

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

Environmental Quality Incentive Program - USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) financial assistance program 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 and (2) all slash must be treated to meet the SD Logging Slash Abandonment and 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 set up 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 ext 3; Sturgis: 605-347-4952

Fire Hazard & Fuels Reduction Program – This program provides cost-share funds to private landowners to create or enhance defensible space and reduce the threat of catastrophic fire by removing hazardous fuels through pre-commercial thinning and removal of dead and down materials.



Cost Share: 50-100% of fuels treatment

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

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

When can I apply? Anytime – call ahead to set up an appointment.

How do I apply? You can pick up an application from any field office.

Contact information: Division of Wildland Fire – Urban Interface Specialist.

Phone 605-394-5203

Non-Adjacent Fuels Program – This program is designed to establish fuel breaks in critical areas as well as perform fuels treatments as described above.



Cost Share: 100% of fuel-break construction

Requirements: Property must be located in targeted areas.

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

When can I apply? Anytime – call ahead to set up an appointment.

How do I apply? You can pick up an application from any field office.

Contact information: Division of Wildland Fire – Urban Interface Specialist.
Phone 605-394-2638.