

UGRA Water Enhancement Cost Share Program Guidelines

Effective October 1, 2021

Eligibility Criteria

1. The Program is only available to brush control projects for Ashe juniper located in the Guadalupe River watershed in Kerr County, Texas.
2. The Program is available only to brush control projects for Ashe juniper that are approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) pursuant to the Agricultural Act of 2014, the Agriculture Improvements Act of 2018, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) Water Supply Enhancement Program (WSEP), and/or the TSSWCB Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) program.
3. The landowner must have an EQIP contract or TSSWCB contract.
4. The project must be completed not more than 12 months prior to submission of a complete application to UGRA.
5. Only NRCS or TSSWCB approved brush control practices for Ashe juniper will be eligible for consideration.
6. Only NRCS or TSSWCB contracts that dispose of the cut Ashe juniper by stacking in piles or rows at a minimum of 75 feet apart, edge to edge, or burned will be eligible. Landowners must comply with UGRA's requests to confirm that the Ashe juniper was stacked in this manner or burned. This requirement applies only to cost share payments under NRCS or TSSWCB contracts executed after May 22, 2019.

Application for Reimbursement

1. When the project is complete and certified by the NRCS, Kerr County SWCD, or TSSWCB official (as applicable), the landowner should submit a cost share payment request to UGRA.
2. All applications for cost share payment must be received within 12 months of completion of the eligible brush control project.
3. The applicant/landowner must include the following information in the application:
 - a. Documentation that the property is located in the Guadalupe River watershed in Kerr County;

- b. A copy of the approved NRCS Practice Approval and Payment Application Form (NRCS-CPA-1245 Form) or similar form from TSSWCB;
 - c. A copy of the approved NRCS Conservation Program Contract (NRCA-CPA-1202) evidencing contract execution date or similar documentation from TSSWCB;
 - d. If contract execution date is after 5/22/19, photo documentation showing cedar was stacked or burned must be submitted;
 - e. Evidence of the amount of payment received by the landowner from NRCS, Kerr County SWCD or TSSWCB for the task(s) for which the landowner seeks a cost share payment from UGRA; and
 - f. Any other information requested by UGRA to process the application for payment.
4. UGRA shall review the payment request form. Upon receipt of all required information, confirmation of eligibility, and subject to availability of budgeted funds for the Program, UGRA shall authorize payment in accordance with these Guidelines.

Funding and Cost Share Rates

1. Cost share payments for eligible brush control water enhancement projects will be funded only with monies budgeted by the Board of Directors of UGRA for the program. No other monies will be utilized or made available for payment.
2. Cost share payments by UGRA for approved brush control projects are limited to the following maximum amounts, as applicable:
 - a. up to twenty-five (25%) of the amount of the reimbursement previously received by the landowner from the TSSWCB for WSEP or WQMP contract tasks; or
 - b. up to twenty-five (25%) of the amount of the reimbursement previously received by the landowner from the NRCS for EQIP contract tasks.
 - c. in no case shall the total incentive payments by UGRA and the NRCS, Kerr County SWCD or TSSWCB exceed the cost of the project.
3. UGRA reserves the right to reduce the cost share payment in the event that the combined payment by UGRA plus the payment(s) from NRCS, Kerr County

SWCD, and/or TSSWCB would exceed the landowner's costs of implementing the task.

4. UGRA further reserves the right to reduce the cost share rate if the amount requested by one or more landowners exceeds the total amount of funds budgeted by UGRA for the Program.
5. At such time as the funds budgeted by UGRA for the Program have been expended, no additional applications for cost share under the program will be approved. Whether an application that is denied due to the unavailability of funds will be eligible for cost share payment in a future fiscal year will be determined according to the eligibility and program guidelines adopted for such fiscal year.
6. UGRA reserves the right to reject any application for cost share payment based on fraud, irregularities, availability of funds, or otherwise as determined in UGRA's sole discretion.

Renewal, Modification, or Termination of Program

1. The Board of Directors of UGRA may determine in its sole and absolute discretion whether to renew, modify, or terminate this Program at any time, and nothing herein shall be construed to grant any person any vested right to reimbursement or payment from UGRA.