

FORESTS IN FOCUS 2016

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1) Who can apply for a grant? Anyone can apply – landowners, loggers, foresters, mills, NGOs, non-profits, for-profit companies, Indian Tribes, and MT State Agencies. The only limitation is that no more than one grant will be issued to any particular entity. A person, company, agency, or organization can be a part of more than one grant but they can be the lead on only one. The exception is for a large agency where different groups of people will be leading the effort. Then a particular agency may be the lead on more than one grant.
- 2) How will the scoring work? Grant proposals will be evaluated individually by a scoring committee made up of five DNRC employees. Each person will evaluate the proposal and score it for Work Plan, Timeline, Funding Request, Experience (of company doing the work), Partnerships, and references. Work plan, timeline, and funding request will count 70% of the possible 1000 total points.
- 3) Does low grant request equal highest points? No, the amount of your grant request, on a per acre basis, is evaluated against the existing condition of the stands you want to treat and the type and difficulty of the work you plan to do. The costs must look reasonable compared to the proposed work.
- 4) Is there a minimum or maximum size project? No, however this grant program is looking for projects that will make an impact when compared to the goals stated. Very small projects will not score as well and there are other grant programs available for small projects. However, small projects can be brought together as a larger proposal. The maximum is an operational and financial question for people putting together a proposal. Max grant is \$500,000.00 so it will dictate how many acres you can do given the type of work proposed, the two year operating window, and operational conditions.
- 5) Are DNRC Trust Lands eligible? No, originally there were but the decision has been made that Trust Lands will not be eligible for this grant. Other state lands, such as MT Fish, Wildlife, and Parks lands, are eligible.
- 6) Can proposals that do not generate commercial forest products be submitted? Yes, however one of the goals of this particular grant cycle is to aid Montana's Forest Products Industry. Therefore proposals that do not generate forest products that directly supply Montana

infrastructure, (sawlogs, pulp logs, post & pole material), will not score as well as those that do. Mills can be listed as one of the partners in any proposal.

- 7) Is a cost-share required? No, this grant cycle does not have a cost-share requirement. Cost share is encouraged and when putting together a proposal any type of in-kind or cash contribution to the project should be mentioned. This will not directly score more points but it will potentially help to better explain a proposal's cost structure which may improve the score.
- 8) How will payments be handled? Payments are on a work completed and approved basis. No advance payments and no payments for partially completed work will be allowed. To provide for operating funds a proposal may have up to six sub-divisions or pay units. These six pay units can be completed and grant funds allocated throughout the project's lifespan. Any number up to six is allowed.
- 9) How do I get paid? Once you have completed a pay unit (a specific location and number of acres identified on a map) or the complete project an on-site inspection will be done by Roger Ziesak or a designated representative. If the completed work passes inspection then the Grantee (the entity that signed the grant agreement) submits an invoice and that invoice is paid.
- 10) What does it take to pass an inspection? As part of any grant proposal the applicant is required to explain in detail what the timber stand will look like after treatment is completed. Examples of what to include are tree spacing, types and age classes of residual trees, sub-merchantable tree treatments, special or sensitive area treatments, and so on. The inspector will take the written description and compare that to the work completed. If they match then the work will be approved for payment. If not then additional work would be required before the work is approved and payment would be made.
- 11) What estimates of forest products generated are you looking for? Estimates should be the applicants best guess as to volumes, (in tons or MBF), of all of the products they plan to sell. Actual sold volumes of all forest products generated are required to be listed in the final report.
- 12) When will grant awards be made? The review process will take place within 2-3 weeks of the due date. The Review Committee will then meet to agree on a final list of potential grantees to be presented to the State Forester for approval. Once that is done the grantees will be notified. Grant agreements will then be signed and work can begin.