

## 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 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: 605-745-4007; Sturgis: 605-347-4952

**Conservation District Thinning Programs** – This program applies to Lawrence, Pennington, and Custer Counties through the Conservation Districts. Cost share funds and technical assistance are available to private landowners to thin their forest lands..



**Cost Share:** 50% cost share: Maximum payments will not exceed \$175/ac for thinning and \$100/ac for fuel treatment – Total maximum = \$275..

**Requirements:** (1) Minimum 5 acres treated forest land, (2) apply to non-commercial forest stands and (3) all slash must be treated to meet the SD Logging Slash Abandonment and 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;  
Custer CD 605-673-4971

**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.