

NEWS

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Department of
Agriculture*

*Southwestern Region
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Forest, Fire and Community Assistance Grants Website Now Available

Albuquerque, NM (October 8, 2003) - The Forest Service has created a new website to explain various types of federal and state forest, fire and community assistance grants available in the Southwestern Region (Arizona, New Mexico, portions of Oklahoma and Texas).

The Southwest Area Forest, Fire and Community Assistance Grants website is designed to let interested parties and contractors know how the grants can be used, eligibility requirements, contact points and other websites available for various grants.

These grants are aimed at funding training and purchasing equipment to support volunteer and local fire departments and to assist communities in the treatment of hazardous fuels. They will also make funds available to assist in finding new and innovative uses for small diameter trees and/or improve utilization, assist non-industrial private landowners, fund small business development, provide marketing assistance and aid in community-based strategic action planning.

Contractors interested in doing work for private citizens, communities, local, county, state or federal organizations in the Southwestern Region can register on the website to be listed in a database. The contractors will be listed according to the type of service they can provide, and the counties and states where they are willing to work. The public will be able to seek information on the database for a specific service in a specific county.

The website is located at:
www.southwestareagrants.org

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Forest, Fire and Community Assistance Grants Website

This website has been designed by the following agencies in both Arizona and New Mexico:

United States Department of Agriculture - Forest Service, Southwestern Region
Arizona State Land Department - Fire Management Division
New Mexico Energy Minerals & Natural Resources Department
United States Department of Interior - Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Fish & Wildlife Service

The new grant cycle for fiscal year 2004 is expected to start in the next few months and this website will assist in identifying new funding and technical assistance opportunities for communities, and state and local fire districts.

Communities, state and local fire departments, individuals and contractors are encouraged to use this comprehensive website in seeking information and applying for Forest, Fire and Community Assistance Grants.

For further information, please contact Elaine Waterbury, Southwestern Region Cooperative Fire Protection Specialist at (505) 842-3881