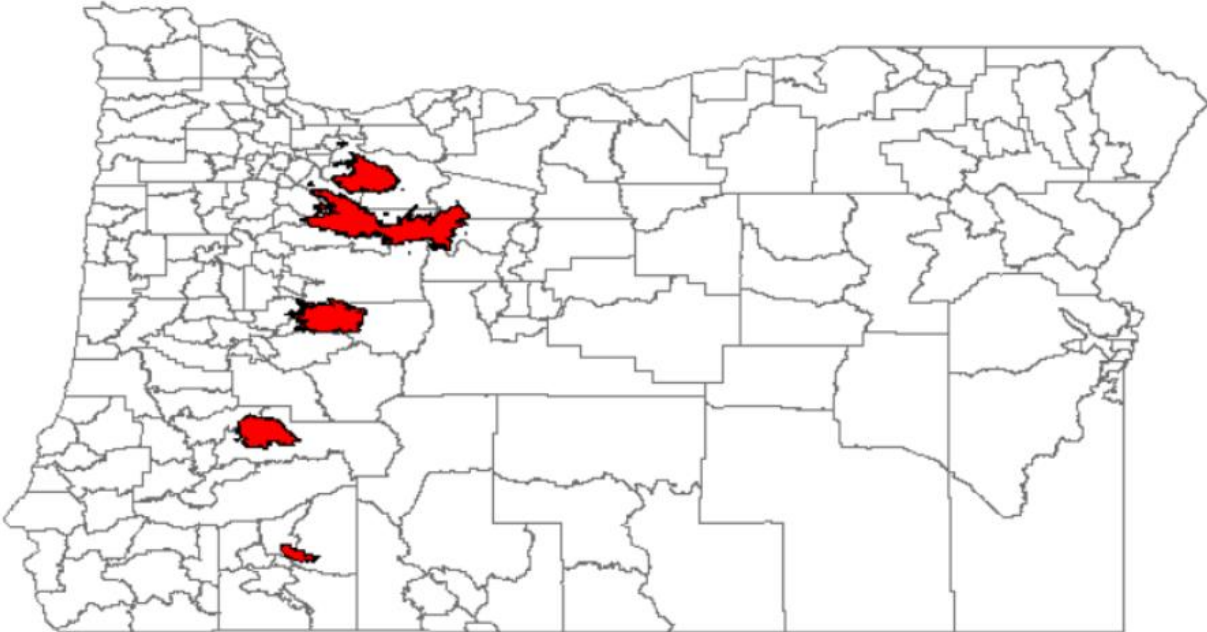


**Western Oregon Cascadia Recovery Effort
2020 Labor Day Wildfire
Forest Landowner Post-Fire Recovery Assistance
Program Application**



This Application Contains:

- **Program Information and Requirements**
- **List of Post-Fire Practices**
- **List of Participating Partners**



Forest Landowner Post-Fire Assistance Program Terms and Requirements

Landowner Eligibility Requirement

The applicant must be a non-federal or non-industrial forest landowner in western Oregon and within at least one of the six main fire footprints from the 2020 Labor Day wildfires: Lionshead, Beachie Creek, Holiday Farm, Riverside, South Obenchain, and Archie Creek. Additionally, landowners will need to apply through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and have an environmental review by the NRCS (CPA-52) to be determined eligible to receive funding for assistance.

Minimum Ownership Requirements

There is no minimum acreage required to apply for post-fire reforestation assistance.

Maximum Ownership Limit

The applicant must own no more than a total of 5,000 forested acres in the state of Oregon. Non-profit organizations are exempt from the maximum acreage limitation.

Matching Funds Requirements/other Assistance and Financial Incentive Programs

Other federally funded assistance or financial incentive programs not administered by this program cannot be used to fund the same practices on the same acres as this assistance from this program.

Prior Written Approval of Eligibility from the NRCS (NEPA compliant)

The acreage within the application must pass a CPA-52 survey conducted by the NRCS at no cost to the landowner.

Forest Management Plan Requirement

The acreage within the application must have a developed and approved Forest Management Plan prior to receiving assistance. Forest Management Plans are **not required during the time of initial application**. Assistance funding from this program can be used to develop FMPs for proposed post-fire recovery acres.

Non-Commercial Requirement

Post-fire assistance is limited to non-commercial operations in which there was a net cost to the landowner to complete the work. In mixed stands, containing both commercial and non-commercial sized trees, only that portion of the acreage occupied by non-commercial trees is eligible for financial assistance.

Practices Must Meet Permit and Regulatory Requirements

The applicant is required to comply with all appropriate legal requirements, including obtaining appropriate permits (e.g., approved Forest Practices Application and burn permits) when required. No assistance funds will be paid for any practice implemented without proper permits, or for any practice which is out of compliance with regulatory requirements at the time of completion.

Cost Documentation Requirement

The applicant (producer/landowner) and/or identified RCPP AFA partners must provide Sustainable Northwest (SNW) with acceptable written documentation (e.g., receipts from contractors and suppliers and/or time logs for do-it-yourself work) of costs incurred for each practice category for which post-fire assistance is to be paid.

Property Access

Applicants/landowners agree to allow NRCS staff, SNW staff, or staff partners authorized by SNW, access to the property to determine assistance needs, feasibility, and specifications; certify practice completion; and to determine compliance with the practice requirements. There is no requirement to allow public access to your property. Landowners will be notified before entry into property by staff associated with this funding assistance.

Property Ownership

Applicants/landowners agree to review the boundaries of post-fire assistance approved projects and certify that they own the property on which the assistance work is to be performed. The NRCS, SNW, and/or any of the identified partners claims no legal accuracy in delineating property boundaries and will be held harmless of any potential trespass.

Indemnification

The landowner acknowledges and agrees that SNW is not responsible and is held harmless against all claims and suits by the landowner or against third parties for damages, injuries to person (including death), property damages, losses, and expenses including court costs and reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of site assessments, environmental evaluations, management planning, and all post-fire remediation activities supported by this funding opportunity.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of this financial assistance program?

This program is intended to assist eligible non-federal forest and non-industrial landowners to implement practices which address post-fire recovery and damage from wildfire on forest lands in western Oregon within the Lionshead, Beachie Creek, Holiday Farm, Riverside, South Obenchain, and Archie Creek fire footprints.

What kinds of post-fire activities are eligible for financial assistance?

Eligible NRCS activities: Forest Management Plan (106), Brush Management (314), Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Conservation Cover (327), Woody Residue Treatment (384), Tree and Shrub Site Prep (490), Tree and Shrub Establishment (612), Forest Stand Improvement (666).

Who funds and administers the program?

The program is funded by a federal Regional Conservation Partnership Program Alternative Funding Arrangement (RCPP AFA) from the USDA NRCS administered by Sustainable Northwest and identified partners within this application.

Who are the partners associated with this program?

Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District, Glide Revitalation, Santiam Long-Term Recovery Group, American Forests, Pure Water Partners: (Eugene Water and Electric Board, McKenzie Watershed Council, McKenzie River Trust, and Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District), Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Upper-Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District.

Who qualifies for post-fire assistance through this program?

Generally, non-federal and non-industrial owners of forest land in western Oregon who are within listed 2020 Labor Day wildfire footprints are eligible to apply. Examples of eligible parties include individuals, families, tribes, non-profit organizations, and homeowners associations.

Is there a designated application period?

No. You can apply any time year round. Applications are approved continuously throughout the year as funds are available. The timing for this financial assistance program is from 2023 to 2027.

Is there a minimum acreage requirement?

No. There is no minimum ownership size or treatment acreage.

Is there a maximum acreage requirement?

Yes. Applicants must own no more than a total of 5,000 acres of forest land in the state of Oregon to be eligible to apply for assistance funds. *(SNW and NRCS reserves the right to waive this requirement on a selective basis. Non-profit conservation organizations are exempt from this acreage requirement).*

Does land need to be in a “forestry” property tax classification to qualify?

No. Forested land qualifies regardless of its property tax classification status.

Do I need to have an approved Forest Management Plan to apply for post-fire recovery assistance?

No. A Forest Management Plan is not required to apply for post-fire assistance. However, an FMP is required to be developed to receive funding for post-fire assistance through this program. Funding from this program can be used to develop an FMP for the treatment area applying for assistance.

Does assistance approval through this program waive my permit and regulatory requirements?

No. The applicant is still required to comply with all appropriate legal requirements, including obtaining appropriate permits (Forest Practices Application, Burn Permits, etc). Legal requirements are extended to hired labor.

What is a CPA-52?

A CPA-52 is an environmental evaluation that is part of the planning that inventories and estimates the potential effects on the human environment of the alternative solutions to resource problems. A CPA-52 is a NEPA analysis to determine impacts of activities on soil, water, air, plant, animal, energy resources, and human social and economic concerns.

Do I need to have a CPA-52 survey conducted on the area I am applying to receive post-fire recovery assistance?

Yes. A CPA-52 survey must be completed to determine eligibility for financial assistance. No cost for the survey will be incurred by the landowner regardless of determination of eligibility.

If I’ve already started or completed a project, can I still qualify for funding?

No. All post-fire assistance plans and projects must receive written approval from the NRCS and SNW before any funding can be applied to pay for any post-fire recovery activities. Any previous work completed cannot be reimbursed through this program. Any eligible post-fire recovery management activities moving forward can be funded through this program once approved.

Can I use funds from this program in conjunction with other federal cost-share or financial incentive program funds for the same project?

Other federally funded programs not administered by the NRCS or SNW cannot be used to pay for the **same practices on the same acres** as this program. Other federally-funded programs (e.g., The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)) may be used on this treatment area for future management activities if assistance is available at the time and you qualify for those activities through the supporting agency.

How much financial assistance can a landowner receive?

Approved applicants may be reimbursed up to 100% of their total actual cost. Total financial will be determined on a case by case basis. .

Are there other terms, conditions, or requirements?

The terms, conditions, and requirements are listed on Pages 2 and 3. **BE SURE TO READ ALL OF THESE TERMS, CONDITIONS, AND REQUIREMENTS CAREFULLY AND COMPLETELY BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION.** You will need to sign the application verifying that you have read, understand, and agree to these terms, conditions, and requirements.

Glossary & Resources

Forest Management Plan: A site-specific plan developed based on the landowner’s management objectives and the professional expertise of a skilled forester to achieve long-term forest management goals.

NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act

EQIP: Environmental Quality Incentive Program

NRCS: Natural Resource Conservation Services

RCPP AFA: Resource Conservation Partnership Agreement, Alternative Funding Arrangement

NRCS activities definitions:

Forest Management Plan (106): A site-specific conservation plan that contains planned forest related conservation treatment activities for one or more resource concerns. Applicable Land Uses: applies to non industrial private forest land and other land uses where the participant’s objective is to engage in forest-related and/or agroforestry conservation practices.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-10/FY23_CPA%20106%20_Forest%20Management%20Plan.pdf

Brush Management (314): The management or removal of woody (non-herbaceous or succulent) plants including those that are invasive and noxious. CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES: On all lands except active cropland where the removal, reduction, or manipulation of woody (non- herbaceous or succulent) plants is desired.

https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/23030/314_NC_CPS_Brush_Management_2017

Herbaceous Weed Control (315): Herbaceous weed treatment is the removal or control of herbaceous weeds including invasive, noxious, prohibited, or undesirable plants. This practice applies to all lands— except active cropland— where herbaceous weeds need to be removed, reduced, or otherwise

manipulated.

[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-09/Herbaceous Weed Treatment 315 Overview.pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-09/Herbaceous_Weed_Treatment_315_Overview.pdf)

Conservation Cover (327): Conservation cover is establishing and maintaining perennial vegetative cover to protect soil and water resources on lands needing permanent protective cover that will not be used for forage production.

[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-09/Conservation Cover 327 Overview.pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-09/Conservation_Cover_327_Overview.pdf)

Woody Residue Treatment (384): Woody residue treatment reduces or otherwise addresses the management of woody plant residues created during forestry, agroforestry or horticultural activities, or resulting from natural disasters. This practice applies to areas with quantities of woody slash and debris requiring treatment.

[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-10/Woody Residue Treatment 384 Overview Oct 2017.pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-10/Woody_Residue_Treatment_384_Overview_Oct_2017.pdf)

Tree and Shrub Site Prep (490): Treatment of sites to enhance the success of natural or artificial regeneration of desired trees and/or shrubs. CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES On all lands suited to growing woody plants where current site conditions are not suitable for the natural or artificial establishment of desired trees and shrubs.

[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-10/Tree Shrub Site Preparation 490 CPS 10 2020.pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-10/Tree_Shrub_Site_Preparation_490_CPS_10_2020.pdf)

Tree and Shrub Establishment (612): Tree/shrub establishment involves planting seedlings or cuttings, seeding, or creating conditions that promote natural regeneration.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-10/Tree-Shrub-Establishment-612-PO.pdf>

Forest Stand Improvement (666): The manipulation of species composition, stand structure, or stand density by cutting or killing selected trees or understory vegetation to achieve desired forest conditions or obtain ecosystem services. CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES All land where the quantity and quality of trees can be enhanced.

[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-09/Forest Stand Improvement 666 CPS.pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-09/Forest_Stand_Improvement_666_CPS.pdf)

Find your local ODF Stewardship Forester:

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/working/pages/findaforester.aspx>

Find your USDA Service Center: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/land/forests>