

Example Hazardous Fuels Transportation Assistance Grant Application

Cover page

Title: Gumbo Timber Sale

Applicant: *Gator Restoration LLC*

SAM.gov UEI#: R5G##### (SAM.gov registration is attached)

Contact Information:

Gator Restoration LLC Point of Contact:

- Jason Gator, Executive Director
- 268 Palmetto Ave; Myrtle, Louisiana 78935
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National Forest: XYZ National Forest – Creole Ranger District (USFS Region 8 - Louisiana)

Contract #: 12345

Project: Gumbo Timber Sale

Product type and amount: Biomass, 1350 acres, 20,000 green tons, 3,118 MBF

The Gator Restoration LLC will be hauling longleaf pine chips (biomass) from the XYZ National Forest – Creole Ranger District Gumbo Timber Sale to Bayou Forest Products. The remaining Gumbo Timber Sale units to be harvested include 1,350 acres with optional removal. This material is listed as timber subject to agreement with a provision allowing optional removal and will be left on site according to contract slash provisions without financial assistance for chipping and hauling. We will haul an estimated 20,000 green tons (3,118 MBF) or about 741 chip van loads (27 tons/load average). Our MBF estimate is based on a 6.42 green tons per MBF conversion.)

Note: *Contact the USFS if you are unsure what green ton to MBF conversion to use.*

Funding Requested and Match Provided: \$500,000 in funding requested with \$250,000 in non-federal match – Total Project Cost \$750,000

- **Funding Request:** Requesting \$500,000 to cover the chipping and hauling costs for the optional material that would otherwise be left on site and likely burned by the Forest Service or present a fire hazard. The total project cost is \$750,000
- **Match provided:** \$250,000 (non-federal) from Gator Restoration LLC (\$175,000) and Louisiana Fuels Removal Federation, a tribal-affiliated organization (\$75,000).

Application Narrative

- 1) **Project:** Gumbo Timber Sale
- 2) **National Forest:** XYZ National Forest – Creole Ranger District (USFS Region 8 - Louisiana)
- 3) **Product Type:** Biomass (pine chips)
- 4) **Project Problem Statement:** Gator Restoration LLC is implementing the Gumbo Timber Sale, a hazardous fuels (biomass) removal project on XYZ Forest, that will reduce the fire risk on National Forest System lands located in a very high-risk fireshed. This project entails chipping and removing optional material from the Gumbo Timber Sale. The sale does not require removal of the optional material from the sale area. The haul distance is 150 miles round-trip from the sale area to Bayou Forest Products. Approximately 20,000 green tons (3,118 MBF) of hazardous fuels will be removed from 1,350 acres. This project is supported by the local community.
- 5) **Alignment:** With this transportation grant an additional 20,000 tons of biomass will be removed from 1,350 acres, therefore reducing hazardous fuels. The material would otherwise be left on site to be burned by the USFS.
- 6) **Incentive Justification:** The material is optional removal from the sale area. Due to the low value of the chips and the high costs for transportation, it is not financially feasible to chip and haul this material 150 miles to Bayou Forest Products without assistance.
- 7) **Project Partners:** The Louisiana Fuels Removal Federation, a tribal-affiliated organization, and Gator Restoration LLC have partnered to address the Hazardous Fuels concerns on the XYZ National Forest and neighboring lands/communities. The Louisiana Fuels Removal Federation will provide non-federal grant funding in the amount of \$75,000 towards project implementation (see the attached letter).
- 8) **Strategic Geographic Focus:** The project is located within an area rated as “*Very High*” for Wildfire Hazard Potential. This area is also identified as a priority for treatment within the Louisiana State Forest Action Plan (see the attached project map).
- 9) **Implementation Strategy/Methodology/Timeline:** The Gumbo Timber Sale is currently on-going. This portion of the project, Units 17, 22, and 38 (1,350 acres) will begin August 2026 with planned completion by October 2027, depending on weather.

The Gumbo Timber Sale termination date is 10/31/2028. Material will be decked initially at various landings, then we will subcontract for a mobile chipper to chip on-site at the landings. We will subcontract to load and haul the chips in chip vans to Bayou Forest Products. Hauling of the chips is contracted out and paid on a per trip basis. Our chip deliveries will be scheduled to align with Bayou Forest Products needs and capacity. We will haul an estimated 741 loads at 27 tons per load.

- 10) **Benefits to Rural Communities:** The closest town to the project area is Etouffee, a rural community with a population of 1500, located about 0.2 miles from the project. The town is within the Wildland Urban Interface. This project will help protect the town from wildfire, by reducing fuel loading in the area and fireshed. The Gator Restoration LLC is a small family-owned and operated business employing local employees, including several who live in rural communities ~10 miles from the project area. The Bayou Forest Products facility, located 150 miles from the project area, employs local tribal and community members and provides wages above the county average. The chipping and hauling subcontractors are also from neighboring rural communities.
- 11) **Match:** The Louisiana Fuels Removal Federation, a tribal affiliated organization, will provide non-federal grant funding in the amount of \$75,000 towards project implementation (see the attached signed letter stating the commitment to provide \$75,000 in grant funding for project implementation). Gator Restoration LLC will provide the remaining match funding (\$175,000). For every \$150 of eligible transportation expenses claimed for the project, \$100 will be billed to USFS for reimbursement and \$50 will be paid by Gator Restoration and Louisiana Fuels Removal Federation.
- 12) **Measurable Outcomes and Impact:** Impacts will be measured in acres treated and tons/board feet of hazardous fuels material (chips) removed from the XYZ National Forest. Unit acres completed will be determined and approved by USFS sale administration staff. Tons removed in chips will be determined by weight using the scale at the Bayou Forest Products. All load ticket summaries and weights will be provided as documentation. This project will remove hazardous fuels from an area identified as “Very High” Wildfire Hazard Potential and will reduce fuel loading. The Gumbo Timber Sale is also an important hazardous fuels reduction project that’s located 0.2 miles from the town of Etouffee and will provide a buffer zone from wildfires.
- 13) **Map:** See the attached map.

Budget Categories:

- **Contractual (e.g., contract for services like hauling, equipment rental)**
 - Mobilization of chipper - \$5,553
 - Chipping and Loading - $\$12.20/\text{ton} \times 20,000 \text{ tons} = \$244,000$
 - Hauling - \$648 per trip ($\$24.00/\text{ton}, 27 \text{ tons/trip}$) $\times 741 \text{ trips} = \$480,168$
 - Total Contractual Costs = \$729,721
- **Personnel (actual cost).**
 - Chipping project oversight, gathering weight tickets/grant documentation, etc.
– 325 hours $\times \$57/\text{hour} = \$18,525$
 - **Note: Fringe benefits should be identified separately from salary. No other expenses (e.g., fees, benefits) can be included in “Personnel” beyond direct compensation to individuals for time worked. These personnel costs are only allowable for the portion of time directly associated with the transportation of materials related to this grant.**
- **Fringe benefits.**
 - Total Personnel Costs $\times 9.47\% - \$18,525 \times 9.47\% = \$1,754$

Total Eligible Costs Request = \$750,000

Match

Gator Restoration will meet match requirements by paying one 1/3 of the transportation costs using funds generated from the sale of chips and from grant funding. For every \$150 of eligible transportation expenses claimed for the project, \$100 will be billed to USFS for reimbursement and \$50 will be paid by Gator Restoration and Louisiana Fuels Removal Federation.

Total Eligible Match Contributed = \$250,000

Total Funding Requested for the HFTA Grant = \$500,000