

FY 2024 Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program Eligibility Criteria

Completed application and treatment plan, all applicable maps, W-9 tax form and terms and conditions should be submitted for approval to the address below. Please ensure that all forms are filled out completely, correctly and all appropriate parties have signed and dated the proper forms.

Allen Smith
SPB Program Manager
PO Box 9533
Longview, TX 75608
(903) 297-5094

Eligibility Criteria – **Applications Must be Submitted by February 1, 2024**

- 1) Must own a minimum of 10 contiguous acres of pine species (e.g. loblolly, longleaf, shortleaf, etc.)
- 2) Stand must be a minimum of 120 sq. ft. basal area
- 3) Stand must be a minimum of 70% pine
- 4) Priority will be given to stands within one of 21 priority counties which include: **Angelina, Cass, Cherokee, Hardin, Harrison, Houston, Jasper, Liberty, Marion, Nacogdoches, Newton, Panola, Polk, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler and Walker**
- 5) Stand must be thinned to 80 sq. ft. basal area or less
- 6) Treatment must be completed within 14 months of application approval date
 - Thinning treatment cannot begin until after approval of application

FY 2024 Cost Share Rates

- 1) \$50/acre for both individual and partnership/trust ownerships
- 2) 50% of costs of services provided by private consulting forester, not to exceed \$5/acre
- 3) Maximum cost-share allowed per federal fiscal year (October 1 – September 30) is \$5,000 for all approved cases

Submitted applications will be reviewed and ranked by Texas A&M Forest Service and funding will be provided to those applications with highest ranking scores. Ranking will be based upon forest conditions, proximity to national forests, and previous participation in the program. All applicants will be notified as to whether or not their application has been approved by March 1, 2024.

Upon Completion of approved/funded treatments, TAMFS will visit the site to verify the treatment has been implemented to program standards. The TAMFS forester will submit a completion summary which includes the completion date, tons of pulpwood removed (copy of mill receipts will be needed to verify the amount and product removed from site) and landowner's signature verifying the completion of the treatment. If a consulting forester is involved and cost-share funds are being requested a receipt showing the amount paid to the consulting forester should be included with the completion summary. The completion summary will be submitted to the Program Manager at the address above for review and processing for payment.

If you have any questions, please contact your nearest Texas A&M Forest Service office or visit <http://TAMFSweb.tamu.edu/spb>.