

Black Hills Conservation Districts

Forest Thinning Grant

The cost share is a minimum of a 50/50 split, with the Conservation District paying 50% of the cost up to a maximum of \$225/acre (50% of \$450/acre total cost) for **thinning only**.

If the landowner does fuel treatment (i.e., slash disposal) concurrent with thinning, the grant will additionally pay up to \$100/acre (50% of \$200/acre cost).

Total payment to landowners for thinning and slash removal is a maximum of \$325/acre (50% of \$650/acre total cost).

- Landowners must have a minimum of five contiguous acres in need of thinning. (Applications from landowners with fewer acres would be considered depending on availability of funds, need, and adjacency to other treatments.)
- The Conservation District reserves the right to limit the number of acres/dollars allocated to an individual landowner.
- Thinning will be defined as thinning in pine stands with an average diameter of six inches breast height or less and/or conifer removal from hardwood stands to improve forest health and increase species diversity and removing conifer encroachment into meadows.
- All thinning slash must be treated to meet the minimum SD Logging Slash Abandonment and Treatment Standards.
- Landowners will be required to maintain project areas for ten years following completion of the project including the control of noxious weeds.

Practices include, thinning overstocked conifer trees, removing ponderosa conifer trees from meadows and grasslands, follow-up fuels reduction, and in some counties include removing conifers from hardwood stands to promote diversity.

Requirements for grant money are based on the criteria set by the grant and the goals identified in the board-approved Conservation District plan.

Currently available in Custer, Fall River, Lawrence, and Pennington Counties.