

USDA Farm Service Agency Announces the Emergency Forest Restoration Program Signup Period for Douglas County

The Douglas County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has been approved to accept applications for the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) to address 2018 drought and 2019 snow damages.

EFRP was established to assist Nonindustrial Private Forest (NIPF) Landowners to rehabilitate timber ground damaged by natural disasters. Practices available under the EFRP Signup include: removing debris and dead trees from timberland, replanting timber and road development located on NIPF lands that are deemed necessary by the Oregon Dept of Forestry (ODF). Common practices and land **not** eligible for EFRP include: planting of ornamental, nursery or Christmas trees; building roads not located on NIPF; and tree thinning for management purposes.

EFRP provides payments to eligible owners of NIPF land to enable the owners to carry out emergency measures to restore land damaged by a natural disaster. **EFRP sign-up will begin on June 3, 2019, and end on August 1, 2019.**

After applications are received, the ODF will provide technical assistance by evaluating the damage and developing a plan to restore the NIPF land. The local FSA County Committee will determine land eligibility and approve applications.

In order to meet eligibility requirements, NIPF land must have existing tree cover or had tree cover immediately before the natural disaster occurred and be sustainable for growing trees. The land must also be owned by any nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation or other private legal entity that has definitive decision-making authority over the land. The natural disaster must have resulted in damage that if untreated would impair or endanger the natural resources on the land and/or materially affect future use of the land.

Please contact the Douglas County FSA office at 541-673-6071 X2 for more information or visit <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>. The Douglas County FSA Office is located at 2593 NW Kline St., Roseburg, OR.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).