Florida Timber Recovery Block Grant Program

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Presentation Overview

• History of the Grant: Development process, how did we get here?
• Timeline going forward: What can I expect?
• Eligibility requirements & damage zones: Am I eligible?
• Application process: What are the steps involved?
• First step to participate: How do I sign up? Will I talk with the same person?
• Application documentation: What do I need to provide for my application?
• Site Inspections: Coordination with Forestry, site inspection, and loss verification
• Payment Process: How do I get paid?
• Questions and Answers: Open forum
THE FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE

History of the Grant

Hurricane Michael made landfall

2019 Disaster Supplemental Bill

USDA announces $380m for the State of Florida

USDA Signed Federal-State Agreement

Federal funds obligated to the State of Florida

Community Outreach

Registration Opens for Producers to sign up
Timeline: What to expect

• Once you complete the first step of signing up online, you will be assigned an Account Manager (AM).
• This AM will be your primary point of contact throughout the life of the grant.
• The AM will contact you within five (5) business days from when you complete the sign-up form.
• The AM will assist you with completing your application and all necessary documentation in order to receive financial assistance.
• Please wait for your AM to contact you before filling out your application.
Eligibility Requirements

• Definition of an Eligible Producer
  • Stand must be in an eligible county
  • Must be owner of record, or lessee who has rights to the timber crop at the time of application, of a minimum of 10 contiguous acres of nonindustrial private forest land (NIPF)

• To be eligible for the block grant, applicants must fall into one of the following categories:
  • Citizen of the United States;
  • Resident alien;
  • Partnership consisting solely of citizens or resident aliens of the US; or
  • Corporation, limited liability corporation, or other farm organizational structure organized under State law consisting solely of citizens or resident aliens of the US.

Eligible Counties

- Bay
- Calhoun
- Franklin
- Gadsden
- Gulf
- Hamilton
- Holmes
- Jackson
- Jefferson
- Leon
- Liberty
- Madison
- Okaloosa
- Suwannee
- Taylor
- Wakulla
- Walton
- Washington
Damage Zones

Catastrophic = Zone 1
- >=50% stems broken, multiple trees down across stand, trees bent more than 45 degrees

Severe = Zone 1
- 33-49% stems broken, tops broken throughout stands, trees bent more than 45 degrees

Moderate = Zone 2
- 25-32% stems broken, branches and limbs broken

Light = Zone 3
- <=24% stems broken, minor damage to overall stands, trees bent less than 45 degrees
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIMBER TYPE - PINE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Assigned Volume in Tons per acre</td>
<td>Assigned Value per ton</td>
<td>Payment per acre to landowner</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>$12.37</td>
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<td>Assigned Value per ton</td>
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<td>31+</td>
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For Eligible Applicants - Payout Schedule: 25% - 34% Timber Loss

(Assigned Volume x Assigned Value x Damaged Stand Acreage) x 25% Payment Factor
### For Eligible Applicants - Payout Schedule: 35% or higher Timber Loss

\[(\text{Assigned Volume} \times \text{Assigned Value} \times \text{Damaged Stand Acreage}) \times 50\% \text{ Payment Factor}\]

#### TIMBER TYPE - PINÉ

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<td>$12.18</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>$18.11</td>
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All Phases - Process from Start to Finish

Phase 1
- Community Outreach
- Producer completes sign-up form
- Producer works with account manager to complete application documentation
- Completed application is reviewed

Phase 2
- Application moves to Site Inspection
- FFS Staff to visit and review producer’s stand to determine percentage of Timber Loss and eligibility
- Site Inspections forms completed and reviewed

Phase 3
- DEM Staff reviews all documentation from Phase 1 and Phase 2
- DEM Staff populates Payment Summary Form, Timber Loss Summary Sheet and Timber Loss Site Inspection Sheet
- DEM Staff sends all forms to producer to review/sign/return
Phase 1 - Get Started: How to sign up

• Sign up online using the TRBG intake form located here:
  • www.floridadisaster.org/timber
• If you do not have access to a computer or smartphone, potentially use a friend’s or family member’s. If that is not an option, please call the hotline number (850) 270-8317 and a staff member can assist.
• After you sign up, you will receive a confirmation email. Once you get this, there is no further action required until your Account Manager contacts you.
• Our team will then review your data to determine the location of your stand and assign the appropriate damage zone.
• You will then be assigned to an Account Manager (AM).
• Your AM will contact you and will guide you through the process from start to finish.
### Phase 1 - Required Documentation: What to prepare

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All Applications</th>
<th>Completed Timber Recovery Block Grant Application</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Complete thorough list of County Parcel ID #’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Power of Attorney Forms <em>(if applicable)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lease Records <em>(if applicable)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Split Property Agreement Form <em>(if applicable)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Land Management Plan – Farm/Stand Maps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Photographs of timber loss <em>(if available)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Timber Planting Records <em>(if available)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Third Party Loss Certification <em>(if available)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Must be registered with MyFloridaMarketplace (MFMP)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Phase 2 - Site Inspections Completed by FFS

• Once your application enters Phase 2...
  • A staff member will complete the necessary site inspection and reports to determine your percentage of Timber Loss.
  • Should your stand already be cleared, alternative methods will be used to determine your percentage of Timber Loss utilizing records that you provide.
Phase 3 - Application Review / Quality Assurance

- Staff will review all documentation that you have provided along with reports from the field work and generate a payment summary form that lists your stand detail to include:
  - County
  - Age
  - Timber Type
  - Timber Loss Percentage
  - Acreage
  - Total Payment Amount
- An independent reviewer will double check all documents provided up to this point for completeness and accuracy.
Phase 3 - Payment Forms / Producer Responsibility

- Once Phase 3 is complete, your final documentation package is ready to be sent to you for review, signature and return. The documents you will be required to sign to complete the application process are below:

  - Timber Crop Loss Payment Summary Form
  - Timber Loss Inspection Summary Form – Plot Detail
  - Timber Loss Summary Form – Stand Detail

  - Can be e-signed and returned

- Once all forms are received, your payment will begin to be processed. Typically the time it takes from when you return the forms to when you receive payment is 4-6 weeks. At this stage you have completed 90% of the process. Last and final step will be for you to receive payment.
Applicants must register through both MyFloridaMarketPlace (MFMP) and MyFloridaCFO systems.

Registration for each take about 5-10 minutes.

MFMP: https://vendor.myfloridamarketplace.com/
  - Registration will require access to email and has several steps

MyFloridaCFO: https://flvendor.myfloridacfo.com/
  - For this registration, you will need to input your social security number (SSN) if you are applying in your name or your Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) if you are applying in a business entity name.
• Electronic Form Signing
  • Based on our experience with agricultural grants, we have found that access to scanners, printers, etc. are few and far between in the field.
  • In order to be more convenient and efficient with your time, the USDA and the State of Florida have allowed the use of electronic signatures.
  • This will only require the producer to have access to email and a computer or smartphone instead of a printer, scanner, and computer.
  • This will speed up the process for producers to receive payment from the program.
Questions presented by participants during the Open Forum Section:

Q: Who is the best person to submit an application? The absentee landowner or an on-site manager?
A: A manager can be the point of contact for an application but the manager will need a POA form from the landowner. The application will be listed under the landowner’s name and payment will be made to the landowner. The best person to be the point of contact would be whoever knows the property best. Your Account Manager can provide you with a standard POA form, or you can provide your own.

Q: If you have more than 2,500 acres, how do you select the area covered for loss?
A: Producers can identify which parcels and timber stands they would like to include in their application. We recommend that you apply for your most valuable timberland so you can maximize your payment amount- mature hardwoods and pine.
• Questions presented by participants during the Open Forum Section:
  
  • Q: Is this program available to government agencies and/or nonprofits?
  
  • A: No. Only private timberland owners are eligible to receive funding. FSA language: “non-industrial private forest land.”
  
  • Q: Will you wait until all applications are in by the November 20th deadline before issuing payments?
  
  • A: No, we are reviewing applications currently and will process them for payment as they are completed. The first payments were issued this week.
  
  • Q: Am I eligible if some of my damage occurred after the storm due to pine beetles because the trees were stressed as a result of the storm?
  
  • A: Your trees may be eligible. We encourage you to apply whether or not you think you are eligible and a forester can make the final determination.
• Questions presented by participants during the Open Forum Section:
  • **Q**: Will this presentation be made available for producers and landowners that were not able to attend after these presentations are concluded?
  • **A**: Yes, a recording of these webinars will be made available on the program website at FloridaDisaster.org/Timber. There is also other useful information on the website, including *Producer Frequently Asked Questions* and *What to Bring to Your Block Grant Appointment* guides.
Florida Irrigation Recovery Block Grant Program

Wesley Sapp
Deputy State Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Florida DEM

Alison Fairbrother
Agricultural Recovery Program Manager, Florida DEM

August 2020
Eligibility Requirements

• Definition of an Eligible Producer
  • Must be in an eligible county
  • Must be owner of record of irrigation infrastructure that was damaged by Hurricane Michael

• To be eligible for the block grant, applicants must fall into one of the following categories:
  • Citizen of the United States;
  • Resident alien;
  • Partnership consisting solely of citizens or resident aliens of the US; or
  • Corporation, limited liability corporation, or other farm organizational structure organized under State law consisting solely of citizens or resident aliens of the US.

Eligible Counties

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- Holmes
- Jackson
- Jefferson
- Leon
- Liberty
- Madison
- Okaloosa
- Suwannee
- Taylor
- Wakulla
- Walton
- Washington

THE FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
FLORIDA DEPT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
Center Pivots Affected by Hurricane Michael
• In order to receive payment from the grant, the applicant’s crop in the field for which the destroyed or damaged center pivot is irrigating must have suffered a minimum of 15% loss due to Hurricane Michael.

• For destroyed or damaged irrigation center pivots, the State will use the following formula to determine the payment amount:
  • Up to $70 per linear foot, not to exceed actual repair/restoration costs, times
  • Total Linear footage, minus
  • Any insurance payment received for the same loss, if applicable, times
  • 50% payment factor

• Total calculated payment to a producer may not exceed the producer’s actual cost to replace, repair, or raise the center pivots.
For Eligible Applicants - Insurance Requirements

• Producers who receive a payment must agree to obtain Federal Crop Insurance for the next available two consecutive years for which such coverage is available.
  • Either 2021 and 2022 or 2022 and 2023 Crop Years

• Crop insurance must be purchased at the 60/100 level of coverage (or equivalent) where insurance is available. Whole Farm Revenue Protection at the 60 percent level may also be purchased.

• Coverage will need to be in the same county for the crops, trees, bushes, and/or vines grown within the circumference/area irrigated by the center pivot irrigation system for which benefits are received.
For Eligible Applicants - Source Documentation

- You must provide proof of expense and proof of payment for eligible expenses for any amount of payment that you are eligible to receive under the program. Proof of expenses and proof of payment for those expenses must be provided to the State prior to the release of grant funds to the producer.
  - Proof of expenses: valid invoices for equipment or services
  - Proof of payment: cancelled checks, credit card statements, bank statements, or valid receipt for cash purchases
- Center pivot irrigation includes everything in a center pivot structure. Any structure below the ground surface including pumps and wells or generators are NOT eligible.
- Examples of Eligible Expenses
  - Replacement of damaged or destroyed center pivot irrigation systems.
  - Repair of damaged or destroyed center pivot irrigation systems.
  - Raising of overturned center pivot irrigation systems.
Applicants must register through both MyFloridaMarketPlace (MFMP) and MyFloridaCFO systems. Registration for each takes about 5-10 minutes.

- MFMP: https://vendor.myfloridamarketplace.com/
  - Registration will require access to email and has several steps

- MyFloridaCFO: https://flvendor.myfloridacfo.com/
  - For this registration, you will need to input your social security number (SSN) if you are applying in your name or your Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) if you are applying in a business entity name
Producer Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) continued...

• Questions presented by participants during the Open Forum Section:
  
  • **Q**: Will producers who stood up their pivots on their own time using their own equipment not be eligible for reimbursement for their work?
  
  • **A**: If a producer repaired their own system, they should provide in-kind expense documentation to their account manager. The account manager will review the documentation and verify that it is eligible. Regardless of whether you think you will be eligible, we encourage you to register for the grant and coordinate with your account manager on your eligibility determination.