



Western Bark Beetle Grant

July 2025

Objective: Prevention or early mitigation of bark beetle outbreaks by using management practices that reduce high-risk scenarios (e.g., offsite seed lots, high density, and other contributors to drought stress; fire damage; pest attractants such as fresh pine slash and large-diameter Douglas-fir blowdown) and promote forest resilience.

How to apply



Landowners may apply for this grant year-round by writing a brief statement of work. Applications are reviewed periodically. ODF stewardship foresters accept projects based on levels of bark beetle risk and available funds. *ODF grants:*

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODF/AboutODF/Pages/GrantsIncentives.aspx>

Prioritization

Annual funding is limited and applied statewide. Priority will be given to:

- ✓ Stands predisposed to beetle outbreaks such as those experiencing severe drought stress (<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?OR>), wildfire, or storm damage.
- ✓ Projects that span larger areas to better reduce pest pressure on a landscape-level.

Requirements

Grants funded prior to 2025 follow previous guidance

- 100% of project costs covered and paid direct to contractor
- Cannot pay for work landowners do themselves (unless landowner has a registered business in Sam.gov)
- Applicable for any non-federally owned or managed land (may include tribal fee lands)
- May be used in conjunction with other grants
- Commercial operations* (profitable thinning, salvage, harvest) are not eligible for reimbursement unless portions of work that are not profitable can be calculated separately. For example, if 60% of logs removed during a thinning are merchantable, 40% of the costs of the thinning may be reimbursed.
- Work must be completed according to the plan agreement within 2 years from contract signing, or funding will be reallocated to another project.

Allowed treatments

- Non-commercial* thinning to reduce density and remove less resilient trees
- Removal of living, severely stressed trees that will attract beetles (e.g., drought and wildfire-damaged trees)
- Burn/chip/masticate/removal of fresh (≤ 1 year old) 3-8" diameter pine slash, may include pine slash from profitable operations
- Application of accepted insecticides and repellents to protect high-value trees from bark beetle infestation (e.g., MCH for Douglas-fir). Notification is required for both General and Restricted Use Pesticides.
- Removal of infested, live trees (green needles, frass,/pitch, no exit holes) *if* combined with treatment to address initial cause of tree stress. Sanitization is ineffective if the initial stress is not addressed.
- Replant with more climate-adapted species/genotypes/seed lots.



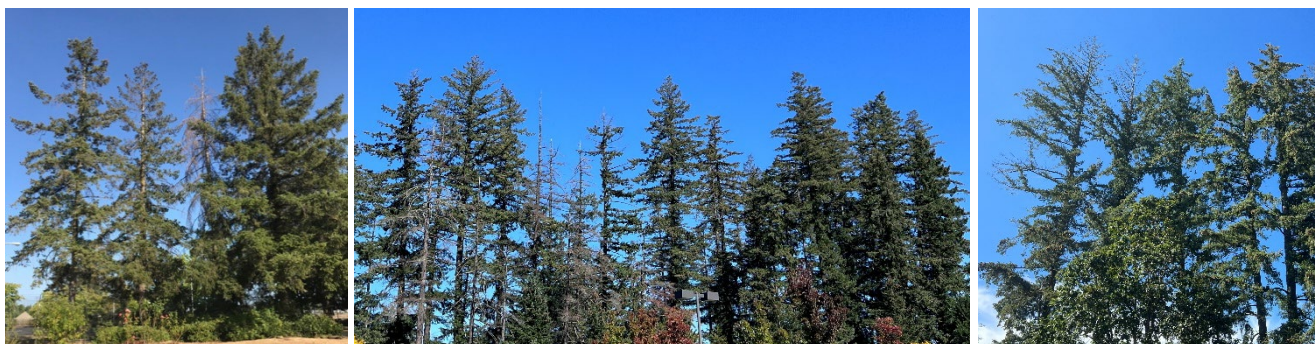
Treatments that are not accepted include: commercial operations*, thinning below recommended levels, disposal of dead trees or >1 year old pine slash, wildfire-specific treatments such as pruning and prescribed fire (although combining this grant with fuels reduction grants is encouraged), reforestation of species/genotypes/seed lots inappropriate for the site under changing climate conditions.

Tracking

ODF Stewardship Foresters will track projects to ensure compliance with plan agreement and completion within two years. Records must include pre- and post-treatment photos.

High-risk beetle outbreak scenarios

1. Drought-stressed trees (e.g., thin crowns, topkill) attract bark beetles:
<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/Documents/forestbenefits/Drought.pdf>



Thin crowns, topkill, or asymmetrical crowns are indicators of drought stress

- Thin to levels that can be supported under future drought conditions:
<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/documents/em9206.pdf>
 - Remove heavily stressed and damaged trees
 - Shift toward more drought-tolerant native species (incense cedar, white oak, pine) or more climate-adapted seed sources: <https://seedlotselectiontool.org/sst>
2. Blowdown or decked large (>10" DBH) Douglas-fir attracts Douglas-fir bark beetle:
<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/Documents/forestbenefits/Slashmanagement.pdf>
 - Apply MCH repellent and/or remove downed trees before the 1st April or 2nd April after the event.
<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/Documents/forestbenefits/mch-for-douglas-fir-beetle.pdf>
 3. Current-year small diameter (3-8") pine slash attracts Ips beetles:
<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/Documents/forestbenefits/Slashmanagement.pdf>
 - Slash created October through December can be scattered on the ground but outside this window slash must be burned, chipped, masticated, or buried before April or within 2 months of creation.



Brown frass indicates bark



Topkill indicates Ips beetles