



Eastern Spruce Budworm

Early Intervention Strategy Cost Share Program

2026 Grant Application Guidelines

Application Deadline

May 20, 2026

Overview

The US Forest Service Forest Health Protection Program (USFS FHP) assists states in conducting forest health management activities on non-federal forest lands to achieve healthy forests by providing states with Federal funds to detect, monitor, control, and evaluate forest health conditions. Funds from the **American Relief Act of 2025** and the **Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act of 2026** through USFS FHP (Federal Assistance Listing (formerly Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance - CFDA) number and name: 10.664, Cooperative Forestry Assistance and 10.680, Forest Health Protection, respectively) will enable the Maine Forest Service to support activities for an early intervention strategy (EIS) to managing spruce budworm in Maine. This landscape-scale management approach has been implemented in New Brunswick for 12 years and has successfully stalled budworm outbreaks there. A successful EIS will prevent widespread spruce budworm impacts on Maine's 5 million acres of spruce/fir forests.

Additional information and resources can be found on the [Maine Forest Service spruce budworm website](#).

The Maine Eastern Spruce Budworm Early Intervention Strategy Grant will reimburse approved applicants up to 90 percent of EIS treatment costs on private lands subject to the requirements and standards set forth below.

Eligibility Requirements

- Private timberland management entities with more than 2000 acres within the current [Pesticide Discharge Management Plan](#) may apply.
- Applicants must have an **existing contract for treating eastern spruce budworm (SBW) following an early intervention strategy**, with treatment planned for May and June 2026. A

copy of the contract must be included in the application. The Maine Forest Service may contact the contractor to confirm details.

- Because of environmental review requirements for aerial pesticide applications of this magnitude, applications cannot be considered for acres outside of the existing [Pesticide Discharge Management Plan](#).
- Expenses eligible for reimbursement are only those directly related to aerial insecticide application contracts for SBW following an EIS approach in Maine.
- The project must conform to all relevant state and federal rules and regulations and environmental review requirements.
- Grant recipients must be eligible to receive federal and state funding and must not have active exclusions in the System for Award Management (SAM).

Funding and Duration

Up to \$11.18 million in Federal funds is currently available for this program. The total amount an applicant may apply for will be determined based on identified eligible acres planned for treatment and the anticipated cost per acre. Actual reimbursement of the cost of contracted treatment program work on private lands is capped at 90 percent. For example:

Land ownership type: Private

Anticipated Cost/Acre: \$104.00/acre

Total Acreage Planned for Treatment: 5,000 acres

Maximum Reimbursement Amount*: \$104.00/acre x 5,000 acres x 0.90 = \$468,000.00

The actual reimbursement amount will be based on a review of the final acres treated figures.

All eligible applicants will be offered the opportunity to participate in the grant program. Applications will be reviewed in the order they are received. Applications received after the available funds have been committed will not be eligible to receive funding. Applications **must be received by May 20, 2026**.

The grant period for this program is from **March 27, 2026, through December 31, 2026**. Treatment costs invoiced before March 27, 2026, and after December 31, 2026, will not be reimbursed.

The USDA FS, the *American Relief Act of 2025* and the *Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act of 2026* make funding for this program possible. Funding is covered under USDA FS agreements 25 DG 066 and 26 DG 066. The Federal Assistance Listing (formerly Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance—CFDA) number and name are 10.664, Cooperative Forestry Assistance and 10.680, Forest Health Protection, respectively.

Recipients of this funding are subject to the OMB guidance in subparts A through F of 2 CFR Part 200 as adopted and supplemented by the USDA in 2 CFR Part 400. The USDA's adoption of the OMB guidance in 2 CFR 400 gives regulatory effect to the OMB guidance in 2 CFR 200, where full text may be found. Electronic copies of the CFRs can be obtained at www.ecfr.gov.

Application Guidelines

SAM (UEID):

Grant recipients must have a SAM.gov Unique Entity Identification (UEID) – note to applicants the entity registration process can take several weeks to establish. Applications may be submitted as long as the SAM ID registration process has started. No agreements will be finalized until the registration is complete.

Submittal Instructions:

[Applications](#) and supporting documentation must be submitted through the online portal available at: <https://arcg.is/0a55fX0>.

Questions or concerns about the **grant application process** should be sent to the Forest Health and Monitoring Inbox: foresthealth@maine.gov.

SBW EIS Cost Share Program Application for 2026:

Upload your application and supporting documentation to [this portal](#):
<https://arcg.is/0a55fX0>

1. Application Form

The designated and official representative must sign the application. The application must be uploaded to the application portal (PDF format preferred).

[Download Application Form](#) (PDF)

2. Applicant Contract with Pesticide Application Firm (PDF format preferred)
3. Zipped GIS data outlining planned treatment areas within applicant's ownership or ownership boundaries if not already submitted
4. Document outlining how proposed treatment areas and approach conform to an EIS for spruce budworm management. Document may be one page or less and narrative should address any areas not modeled as meeting the EIS threshold (PDF format preferred).

The deadline to receive applications is midnight Wednesday, May 20, 2026.

Funding Review and Criteria

A team of Maine Forest Service staff will review proposals for eligibility. Applicants with proposals meeting eligibility requirements will be notified of their eligibility along with the maximum value of the agreement. Each grantee is required to sign a performance agreement containing the required Federal General Assurances.

A fully executed agreement between the Maine Forest Service and the grantee must be in place before any invoices are considered for reimbursement. At a minimum, the agreement must contain the following: Certification Regarding Federal Audit Requirements, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters, Federal Terms and Conditions, additional terms and a Certificate of Insurance.

Expenses incurred outside of the grant window and those not conforming with the agreement details shall be deemed ineligible for reimbursement.

The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) reserves the right to request the return of funds in whole or in part if it is determined that the funds were not used for the intended purpose, as described in the application.

Grant recipients must retain records relating to the grant for a period of at least six years from the date of the final reimbursement payment received by the applicant for this grant. The applicant must agree that such records will be submitted to DACF or its designees or representatives upon request or upon audit of the completed project by DACF or other authorized state or federal authorities.

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MFS grant programs are also governed by [Rules for Departmental \(DACF\) Grant Awards and Appeals \(01-001, Ch. 8\)](#)