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Meade County Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program

For a copy of the entire Meade County Community Wildfire Protection Plan go to:

<http://www.mattox.biz/incoming/Meade/>

or

www.meadecounty.org

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The following are excerpts from the complete plan that will help landowners who wish to participate in the hazardous fuels reduction cost share program in Meade County, SD.

Meade County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The primary goal of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan is to reduce the risk from wildfire to life, property, and critical infrastructure. The Wildland Urban-Interface, (WUI), is a set of conditions that exist when manmade fuels (e.g. structures and other human development) meets or intermingles with natural vegetative fuels. The U.S. Department of Agriculture in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Interior identified a list of communities at risk from wildfire and placed them in the Federal Register. These communities are located in the WUI and are in the vicinity of federal lands and have been identified as being at high risk from wildfire.

This plan will help develop a core group of local government, fire agencies and state officials that will then be able to collaborate with federal agencies to identify areas at risk from wildfire. Programs to reduce these risks will be developed. Possible solutions will include, but will not be limited to, providing fuels reduction programs, field assessment of existing conditions, and collaboration between the different agencies to provide communication that will help reduce the risk from wildfire across the landscape without regard to ownership or boundaries. Identifying and prioritizing areas of hazardous fuels and plans to treat these areas, which will reduce the threat from wildfire. Public education regarding firewise materials and firewise practices to reduce the chance of initial ignition of structures in the WUI will be developed. Firefighter and public safety is a major concern when mitigating for wildfire. By providing adequate survivable space we can reduce a structures chance of initial ignition during a fire event. This also provides a safer environment and allows for more efficient fire suppression activities.

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan will be flexible to provide the best product possible to reduce the threat from wildfire for people residing in Meade County. The hazardous fuels reduction portion of the plan will identify property that is at risk from wildfire and will provide aid in treatment of these areas to make them better prepared to survive a wildfire event. Fuel loads, topography, and survivable space will determine who is eligible to participate in the hazardous fuels reduction program. If the landowner will assume responsibility for the maintenance of the treated area for ten years, the cost share will be increased.

Prescription Guidelines for Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program

The intent of this prescription is to reduce the threat of catastrophic fire that would threaten a structure or property. Development or improvement of survivable space will increase the structures chance of survivability and give fire suppression crews a safer work area so they can be more effective.

All ladder fuels must be trimmed a minimum of 6 feet off the ground. This breaks the vertical continuity of the fuel and prevents the fire from spreading into the canopy. **Under story and dead forest litter must be removed.** Isolated patches of volatile shrubs and regeneration can exist if they are well separated from surrounding canopy. **Conifer canopy shall have a minimum 15-foot of separation between other conifer canopies.**

Steep slopes require more spacing between trees to maintain canopy separation and to protect against more aggressive fire behavior commonly seen in rougher terrain. When selecting trees for removal, large dominate trees that are straight, with good form and vigor should be left providing they meet the minimum spacing requirements. Remove all storm bent or damaged trees. Also dead or split top trees or trees with stem cankers should be removed. Remove unhealthy or defective trees first, and then remove remaining trees until desired spacing is achieved. Remove, chip or pile and burn all resulting vegetation residue. If chips are to be scattered they should not be more than 4 inches deep. Chips or other residue should not be placed under vegetation that could cause a ladder affect, or generate enough intensity to cause mortality to the vegetation above it if it is consumed during a fire event. Utilize wood as commercial logs, firewood, mulch, or other forest products where practical.

Cost Sharing Program

Mitigating the threat from wildfire by reducing hazardous fuels will be accomplished through a cost-sharing program between private landowners who are interested in participating, and the Meade County Commission. The main focus of this fuels reduction program will be in the 100 to 200 foot survivable space around inhabited structures and associated out buildings.

This area may be enlarged if by treating a larger area it would be beneficial to other structures in the area. The Wildland Urban-Interface Specialist administrating the program will determine the area to be treated. Landowners will also be encouraged to consider mitigating other hazardous fuels on their property to allow the ecological sustainability of the forest. This will not only promote a healthier forest, but it will maintain the value and aesthetics of the area after a fire event.

This program will be available to land owners who qualify by having a wildfire severity assessment form 502 done on their property. Fuel loads, topography, and survivable space are the primary considerations for who would be eligible to participate. Properties with high or extreme ratings would have a higher priority to receive funds from the program than property that has a low rating. People with high or extreme ratings will be contacted and informed about the program, and will be given the first opportunity to participate. Once it has been determined that the property is eligible for the program the landowner would fill out a request for cost sharing assistance form. This would include an Internal Revenue Service W-9 form and agreement to abide by the terms of the fuels reduction prescription.

The landowner would be required to obtain and submit 2 bids from contractors to do the work. Cost share assistance will be based on the lowest bid. The landowner will be responsible for all work being preformed on the property and for the project being done to the specifications of the prescription. The landowner will track all costs, and provide documentation of such at the completion of the project. Any profit or revenue received by the landowner as a result of the fuels reduction project will be subtracted from the total cost of a project before determining the total of all qualifying costs. Documentation of any and

all revenue the landowner receives as a result of the fuels reduction must also be provided at the completion of the project.

The program will reimburse the landowner 70% of all qualifying costs from approved fuels reduction activities. The commitment to maintain this prescription for 10 years by the landowner will increase the cost share of the program to 80%. There would be no reimbursement for this maintenance after the initial completion of the project. Qualification of a property for the program will be at the discretion of the Wildland Urban-Interface Specialist. A total of \$1,500 dollars per acre will be the maximum amount allowed for calculating reimbursement percentages for fuels treatment.

Projects that will be eligible for the cost share program include; thinning dense stands of trees, thinning dense under story, slash or biomass disposal, eliminating ladder fuels and removal of volatile fuels in close proximity to structures.

Meade County will not be held liable for work that is conducted under this program on a landowner's property. The property owner will be responsible for all work being completed to the standards of the prescription. Any issues that arise as a result of the fuels project must be settled between the landowner and the contractor.

When the project is complete a certificate of completion form must be submitted to the county. The project will be inspected to insure all requirements have been met, and then the landowner would be reimbursed for the amount of the approved project. There is no guarantee that the property treated will survive a wildfire event. This program is only intended to **reduce the risk** from wildfire.

Public Education

Building materials and building practices are very important to prevent the initial ignition of a structure. More importantly is the use of fire resistive roof coverings, e.g. steel or asphalt. Removal of dead material, e.g. needle litter, leaves and cured grass, needs to be preformed regularly. This will eliminate the fuel bed required for initial ignition from air born embers that are lofted from a distant fire. Survivable space is also important to reduce the convective and radiant heat that a structure is exposed to during a wildfire event. It is evident that many homes in the Wildland Urban-Interface don't ignite from the "big flames". These large flames only last 60 to 90 seconds and then die down. With sufficient survivable space the structure will survive this duration of higher intensities. If common sense firewise practices are maintained, this will greatly reduce the chance of initial ignition, or at the very least give fire suppression crews a much better opportunity to provide protection to the property.

**MEADE COUNTY HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION
REQUEST FOR COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE**

Applicant Information

First Name: _____ M: ____ Last Name: _____
Address _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ - _____
Telephone _____

Project Information

Community/Subdivision _____
Parcel # _____ Latitude _____ Longitude _____

Project Description: _____

Number of Trees _____ Number of Acres _____ Expiration Date _____

I request cost-share assistance to complete the project described above. I agree to complete the entire project by the expiration date or all cost-share funds shall be forfeited. I understand that by completing the application, I am not guaranteed cost-share. Upon completion of the project I agree to provide Meade County with proof of my expenses by submitting a copy of receipts, invoices or other written document itemizing costs incurred. I understand that I will not receive payment until such proof, along with a signed "Certificate of Project Completion" has been received by the County. I authorize a representative of the county to have access to the project site area. I have not yet started the project and I understand that if I begin the project before receiving written approval, I may be denied funding.

I agree that development will commence within 1 year of treatment.

I _____ agree to maintain the prescribed treatment for 10 years.

Signature of Participant _____ Date _____

For Official Use Only -----

Approved By _____ Date Approved _____
Estimated Total Project Cost _____ Estimated Cost-Share Amount _____
Estimated Completion Date _____

Participation in Meade County Firewise program is open to all eligible applicants without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status or disability.

South Dakota Wildland Fire Suppression Contractor Contact List

First Name	Last Name	Company Name	Address	City	State	ZIP	Business Phone	Cell Phone
Adam	Altergott	Altergott Forestry LLC	234 Hillcrest Drive	Spearfish	SD	57783		605-639-0238
Bob	Baker	Baker Timber Products Inc.	13536 S. Highway 16	Rapid City	SD	57702	605-348-8338	605-381-1589
Allan	Bennett	Bennett Branch Busters	313 Industry Rd	Sturgis	SD	57785	605-347-5291	605-347-1960
Troy	Christensen		3855 Cambell St, Lot 35	Rapid City	SD	57701		605-484-9244
Michael	Derby	Derby Enterprises	2720 Chapel Lane	Rapid City	SD	57702	605-388-8000	605-381-0992
Miguel	Gomez	Dakota Pine Thinning	PO Box 42	Hermosa	SD	57744	605-255-5915	
Colin	Greenfield	Greenfield Tree Services	1319 7th St. Apt A	Rapid City	SD	57701	303-621-4715	
Phillip	Grumstrup	G&S Forest Management	11525 Crooked Canyon Rd	Black Hawk	SD	57718		605-415-0785
David	Hagel	Hagel's Tree Service and Property Care	8781 Sheridan Lake Road	Rapid City	SD	57702	605-545-4587	
LeRoy	Lanphear	Lanphear Enterprises Co.	PO Box 168	Deadwood	SD	57732	605-584-0042	605-580-4448
Brent	Lyons	Lysons Wildfire, LLC	1916 Elk Road	Sturgis	SD	57785	605-423-4233	605-347-0555
Mike	McKee	Copper Mt. Timber	PO Box 784	Hill City	SD	57745		605-391-8532
Ron	Moos	Moose's Trees	PO Box 201	Custer	SD	57730	605-673-2672	605-390-1010
Aurelio	Munoz	Black Hills Thinning	2400 Lindsey Drive	Rapid City	SD	57702	605-348-3057	605-391-4909
Angel	Munoz	Munoz Logging and Construction	1520 Haines Ave. Suite #8	Rapid City	SD	57701	605-716-5494	605-390-7686
Gene	Norman	Neiman Timber Co, LLC	PO Box 619	Hill City	SD	57745	605-574-2512	605-391-0287
Cam	Novotny		259 Evans Lane #29	Spearfish	SD	57783		605-639-1945
James	Rogers	Rogers Construction	1003 Haley Drive PO Box 637	Whitewood	SD	57793	605-722-4080	605-580-2425
Paul	Yantes	MP Forest Enterprises	310 Oakland St	Rapid City	SD	57701		605-431-6143

For changes or additions, contact the Urban Interface Specialist at 605-394-2584.

**MEADE COUNTY HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION
CERTIFICATATION OF PROJECT COMPLETION**

Applicant Information

First Name: _____ M: _____ Last Name: _____
Address _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Telephone _____

Project Information

Community/ Subdivision _____
Parcel # _____ Latitude _____ Longitude _____

Project Description: _____

Number of Trees _____ Number of Acres _____ Completion Date _____

I certify that I have completed the above project in accordance with the project specification program requirements. I hereby apply to Meade County for cost-share payment for completed project work. I have included documentation of costs incurred, and a completed W-9 form. Any profit or revenue received as a result of this fuels reduction project has also been disclosed and documented.

I agree that development will commence within 1 year of treatment.

I _____ agree to maintain the prescribed treatment for 10 years.

I also understand this treatment only **reduces the risk**, and **does not guarantee** my property will not sustain damage during a wildfire event.

Signature of Participant _____ Date _____

For Official Use Only -----

Approved By _____ Date Approved _____ Cost-Share Earned _____

Date Completed _____ Date Cancelled _____

Number of Trees Treated _____ Number of Acres Treated _____

Payment Approved By _____ Date Payment Approved _____

Firewise Plant Material for the Great Plains

All plant material will burn, but the following is a list of plants that are more fire resistive.

TREES

Deciduous:

	Common name
Betula	Birch
Acer spp.	Maple
Alnus spp.	Alder
Catalpa speciosa	Northern Catalpa
Cornus florida	Flowering Dogwood
Fraxinus spp.	Ash
Gleditsia tricanthos	Honeylocust
Malus spp.	Apple
Populus spp.	Aspen, Cottonwood, Poplar
Prunus spp.	Cherry
Quercus spp.	Oak (burr)
Robinia pseudoacacia	Black locust
Salix spp.	Willow

SHRUBS

	Common name
Amelanchier spp.	Serviceberry
Atriplex canescens	Four Wing Saltbush
Buddilia davidi	Butterfly Bush
Caryopteris x clandonensis	Blue-Mist Spirea
Cornus serica	Red Osier Dogwood
Cotoneaster spp.	Cotoneaster
Liqustrum spp.	Privet
Mahonia spp.	Creeping Grape Holly
Pachistima canbyi	Dwarf Mountain Lover
Philadelphus spp.	Mock Orange; Syringa
Rhamnus fragula	Buckthorn
Rhododendron spp.	Azalaes, Rhododendrons
Ribes spp.	Currant
Shepherdia argentea	Silver buffalberry
Symphoricarpos albus	Snowberry
Viburnum trilobum	Cranberry bush
Yucca spp.	Yucca

PERENNIALS

	Common name
Achillea spp.	Yarrow
Allium schoenoprasum	Chives
Bergenia spp.	Bergenia
Brodiaea spp.	Lilies
Coreopsis spp.	Coreopsis
Erysimum linifolium	Wall flower
Eschscholzia spp.	California poppy
Fragaria sp.	Wild Strawberries
Geranium spp.	Geranium
Hemerocallis hybrids	Daylilies
Heuchera spp.	Coral bells
Iris spp.	Iris
Kniphofia uvaria	Red hot poker
Lupinus spp.	Lupine
Oenothera spp.	Evening primrose
Penstemon spp.	Beard tongue
Solidago spp.	Goldenrod
Strachys bysantina	Lamb's ear

GROUNDCOVERS

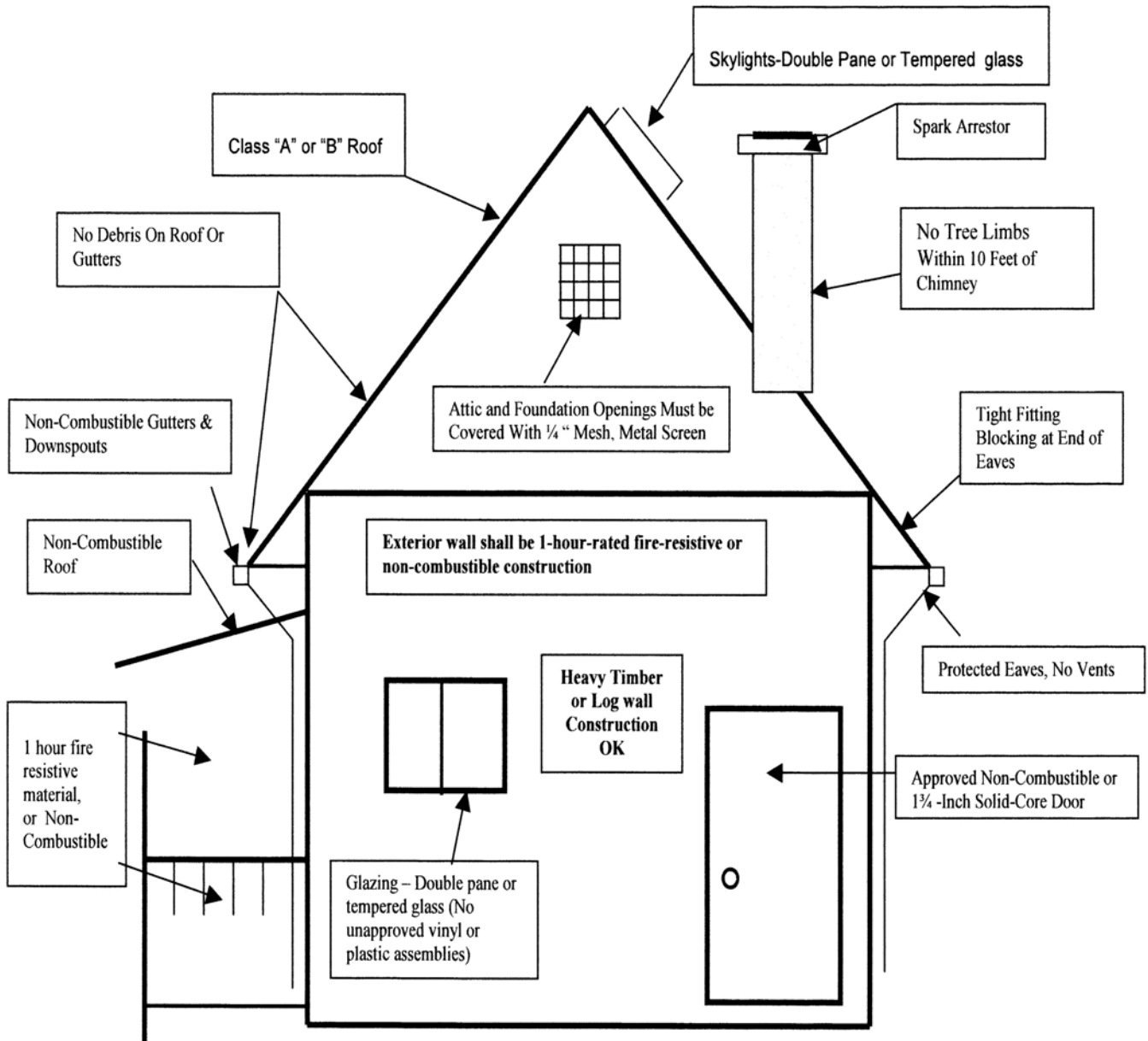
Succulents:

	Common name
Delospema nubigenum	Hardest ice plant
Echeveria spp.	Hens & Chicks
Sudem spp.	Stone crops

Non-succulents:

	Common name
Schillea tomentosa	Wolly yarrow
Ajuga reptans	Carpet bugle
Arctostaphylois uva-ursi	Kinnikinnick
Armeria meritima	Sea pink; thrift
Cerastium tomentosa	Snow in summer
Cotoneaster dammeri	Bearberry cotoneaster
Euonymus fortunei	Winter creeper
Potentilla tabernaemontanii	Spring cinquefoil
Senecio cineraria	Dusty miller
Thymus praecox articus	Mother of thyme
Verbenia bipinnatifida	Verbenia

IGNITION-RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION



No vinyl or plastic handrails on decks unless approved & fire rated