigor of trees by removing dead wood and reducing potential areas for disease and insect damage.
- **Site preparation** - the use of various mechanical equipment and/or chemical treatments to prepare a site or tree row planting and remove undesirable vegetation and improve site conditions for establishing trees and/or shrubs.
- **Tree/ shrub machine-planting** – Conservation-grade bare root tree or shrub stock planted with a machine tree planter.
- **Tree/ shrub hand-planting** – Conservation-grade tree or shrub stock planted by hand.
- **Weed barrier installation** – Installation of fabric weed mulch by machine or by hand (fabric squares on hand-planted trees)
- **Chemical or mechanical weed control** - Chemical control via ground application using chemicals to control herbaceous weeds or mechanical control of herbaceous weeds through the use of a mower, brush hog, disc or other light equipment during the first year of establishment.
- **Tree tubes** - tree tubes, support posts and installation.
- **Exclusion fencing for wildlife or livestock** – adequate fencing for species to be excluded; supplies and installation.
- **Erosion control measures** – may include seeding, mulching, and/or sediment filters as recommended.

Q. Do I have to sign a contract?

Yes. A ten year agreement will be signed with the North Dakota Forest Service. The landowner will agree to protect and maintain the project and allow NDFS to conduct periodic inspections.

Q. How are funds disbursed?

Funds are disbursed to the landowner on a cost-reimbursement basis according to the terms of the Forest Restoration Agreement.

Q. What do I do with the trees that are removed?

A plan for use of removed biomass is required as part of the Forest Restoration Plan. Burying of all removed trees is not required; however tops of American elm and Siberian elm must be disposed of by burning, burying, chipping or debarking to reduce the risk of spreading Dutch elm disease. Other species of woody material may be burned, buried, hauled away or left in piles as long as applicable local and state laws are followed and the disposal method meets landowner objectives. Consider burning, or burying other species if infected with diseases or infested with insects that may spread to nearby trees.

Q. What is the “Forest Restoration Credit” listed on the application

The forest restoration credit is an incentive credit provided to landowners to help meet their match obligation. It is not a cash payment. The forest restoration credit is calculated by taking the acres of forest restored times the 5-year average non-irrigated cropland rental rate for the county the forest is in, times the ten years of the forest restoration agreement. The rental rate is determined using surveys conducted by the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service and published on the Dakota Department of Trust Lands website: <http://www.land.nd.gov/surface/RentSurvey.aspx>.

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