

Rapid City
Urban Interface Management Plan
Mountain Pine Beetle Suppression
Hazardous Fuels Removal
Elements of the
Survivable Space Initiative
September 18, 2012

Proposed Revisions 7-11-13

The overall goal of this project is to advise Rapid City landowners, who live in the urban interface area, in the management of their property to create a safe and healthy forest. Mountain Pine Beetle infestations in the Ponderosa Pine forest have devastated many areas and as a result created hazardous wildfire conditions. This project will encourage landowners to thin their forest to create a more survivable space around their home which in turn will reduce the spread of Mountain Pine Beetle. This project will assist private landowners in Rapid City in identifying Mountain Pine Beetle infested trees, provide fire risk assessments and assist with management costs of the forest. This program is a coordinated effort promoting the Survivable Space Initiative's Hazardous Fuel Removal Program administered by the Rapid City Fire Department and the Mountain Pine Beetle Suppression Program administered by the Rapid City Parks and Recreation Department. Rapid City will work in conjunction with Federal, State and County agencies. This plan requires the support of numerous departments of the City of Rapid City.

This plan provides for a coordinated effort between Rapid City Fire and Rapid City Parks and Recreation to conduct an educational campaign aimed at informing landowners of the symptoms of Ponderosa Pine infested with Mountain Pine Beetle. The educational campaign would provide information to landowners of the wildfire risks present on their property and the management techniques used to reduce these risks. The plan provides a process for requesting hazardous fuel assessments or property inspections to identify Mountain Pine Beetle infested trees and the requirements of cost share funds available for all programs.

There are three forest management tools used in this plan.

1. Mountain Pine Beetle inspections-and associated cost share provisions.
2. Survivable Space assessments and associated hazardous fuel removal cost share.
3. Curb side branch chipping. Service provided within the identified high risk fire area only.

The cost share, for all programs, will be available on a first to apply basis and will end at such time as funds are no longer available or by action of the city council. The maximum amounts listed are per parcel per calendar year. The Director of Parks and Recreation, The Wildfire Mitigation Program Coordinator and the Urban Forester shall implement this plan and have the authority to expend funds in accordance with the plan.

This plan grants authority to the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Urban Forester and the Wildfire Mitigation Program Coordinator to use the provisions of this plan for enacting control measures aimed at other pests which may threaten the pine forest.

Participation in the free Mountain Pine Beetle inspection is voluntary but required to receive cost share for removal of the infested trees. Landowners who do not request a Mountain Pine Beetle inspection of their property will be required to remove Mountain Pine Beetle infested trees at their own expense. Properties which are identified as having Mountain Pine Beetle infested trees by voluntary inspection, hazardous fuel assessment or other observation are subject to Municipal Code 12.40.105.

The accepted control method for a Mountain Pine Beetle infested tree shall be the complete removal of the infested tree from the property. Disposal of the infested tree shall be in accordance with the procedures outlined in this plan. The Director of Parks and Recreation or the Urban Forester shall have the authority to negotiate other acceptable methods for destroying an infested trees when conditions dictate an alternate method of destroying the infested tree.

The Urban Forester shall determine which properties shall receive the highest priority based on data collected from previous surveys. Priority will be given to areas with the greatest number of infested trees. The Urban Forester shall administer the inspection request and cost share for Mountain Pine Beetle coordinated with hazardous fuel assessments conducted by the Rapid City Fire Department.

Landowners who request enrollment in the Mountain Pine Beetle suppression program and hazardous fuels removal program shall qualify for cost share reimbursements. The reimbursements shall follow the guidelines established in this plan and consistent with the requirements of the hazardous fuels removal program.

Landowners with trees infested with Mountain Pine Beetle shall qualify for a per tree cost share reimbursement. The type of cost share authorized shall be determined by the Director of Parks and Recreation or the Urban Forester. The Cost Share amounts shall be determined by the City Council and are subject to change upon request by the Director of Parks and Recreation. The types of Cost Share shall be 1. Per Tree Complete Removal 2. Per Tree_ Cut and Chunk, scatter on site. 3. Alternate Cost Share. The Director of Parks and Recreation or the Urban Forester shall have the authority to authorize an alternate reimbursement amount and disposal methods. Alternate reimbursement will be authorized only when certain conditions exist. The geographic location of the tree,-size of the tree and anticipated removal cost shall be the factors considered when authorizing Alternate Reimbursement.- The Urban Forester shall make the determination if the landowner qualifies for Cut and Chunk or Alternate Cost Share. Cut and Chunk Cost Share shall be paid for felling the tree and cutting the trunk portion into 18 inch lengths. The maximum Cost Share, for removal of Mountain Pine Beetle infested trees, shall be \$2000.00 per parcel of land..

The Survivable Space Initiative provides for Hazardous fuel removal. Hazardous Fuel Removal shall be a part of the Urban Interface Management Plan. This city program works in conjunction with a State of South Dakota matching grant payable to landowners to thin their private forest at a 50/50 percent cost share. A landowner may receive reimbursement from the City Hazardous Fuel Removal funding in the amount of 75% of the landowners net cost after State funding is applied. The maximum amount reimbursable under the hazardous fuels program from the Mountain Beetle funding shall be \$1500.00. (Example: Cost of fuel reduction project totals \$3500.00. The 50% State of South Dakota cost share = \$1750.00. The 75% City of Rapid City cost share based on \$1750 = \$1312.00 Landowner out of pocket expenses after grants is. \$438.00) The landowner may still qualify for the per tree cost share for identified Mountain Pine beetle infested trees. In the event that State of South Dakota funding is not available or the landowner cannot qualify for funding through the State 50/50 Program the landowner may apply for cost share from the City of Rapid City. This Cost share shall be 50 % of the lowest bid submitted with a maximum reimbursement in the amount of \$2500 per parcel for Parcels 2 acres or less and \$5000 per parcel for parcels greater than 2 acres . The Department of Parks and Recreation shall have the authority to establish an application procedure, standards and a policy relating to length of ownership of parcels following participation in the program.

The maximum total cost share for removal of Mountain Pine Beetle infested trees and hazardous fuel removal shall not exceed \$5,000.00 per parcel per calendar year.

Landowners requesting curb side chipping of hazardous fuels removed from their property shall contact the Rapid City Fire Department to ensure their property qualifies for this service. Landowner must attend an informational meeting or have a site visit by a RCFD WUI assessment specialist. Groups of landowners will be encouraged to participate in this program. Landowners must live within the areas identified as high risk of wildfire defined as the primary WUI are eligible for the chipping program. Landowners will be responsible for cutting hazardous fuel material smaller than 5 inch diameter at the base of the stem. The trees must be placed at curb side with the base of the stem facing the street. The landowner must be approved for participation in the program from the Rapid City Fire Department prior to cutting trees and brush. Trees removed under the Mountain Pine Beetle suppression cost share program or hazardous fuels removal cost share program cannot be placed in the Curb Side Chipping program. It is the intent of this program to provide this service to landowners who remove these small diameter trees to reduce fire risk and create a healthier forest which is less susceptible to infestation by Mountain Pine Beetle and reduce the risks associated with wildfire. It is not a debris removal or landscape cleanup program. Trees cut by a contractor may not be included in the Curb Side Chipping program.

All landowners, owning property within the limits of Rapid City, will be eligible to have their property inspected for Mountain Pine Beetle infested trees. Information regarding the programs available will be mailed to landowners who could potentially have Ponderosa Pine forest cover on their properties. Information will also be available on the City of Rapid City web site.

This plan becomes effective on the date adopted by the Rapid City Council and shall remain in effect until amended or replaced by action of the City Council. Cost Share amounts listed in this plan may be changed by action of the City council by amending Attachment #1.

Reimbursement Procedure for Mountain Pine Beetle Infested Trees

1. Landowners must submit a request for inspection of their property.
2. Property will be inspected based on priorities established by the Urban Forester
3. Survey of the property completed by Parks and Recreation staff.
4. If the trees on the property are free of Mountain Pine Beetle infestation the property owner will be mailed a copy of the inspection results.
5. Landowners with infested trees on their property will receive a green Tree Removal / Disposal Permit indicating the amount of cost share available for the removal of the Mountain Pine Beetle infested trees. This permit shall expire 90 days from date of issue.
6. Landowners who wish to request "Cut and Chunk Reimbursement" shall do so by contacting the Urban Forester at 394-4175.
7. Landowners who wish to apply for "Alternate Cost Share" must submit an "Application for Alternate Cost Share" form and required documents to the Urban Forester.
8. Cost share permit must accompany infested trees to landfill and shall be endorsed by the Rapid City Landfill documenting proper disposal. Disposal at a private wood processor is an acceptable method of disposal with approval from the Urban Forester. Scale Tickets from the private facility will serve as an acceptable proof of disposal.
9. Cost share permit shall be signed by the contractor verifying removal, disposal and payment for services.
10. The landowner shall submit the signed copy of the permit and landfill scale ticket to the Parks and Recreation office requesting reimbursement for removal of the Mountain Pine Beetle infested trees. Reimbursement will be paid only for those trees identified in the inspection
11. Infested trees must be removed within 60 days from date of issue of removal /disposal permit.
12. Requests for reimbursement must be received within 60 days of the date of removal.
13. Maximum Reimbursement per parcel \$2000.00.

Reimbursement Procedures for Hazardous Fuels Removal Cost Share Supplement to State of South Dakota Provided Funding

1. Landowner shall contact the Rapid City Fire Department at 394-5233 to request a Hazardous Fuels Assessment of their property.
2. The landowner shall obtain 3 quotes from a list of contractors provided by Rapid City Fire.
3. The landowner shall submit a South Dakota Department of Agriculture Request for Cost Share Assistance Form to Rapid City Fire.
4. Once the cost share assistance is approved the landowner shall hire a contractor to complete the project.
5. Upon project completion the landowner shall submit a SD Department of Agriculture Certification of Project Completion along with a contractors invoice reflecting bill has been paid in full.
6. Cost Share from City funds to landowners who submit a bid to perform their own work shall be eligible for a 25% cost share.
7. Reimbursement for hazardous fuels removal will be processed by Rapid City Fire.
8. Rapid City Fire will submit required documents to Rapid City Parks and Recreation for processing of the landowners net cost reimbursement. Maximum Reimbursement from city funds \$1500.00

Reimbursement Procedures for Hazardous Fuels Removal Cost Share City Funding Only

1. Landowner shall contact the Rapid City Fire Department at 394-5233 to request a Hazardous Fuels Assessment of their property.
2. The landowner shall obtain 3 quotes from a list of contractors provided by Rapid City Fire.
3. The landowner shall submit a City of Rapid City request for Cost Share Assistance Form to Rapid City Fire.
4. Once the cost share assistance is approved the landowner shall hire a contractor to complete the project.
5. Upon project completion the landowner shall submit a Certification of Project Completion along with a contractors invoice reflecting bill has been paid in full.
6. Rapid City Fire will submit required documents to Rapid City Parks and Recreation for processing of the landowners net cost reimbursement. Maximum Reimbursement from city funds shall be \$2500 per parcel for parcels 2 acres or less and \$5000 per parcel for parcels greater than 2 acres.

Attachment # 1

The following "Schedule of Cost Share Amounts" shall be in effect until amended by council. The percentages and amounts listed in this attachment shall supersede those listed in the plan.

1. "Complete" Mountain Pine Beetle Removal Cost Share -- \$150.00 per tree.
(\$2000 Maximum per parcel)
2. "Cut and Chunk" Mountain Pine Beetle Cost Share --\$40.00 per tree (Leave on site)
3. "Alternate" Mountain Pine Beetle Cost Share – 75% of lowest quote submitted.
(\$750 Maximum Alternate Cost Share per tree.)
4. Hazardous Fuels Removal City Supplement: 75% of Landowner Net cost after State Grant.
Maximum \$1,500 per parcel.
5. Hazardous Fuels Removal No State Funding Available: 50% of lowest bid submitted.
Maximum \$2,500 per parcel for parcels 2 acres or less and \$5,000 per parcel for parcels greater than 2 acres.
6. All maximums are per calendar year dependent on available funding.