

Non-commercial Thinning Programs Available to Private Landowners in the Black Hills of South Dakota

Environmental Quality Incentive Program and Conservation Stewardship Program – These are USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) financial assistance programs to assist producers that complete conservation practices to manage their private forestlands.



Cost Share: Flat rate payment per acre

Requirements: (1) applies to private forestland (2) must be located within a CIS priority area (3) must follow written prescription and (4) all slash must be treated to meet the SD Logging Slash Abandonment treatment standards.

Where do I apply? Apply with the District Conservationist at your local NRCS office in the USDA Service Center. USDA Service Centers are located in Belle Fourche, Rapid City, Hot Springs, and Sturgis.

When can I apply? Anytime – Call ahead to schedule an appointment

How Do I Apply? Visit your local USDA Service Center

Contact Information: Belle Fourche 605.892.3368; Rapid City 605.342.0301; Hot Springs 605.745.5716; Sturgis 605.347.4952

Conservation Commission Grant Programs – These programs apply to private forestland owners within Lawrence, Pennington, Custer, and Fall River Counties through the Conservation Districts. The funds and technical assistance are available to assist the completion of forest management practices.



Cost Share: 50% of treatment cost up to a maximum of \$325/ac (half of \$650/ac total project cost)

Requirements: (1) applies to private forestland (2) must follow written prescription and (3) all slash must be treated to meet the SD Logging Slash Abandonment treatment standards.

Where Do I apply? Local Conservation District office

When Can I apply? Anytime – Call ahead to set up an appointment

How do I apply? Pick up an application from the Conservation District office.

Contact Information: Lawrence CD 605.642.3590; Pennington CD 605.342.0301(Ext. 3); Custer CD 605.673.5680; Fall River CD 605.745.5716(Ext. 121)

Fire Hazard & Fuels Reduction Program – This program provides cost-share funds to private landowners to reduce the threat of catastrophic fire by removing hazardous fuels. This is achieved through the creation of fuel breaks and removing ladder fuels and down woody debris from the forest floor.



Cost Share: 50% of Fuels treatment up to a max of \$800/ac (half of \$1,600 total cost) for 6.5 ac around structures/homes

Requirements: Qualification of a property will be at the discretion of the Division of Wildland Fire staff.

Where do I apply? SD Dept. of Public Safety, Division of Wildland Fire

When can I apply? Any time – call ahead to set up an appointment

How do I apply? Pick up an application from any field office

Contact Information: Division of Wildland Fire Urban Interface Specialist - Lead 605.584.2300; Pennington 605.393.8011; Custer/Fall River 605.745.5820