

Wyoming Wildfire Recovery Guide

Assistance for Private Landowners, Small Businesses, Homeowners, and Non-profits

During the 2024 wildfire season, more than 2,000 wildfires burned in excess of 850,000 acres across the State of Wyoming, a clear demonstration of the expanding fire season and an uptick in fire frequency. Unusually, about 70% of that acreage was on private and state lands, whereas past large fires have traditionally affected federal land, which is often forested. Recognizing the urgent need for resources to address ongoing wildfires and provide essential relief to affected private landowners, the Wyoming Grants Management Office (GMO) researched federal funding that could potentially be leveraged for wildfire recovery efforts on private property. This document identifies federal funding programs that wildfire-impacted households, landowners, small businesses, and non-profits may be able to apply for directly.

Summary of Funding Programs

The GMO identified [18 funding programs](#) that could benefit households, landowners, small businesses, and non-profits impacted by recent wildfires.

Federal Agency	Loan Program	Grant Funding
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	4	12
U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)	2	-

This report provides a summary of each of these programs, including a brief description of the grant or loan program and information on the entities that may be eligible to apply for funding. [As additional programs are authorized by our Federal and State partners, the GMO will update this guide.](#)

How can I determine if I am eligible for this funding?

The programs included in this guide have specific eligibility criteria, and many programs are only available in counties officially designated as disaster areas due to recent wildfires. We encourage you to contact the program representatives included in this guide to confirm your eligibility and receive guidance on the application process. To do so, you can:

1. [Email or call the program representative](#) with the contact information provided in this guide.
2. [Send an email to the GMO at SBD-Grants@wyo.gov](#) and we can help answer any questions you may have about your circumstances and potential funding opportunities.
3. [Register for our webinar on December 18](#) to learn more about these programs. You can sign up for this webinar by visiting the GMO's website at <https://sbd.wyo.gov/grants/wildfire-recovery-resources>. The recorded webinar will also be available on this website following the session.

Who can I contact for assistance?

USDA Wyoming Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Programs

- For more information, you can contact your [USDA Local Service Center](#) at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/financial-a-service-center>
- Local Service Center contact information for Wyoming counties in the designated wildfire disaster areas can be found on page 6 of this handout

USDA Rural Development (RD) Programs

- For the Wyoming Rural Development State Office, call (307) 233-6700 or [visit this site](#) for contact information, <https://www.rd.usda.gov/wy>

SBA Programs, Wyoming District Office

- Please contact Amy Lea, Wyoming District Director, at (307) 247-3191 or amy.lea@sba.gov
- For information about your specific disaster loan application, please call 800-659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov

FEMA Programs

- For more information about the availability of FEMA disaster recovery funding in Wyoming, please contact the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security (WOHS) Resilience and Recovery Program Manager at (307) 777-5768 or rachel.bingham@wyo.gov

If you have questions or are looking for additional support, you can email the GMO at SBD-Grants@wyo.gov



USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA) Programs

Emergency Conservation Program

Assists farmers and ranchers in repairing farmlands damaged by natural disasters, covering eligible uses such as debris removal, land shaping, and fence restoration. There is a \$500,000 per-person limit.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES: Farmers and ranchers are eligible for funding

Emergency Forest Restoration Program

Supports non-industrial private forests with forest restoration when disasters create new conservation problems that can harm natural resources or significantly affect future land use. There is a \$500,000 per-person limit.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES: Forests must be owned by nonindustrial private individuals, groups, associations, corporations, or private legal entities

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

Provides low-interest financing for producers to build, repair, replace, or upgrade facilities to store commodities. Participants may be able to borrow up to \$500,000 per loan, with a minimum down payment of 15%.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES: Landowners, landlords, leaseholders, tenant, or sharecroppers

Livestock Forage Disaster Program

Offers financial support to livestock producers who experience grazing losses due to events on federally managed rangelands. No person or legal entity (with exceptions) may receive, directly or indirectly, more than \$125,000 total.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES: Livestock producers who own or lease grazing land or pastureland in affected areas

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

Offers financial support to producers of non-insurable crops who experience losses due to natural disasters. A maximum payment limitation is provided of \$125,000 for losses to crops with catastrophic coverage and a \$300,000 maximum payment limitation for losses to crops with buy-up coverage.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES: Landowners, tenants, or sharecroppers may be eligible

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program

Provides financial assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, adverse weather events, and loss conditions, including wildfires. Payment calculations vary by type of loss and species.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES: Producers impacted by qualifying natural disasters



USDA FSA Programs, Continued

Tree Assistance Program

Provides financial support to landowners who have lost trees due to natural disasters like wildfires. It covers 65% of replanting costs for trees with more than 15% mortality and, where applicable, 50% of the rehabilitation costs for trees with over 15% damage or mortality.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES: Orchardists and nursey tree growers whose trees are produced for commercial purposes

Conservation Reserve Program - Emergency Haying and Grazing

Compensates farmers and ranchers for removing environmentally sensitive land from production and establishing long-term vegetation. In the event of a natural disaster, land may also qualify for emergency haying and grazing.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES: Farmers, ranchers, and producers in eligible counties

Livestock Indemnity Program

Provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES: Livestock producers who own/lease grazing or pastureland in areas affected by drought or fire

Emergency Farm Loans

Provides loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to natural disasters. Producers can borrow up to 100% of losses to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES: Farmers located in counties that are contiguous to the declared, designated, or quarantined area may qualify for emergency loans

USDA Programs

Federal Crop Insurance Program

Provides crop insurance to farmers and ranchers to protect them against adverse weather events, natural disasters, or falling prices.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES: Farmers and ranchers enrolled prior to the impact-causing event

Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP)

Offers food assistance to low-income households with food loss or damage caused by a natural disaster.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES: Individuals in a declared disaster county with eligible FEMA Individual Assistance



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Programs

Emergency Watershed Protection Program

Provides assistance for disasters affecting watersheds, including debris removal, streambank reshaping, drainage corrections, vegetative cover on eroding lands, and levee repairs. The cost share amount varies.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES: Private landowners can pursue this program through a sponsor, which could be a city, county, town, conservation district, or federally recognized Tribal Government or Tribal Organization

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Assists producers in conservation efforts, including improving water, air, ground, and surface water quality. Financial assistance amounts are determined on an annual basis.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES: Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners are eligible if they own or rent agricultural land

USDA Rural Development (RD) Programs

Single Family Housing Guaranteed Home Loan Program

Assists approved lenders in providing low- and moderate-income households the opportunity to purchase, build, rehabilitate, improve or relocate a dwelling in an eligible rural area. Lender information is available [here](#).

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES: Applicants must meet area and income eligibility requirements and other program requirements

Multifamily Housing Programs

Assists property owners through loans, loan guarantees, and grants that enable owners to develop and rehabilitate properties for low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals and families as well as domestic farm laborers.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES: Multifamily Housing works with the owners of its direct and farm labor housing loan properties

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Programs

Physical Disaster Loans and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (Presidential Disaster Declaration)

Private nonprofits that provide essential services of a governmental nature are eligible for low-interest federal disaster loans; FEMA may also provide these private nonprofits with Public Assistance grants for their eligible costs.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES: Private Non-Profit organizations that provide essential services of a governmental nature in eligible counties. [For more information about the counties eligible for assistance, please contact Amy Lea, Wyoming District Director, at \(307\) 247-3191 or amy.lea@sba.gov.](#)

Economic Injury Disaster Loans (Disaster Declaration Due to Designation by the Secretary of Agriculture)

Provides loans to help cover the costs and expenses that eligible entities would have been able to handle if the disaster did not happen.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES: Small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private non-profit organizations located in eligible Counties. [For more information about the counties eligible for assistance, please contact Amy Lea, Wyoming District Director, at \(307\) 247-3191 or amy.lea@sba.gov.](#)



Program Links

Federal Agency	Program Name	Link
USDA Programs	Emergency Conservation Program	See this page .
	Emergency Forest Restoration Program	See this page .
	Emergency Watershed Protection Program	See this page .
	Environmental Quality Incentives Program	See this page .
	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program	See this page .
	Federal Crop Insurance Program	See this page .
	Livestock Indemnity Program	See this page .
	Livestock Forage Disaster Program	See this page .
	Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program	See this page .
	Tree Assistance Program	See this page .
	Conservation Reserve Program - Emergency Haying and Grazing	See this page .
	Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Fish Program	See this page .
	Single Family Housing Guaranteed Home Loan Program	See this page .
	Emergency Farm Loans	See this page .
	Multifamily Housing Programs	See this page .
SBA Programs	Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP)	See this page .
	For more information about the availability of SBA programs, please contact Amy Lea, Wyoming District Director at the SBA Wyoming District Office, at (307) 247-3191 or amy.lea@sba.gov . For information about your specific disaster loan application, please call 800-659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov .	See this page .
FEMA Programs	The Wyoming Office of Homeland Security (WOHS) administers FEMA programs in Wyoming. FEMA programs cannot be authorized until certain programmatic thresholds have been met. For more information from WOHS about the availability of FEMA disaster recovery funding in Wyoming, please contact the Resilience and Recovery Program Manager at (307) 777-5768 or rachel.bingham@wyo.gov . This list will be updated when FEMA programs become available under WOHS.	See this page .



USDA Local Service Center Contact Information

USDA Local Service Centers are locations where you can connect with Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service employees. Included below are the contacts for the local offices that serve the counties USDA determined to be impacted by the 2024 wildfire events. **Contact information for all counties in Wyoming are available via the USDA's Local Service Center navigator, found [here: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center?state=56&county=001](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center?state=56&county=001).**

County	Organization	Contact Name	Phone Number	Email
Campbell	NRCS	Timothy Kellogg	(307) 682-8843	tim.kellogg@usda.gov
	FSA	Pamela Smith	(307) 682-8843	pamela.s.smith@usda.gov
Converse	NRCS	Stephanie Paul	(307) 624-3146	stephanie.paul@usda.gov
	FSA	Sherri Weins-Wadley	(307) 261-5436 Ext. 2	sherri.weins1@usda.gov
Crook	NRCS	Jason Nehl	(307) 283-2870 Ext. 3	jason.nehl@usfa.gov
	FSA	Bailey Middleton	(307) 283-2870 Ext. 2	bailey.middleton@usda.gov
Johnson	NRCS	Allison Mckenzie	(307) 620-3020	allison.mcKenzie@usda.gov
	FSA	Courtney Yelton	(307) 672-5820 Ext. 2	courtney.yelton@usda.gov
Sheridan	NRCS	Andrew Cassiday	(307) 672-5820	andrew.cassiday@usda.gov
	FSA	Courtney Yelton	(307) 672-5820 Ext. 2	courtney.yelton@usda.gov
Weston	NRCS	Paul Eitel	(307) 746-3264	paul.eitel@usda.gov
	FSA	Sherie Hilgenkamp	(307) 746-2701 Ext. 2	sherie.hilgenkamp@usda.gov

