Hazardous Fuels Transportation Assistance Program Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 8/26/24

1. Who can apply?
   1. Any entity engaged in the transportation of hazardous fuels from, or adjacent to, national forests. All applicants must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) with the System for Award Management (SAM.gov). This is the government-wide web-based

system that supports all contracts, grants, and the electronic payment system. In order to expedite and streamline the grant process and distribution of payments, funding may be awarded to a Grant Administrator(s) who then oversee(s) and distribute(s) funding for the selected proposals and/or projects. The Forest Service will review and award grants and may engage with 3rd party administrator(s) to deliver the program. If an

award is made directly from the Forest Service to an awardee, a full, active registration with SAM.gov is required.

1. What are the eligible projects and forest products?
   1. Applicant has rights/ownership of the hazardous fuels to be transported.
   2. Project demonstrates a transportation deficit.
   3. Projects that do not occur on NFS lands must demonstrate spatial and temporal relevance to NFS lands.
   4. If applicant is not the FS project holder, they must provide documentation with intent to procure hazardous fuels (draft supply agreement showing material origin and quantity).
   5. Eligible material considered hazardous fuels may include logs, roundwood, chips, biomass, and other byproducts from authorized existing Forest Service projects transported to facilities for use in manufacturing wood products and/or wood energy/services. The following are common Forest Service contract or agreement mechanisms:
      * Decked Wood Timber Sale Contracts FS-2400-2 and 6/6(T) when material is 100% post-harvest decked wood timber).
      * No-bid timber sales that have been purchased through a direct sale are eligible and will be evaluated in the same manner as other projects. They will not automatically receive grant funding. Forest Service policy does not require local units to sell no bid sales off the shelf to meet the objectives of this grant program.
      * Products from any Forest Service contract or agreement where haul is not mandatory or a specific pay item may be considered.
      * Post-award service contracts or agreements that contain “Included Timber” (mandatory removal) may be eligible to be modified to re-calculate or remove the haul pay item and thus be eligible if the applicant can demonstrate

transportation of material renders the project not financially viable (e.g.

Timber that is currently not being hauled due to unfavorable market conditions or hauled at a loss). Local and current market conditions will be considered.

* + - Existing contracts or agreements may be eligible for grant funding when unforeseen **significant deviation** occurs between appraised delivery sites and available delivery sites post award.
    - Timber Subject to Agreement (TSA) and other material not listed for mandatory removal in standard timber sale contracts (FS-2400-6/6T, 3T, 3S, & 13/13T) is eligible.
    - By-products from facilities generated from Hazardous Fuels Treatments from, or adjacent to, national forests.

1. Are projects not in Wildfire Crisis Strategy Landscapes or high risk firesheds eligible?
   1. Yes, however, Wildfire Crisis Strategy Landscapes or high risk fireshed is a rating factor in selection.
2. Can I receive the grant first and then obtain projects?
   1. No, project level applications will only be accepted from existing projects, e.g. Forest Service Contracts and Agreements.
3. What are the eligible expenses that can be included in the application?
   1. All eligible expenses must be tied to the transportation of forest products.
   2. Eligible expenses authorized for grants and qualifying match under this program shall be limited to the list below:
      * Transportation of forest products including logs, roundwood, chips, biomass, and other restoration byproducts from authorized projects to facilities for use in wood products and/or wood energy. Transportation mode includes but is not limited to rail, trucking, barge, and combinations of more than one mode.
      * Loading and offloading of wood materials.
      * Costs associated with woodyards, loading facilities, scales, custom chipping, and other items related to timber transport.
      * Debarking for the purpose of preventing spread of bark-dwelling insects to quarantined areas or other areas where responsible officials provide rationale and maps explaining their concerns.
      * Modification of equipment to facilitate efficient transport of timber.
      * Maintenance of equipment directly related to material used under this agreement.
      * Leasing of mobile equipment specifically tied to transportation (does not include “lease to own”).
      * Stationary equipment specifically tied to transportation - with prior written approval from the Forest Service
4. If my organization has business operations in several states can each business apply for the grant or do we submit one application?
   1. Entities that have subsidiaries and affiliates will be treated as one applicant.
5. How do I get paid?
   1. Invoices must be submitted to the administrator, documenting all eligible expenses, including match. The administrator will reimburse applicants. The administrator may be a partner organization or the Forest Service.
6. Can I use the Hazardous Fuels Transportation grant to make a profit?
   1. No, 2 CFR 200.400 (g) states: The non-Federal entity may not earn or keep any profit resulting from Federal financial assistance, unless explicitly authorized by the terms and conditions of the Federal award. The Forest Service will NOT explicitly authorize profit for any funds awarded through these grants. As an example, if a trucking contract to transport material as part of an approved grant is $10,000 and the awardee requests $12,000 of reimbursement under the grant for that expense in order to make a $2,000 profit, the additional $2,000 is not allowable.
7. What are the reporting requirements?
   1. Quarterly performance and financial reporting are required.
8. What are the audit requirements?
   1. Any grant recipient that expends $750,000 or more of Federal funding within a fiscal year must have a Single Audit, as required by 2 CFR 200 part F.