



Volunteer Fire Department Prescribed Fire Recognition Award

Once again, the Sandhills Task Force is offering a **Recognition Award** for all Sandhills-based Volunteer Fire Departments for the 2017 prescribed fire season. VFD's who assist private landowners with prescribed fire to control invasive plants species, primarily eastern red cedar trees, are eligible.

Reimbursement will be at the rate of \$15 per burned acre, with a maximum payment of \$6,000 per prescribed fire. A \$6,000 maximum per VFD is established to spread the awards geographically. More than one VFD may split the award. Participation is defined as providing at least one truck and two trained personnel on a prescribed fire in the sandhills. Personnel need to be actively involved. Prescribed fire is a great tool that can be used to control invasive plant species but some landowners feel they do not have the necessary protection to assure the fire does not escape. VFD's have equipment and volunteers that can help landowners safely conduct prescribed burns while simultaneously training VFD volunteers in use of equipment, fire behavior, fire weather implications, and more. Local VFD's are staffed by busy volunteers that donate large amounts of personal time in service to their communities and budgets are very tight. The Sandhills Task Force would like to recognize those VFDs who do assist in controlling tree invasion by the use of prescribed fire.

The form at the bottom of this page needs to be filled out and signed by the VFD Chief within 30 days of the prescribed burn and mailed or emailed to the address below with a copy of the approved burn plan. WRP and CRP lands are not eligible. Private lands only. Funds are not available if a contractor is hired to complete the prescribed burn. Available funds are limited, so please submit requests early.

RECOGNITION AWARD REQUEST

VFD _____ ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

LANDOWNER'S NAME ASSISTED _____ ADDRESS _____

BURN PLAN APPROVED BY: _____

SECTION(S) _____ TWSHP _____ RANGE _____ ACRES BURNED _____

DATE OF ASSISTANCE _____ CHIEF'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Mail or e-mail the completed form and burn plan to:

Shelly Kelly
Sandhills Task Force Program Director
30721 W North River Rd
Sutherland, NE 69165
Phone: 308-214-0065
Email: shelly@sandhillstaskforce.org