



2024 Guidelines

Forestry Financial Cost Share Program

The San Juan Islands Conservation District (SJICD) has received funding to assist forest landowners and residents in improving forest health and wildfire preparedness in San Juan County through a cost share reimbursement program. Guidelines are provided below.

Eligible Applicants

This opportunity is available to individual private property owners within San Juan County (no minimum acreage requirement), with a need for defensible space or forest thinning treatments as determined by a technical assistance site visit by a forest planner.

Eligible Management Practices

Forest health and wildfire preparedness best management practices (BMPs), including the following (see **Eligible Practices and Specifications** on page 3 for more details):

- Small-diameter (<8" dbh) tree thinning
- Woody residue treatment (chipping, lop and scatter, biochar conservation burn)
- Defensible space projects within the [Home Ignition Zone](#) that include:
 - Vegetation removal
 - Hardscaping
 - Gutter/roof maintenance
 - Tree/Shrub pruning
- Home hardening, including:
 - vent screening
 - deck and home skirting
 - attached deck improvement
 - removal of flammable fencing/attachments

General Terms

- A free Wildfire Ready Home Visit or Forest Health Assessment is required to determine eligibility.
- SJICD will reimburse landowners up to 75% of the total cost of the project, not to exceed \$3,500 total reimbursement amount.
- In order to receive reimbursement, projects must be fully implemented, meet established standards, and be verified and approved by SJICD.
- Landowners will contribute 25% cost match, with either a monetary or in-kind labor contribution (see next page for details).
- Work can be carried out by the landowner, or the landowner can hire a qualified contractor to complete the work.
- Work that has already been completed prior to receiving a signed contract is not eligible for reimbursement.
- SJICD reserves the right to deny services based on funding and capacity.
- The application period will remain open until all funding is allocated (however, funds are limited, and may be allocated quickly).
- Projects must be completed by May 1, 2025.

Application Process

1. **Assessment.** Schedule a site visit with SJICD to perform a Wildfire Ready Home Visit or Forest Health Assessment. Contact cathi@sjicd.org for more information.
2. **Project Specifications.** SJICD staff will develop project specifications based on the assessment in Step 1 and email them to the applicant.
3. **Cost Share Application.** Applicant will fill out an application, including cost estimates for completing the proposed project. Total estimated costs should be based on the contractor's estimates if the applicant is choosing to hire a contractor to complete the work, or material and labor prices if applicant is choosing to complete the work themselves.
4. **Application Review.** Applications will be reviewed by SJICD staff and approved by the SJICD Executive Director. If approved, applicants will complete a landowner agreement and will be notified of permission to proceed once all paperwork is completed.

Criteria

Priority will be given to the following:

- areas deemed high and medium risk in the [2012 San Juan County Community Wildfire Protection Plan](#)
- forest stand with a density of trees that has or will result in forest health issues (e.g., drought stress, disease, insect infestations), as articulated in a forest management plan
- treatment areas that protect infrastructure
- treatment areas for forested stands that contain species and populations of concern
- treatment areas along roads that improve access in case of a wildfire
- cost-effectiveness of funding for activities

Payment

- SJICD will reimburse the applicant up to 75% of total project costs and no more than \$3,500 total reimbursement.
- Upon work completion, a site visit by SJICD to confirm that work meets practice specifications will be required prior to reimbursement.
- Invoices, receipts or other proof of payment documentation must be provided with requests for reimbursement. Applicants will only receive reimbursement after they have paid the contractor and provided a receipt, or after they have purchased materials, provided receipts, and implemented the practices themselves.
- Projects must be completed by May 1, 2025.

More on in-kind Labor Contributions

In-kind labor contributions and use of personally owned machinery by applicants to complete a cost-share project are eligible to be counted toward the applicant's share of out-of-pocket project costs (25% of total project cost, not to exceed \$1,166). The value of in-kind labor and use of personally owned machinery contributions will be based on the rates listed in the below table.

In-Kind Work Description	Value Rate
Manual labor	\$25/hour
Person with power equipment (chainsaw, powered pole saw, etc.)	\$41/hour
Small Tractor (up to 40 hp)	\$78/hour
Medium Tractor (40-70 hp)	\$101/hour
Masticator	\$175/hour
Pickup Truck	\$28/hour
6-inch chipper	\$26/hour
12-inch chipper	\$60/hour
Dump trailer	\$18/hour



Eligible Practices and Specifications

The Best Management Practices (BMPs) listed below are the practices that are eligible for cost share reimbursement during the 2024 round of funding. Practice Specifications are standards that must be followed in the implementation of a funded project. Failure to follow these standards could result in a refusal of San Juan Islands Conservation District to provide reimbursement to the landowner until or unless the BMP can be brought to standard. The Design Life indicates the number of years that the BMP will be expected to be maintained, understanding that in some cases, depending on the BMP, some amount of vegetative regrowth is expected. Please work with SJICD to determine appropriate BMPs for your project proposal.

BMP (NRCS code)	Practice Description	Design Life
Brush Management (314)	The management or removal of woody (non-herbaceous or succulent) plants including those that are invasive and noxious.	10 years
Woody Residue Treatment (384)	The treatment of residual woody material that is created due to management activities or natural disturbances.	10 years
Structures for Wildlife (649)	A structure installed to replace or modify a missing or deficient wildlife habitat component.	5 years
Tree/Shrub Pruning (660)	The removal of all or part of selected branches, leaders or roots from trees and shrubs.	10 years
Forest Stand Improvement (666)	The manipulation of species composition, stand structure, or stand density by cutting or killing selected trees or understory vegetation to achieve desired forest conditions or obtain ecosystem services.	10 years

BMP (WSCC code)	Practice Description	Design Life
Home Hardening (SCC40) – X (select one from below):	Modifications to a house to reduce the chance of ignition from direct flame, firebrand showers and radiant heat coming from outside of the defensible zone. Choose one or more of the specific modifications below:	10 years
Home Hardening (SCC40) – Vent Screening	<p>Replace or cover roof, under eave, wall, and crawl space vent openings that lack 1/8-inch or smaller corrosion-resistant metal mesh screens with 1/8-inch corrosion-resistant metal mesh screening. Plumbing and dryer vents do not need to be screened.</p> <p>Stovepipe/chimney outlets may also be screened but these outlets should be covered with metal screen material with openings no smaller than 3/8-inch and no larger than 1/2-inch.</p> <p><u>Practice Standards</u> 1/8-inch corrosion-resistant metal mesh screens must be installed over all roof, under eave, wall, and crawl space vent openings that lack this size or smaller metal mesh screens on home or residential structure containing habitable space.</p>	10 years

BMP (WSCC code)	Practice Description	Design Life
Home Hardening (SCC40) – Deck and Home Skirting	<p>Install noncombustible skirting material to enclose open space beneath decks and habitable structures where flammable debris and windblown embers could accumulate.</p> <p><u>Practice Standards</u> Attached decks or porches 4 feet or less above ground must fully enclose the underdeck area with noncombustible, 1/8-inch corrosion-resistant metal mesh screening material or with noncombustible wall covering/cladding material (e.g., fiber cement boards, metal, etc.).</p> <p>Open spaces beneath home or residential structure containing habitable space, such as bay window bump outs, must fully enclose the understructure area with noncombustible, corrosion-resistant mesh material with openings not to exceed 1/8th inch or with noncombustible wall covering/cladding (e.g. fiber cement boards, metal, etc.).</p>	10 years
Home Hardening (SCC40) – Attached Deck Improvement	<p>Install metal flashing between flammable deck and where it meets siding of home or residential structure containing habitable space and replace flammable deck boards nearest to residence with Class A fire rated or noncombustible material.</p> <p><u>Practice Standards</u> Metal flashing must be installed between ledger board and deck joists. Metal flashing must extend at least 6 inches above deck board surface and 6 inches down from top of ledger board.</p> <p>Flammable deck boards must be replaced with Class A fire rated deck boards or other noncombustible material for nearest 1 foot from residence.</p>	10 years
Home Hardening (SCC40) – Removal of Flammable Fencing and Similar Attachments	<p>Remove and/or replace combustibile fencing and/or similar attachments to home or residential structure containing habitable space and any of its attachments.</p> <p><u>Practice Standards</u> All flammable fencing or similar small flammable structures (e.g. railings, arbors, stairs, etc.) attached to the home or residential structure containing habitable space and any of its attachments must be removed or replaced with noncombustible material (metal, fiber cement, etc.) from the point of attachment out to 8 horizontal feet at minimum, where feasible.</p>	10 years
Home Ignition Zone (SCC41) – X (select one from below):	Reduction of fire risk by addressing three zones of activity (immediate, intermediate, extended) with different treatments applied depending on the zone.	
Home Ignition Zone (SCC41) – Vegetation Removal	Vegetation removal in 0–30-foot area adjacent to the foundation footprint of home or residential structure containing habitable space and any of its flammable attachments. Removal of root wads is optional.	2 years

BMP (WSCC code)	Practice Description	Design Life
	<p><u>Practice Standards</u> All vegetation in 0-5-foot areas adjacent to home or residential structure containing habitable space, its flammable attachments (e.g., decks, etc.) and all vegetation beneath attachments must be removed where feasible.</p> <p>All highly flammable woody and dead vegetation in the 5-30-foot area must be removed where feasible around the home or residential structure containing habitable space and its flammable attachments (e.g. decks, etc.).</p> <p>Cost-share eligible vegetation removal is limited to ground vegetation and small diameter (<8" in diameter at breast height) trees. Removal of trees larger than 8" in diameter at breast height are not eligible for cost-share.</p>	
Home Ignition Zone (SCC41) – Hardscaping	<p>Remove any flammable mulch or other debris and install rock, gravel, concrete, or similar non-flammable material over the 0-5-foot area adjacent to the foundation footprint of home or residential structure containing habitable space and any of its flammable attachments. Practice can include use of landscape edging material, landscape fabric, and installing hardscaping material under raised attached decks or similar attachments.</p> <p><u>Practice Standards</u> Must remove flammable vegetation, mulch or other flammable debris from all of the 0-5-foot area adjacent to home or residential structure containing habitable space, and any of its flammable attachments where feasible.</p> <p>The 0-5-foot area must be covered with 5/8" clear gravel or larger sized free draining gravel or rock material and it must be installed to a depth of at least 2 inches (below grade if no edging used).</p>	5 years
Home Ignition Zone (SCC41) – Gutter/Roof Maintenance	<p>Clean roof and gutters on habitable structures to remove leaves, needles and other fine flammable plant debris that could catch embers.</p> <p><u>Practice Standards</u> Roof and gutter cleaning must be completed immediately before wildfire season or as soon as possible after the beginning of fire season (usually early July) to mitigate the vulnerability of ignition by windblown embers landing on the roof or in gutters during wildfire season.</p>	1 year
Home Ignition Zone (SCC41) – Tree/Shrub Pruning	<p>Within the 0-30-foot area around home or residential structure containing habitable space and any of its attachments, remove tree and shrub branches to create separation between the foliage of trees, shrubs, and structures.</p>	5 years

BMP (WSCC code)	Practice Description	Design Life
	<p>Along driveway or access road to home or residential structure containing habitable space, remove tree and shrub branches to create unobstructed space for vehicle travel (see also NRCS BMP 383 above).</p> <p><u>Practice Standards</u> Retaining a minimum of 50% Live Crown Ratio (LCR) is required for all trees and shall be prioritized before all other pruning practice standards.</p> <p>Within 0–30-foot area around residence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees and shrubs must be pruned to create a minimum of 10 feet of separation between branches and roofs where feasible. • Trees and shrubs must be pruned to create a minimum of 6 feet of clearance between the lowest branches of large trees and the ground where feasible. • If shrubs are growing beneath trees, a minimum clearance between the top of shrubs and the lowest branches of large trees that's 3 times the height of shrubs must be created where feasible. <p>Along the entire roadway leading to residence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For each lane of travel, trees and shrubs must be pruned to create a 12-foot wide by 14-foot high space over the surface of the roadway that's free of any branches where feasible. 	

Sources for Practice Descriptions and Standards:

King Conservation District: <https://kingcd.org/programs/better-forests/wildfire-resiliency/>

NWCG Standards for Mitigation in the Wildland Urban Interface: <https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pms052.pdf>

Wildfire Home Retrofit Guide: https://www.readyforwildfire.org/wp-content/uploads/Wildfire_Home_Retrofit_Guide-1.26.21.pdf

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) WUI research: <https://www.nist.gov/el/fire-research-division-73300/wildland-urban-interface-fire-73305>

National Fire Protection Association and Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety Fact Sheets: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA/Firewise-USA-Resources/Research-Fact-Sheet-Series>

NFPA 1141 Standard for Fire Protection Infrastructure: <https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/1/1/4/1141?tab=2&l=203>

Cal Fire Wildfire Action Plan: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/-/media/calfire-website/about/communications/cal-fire-ready-set-go-brochure-final-files-v4-print.pdf>

The San Juan Islands Conservation District Forest Stewardship Program is supported with funding from Washington's Climate Commitment Act. The CCA puts cap-and-invest dollars to work reducing climate pollution, creating jobs, and improving public health. Information about the CCA is available at www.climate.wa.gov.