



## **Information for Landowners**

### **What is the program?**

The Ohio Division of Forestry has received a grant through the US Forest Service to offer a one-time cost-share program for eligible woodland owners in Ohio. These funds are available to control hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) to improve the overall health and resiliency of Ohio's privately-owned eastern hemlock forests. Payments may not cover the entire cost of treatments but are intended to subsidize hemlock treatments.

Landowners applying must meet eligibility requirements to qualify (see below).

This program will require a contract between the landowner and the Ohio Division of Forestry for the completion of treatments for the control of HWA. Treatments can be completed by the landowner or a hired contractor. A single payment will be made to the landowner upon certification of the completed treatment work. The minimum project size is one acre and the maximum is 25 acres.

### **How do I know if I am eligible?**

A landowner must meet the following criteria to be eligible to apply:

1. Landowners must be non-federal, non-industrial forest landowners including but not limited to:
  - a. Individuals, groups, associations, corporations, or other private legal entities;
  - b. Federally and state recognized Tribes, as well as equivalent governmental representatives of native indigenous communities; and
  - c. Units of local government
2. Landowners must meet one of the following criteria:
  - a. Own your woods in an area highlighted on the included Potential/Persistent High Poverty Areas for Ohio map (Appendix A).
  - b. Purchased or inherited the property in the last 10 years.
  - c. Obtained status as a Veteran in the last 10 years.
3. The area on the property to receive treatment must be a hemlock forest and not yard (landscape or ornamental) trees.
4. HWA infestation status:
  - a. HWA must be documented within the county of the property (Appendix B) or
  - b. Proof of HWA infestation on site must be provided.

A self-certification form stating you meet the eligibility requirements will be part of the application for this program.

## **What will I need to do as the applicant?**

You will need to complete the following to apply and, if selected, enter into a contract for the Building Resilience Cost-Share Program:

1. Complete an application and return to [OhioHWA@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:OhioHWA@dnr.ohio.gov) by March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
2. Applications will be scored, and you will be notified whether or not your application was selected for funding. If selected, a Forest Health Specialist will contact you to schedule a site visit to develop a treatment plan for the property's hemlock stands.
3. For group associations, corporations, trusts, other private legal entities, federally and state recognized Tribes, as well as equivalent governmental representatives of native indigenous communities, or units of local government, Obtain a Unique Entity Number (UEI) from sam.gov (instructions will be provided if selected for a contract) and provide to [OhioHWA@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:OhioHWA@dnr.ohio.gov) (this ensures you are eligible to receive funds from a federal source).
4. Obtain an Ohio ID and Ohio Payee ID (instructions will be provided if selected for a contract) and provide to [OhioHWA@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:OhioHWA@dnr.ohio.gov) (this is to ensure a payment can be processed to you or your account).
5. Agree to the terms of the contract with the Ohio Division of Forestry and sign.
6. Landowner or a hired contractor complete the HWA control treatments on contracted acres, meeting the specifications provided in the contract. Allow the Forest Health Specialist to complete site visits during treatments to monitor compliance with treatment specifications and following treatment completion to certify work for payment.

## **What are the payment rates?**

The payment rate for the HWA control work under the Building Resilience Cost-Share Program is \$700 per acre. The project area and treatment specifics will be based on the prescribed treatment plan developed by the Forest Health Specialist.

## **How will my work be certified for payment?**

1. Before treatments begin, you will need to reach out to the Forest Health Specialist to schedule a field visit to inspect active treatment operations. If using a contractor to complete treatments, coordinate with Forest Health Specialist and contractor to schedule inspection. The Forest Health Specialist will ensure that treatments follow the specifications provided in the contract. If treatments are not being conducted in compliance with treatment specifications, the Forest Health Specialist will work with you and/or the contractor to explain any necessary changes to be in compliance.
2. Once treatment work has been completed, you will need to schedule a final inspection visit with your Forest Health Specialist. The Forest Health Specialist will review the treatment area, ensure treatment is completed to the specifications provided in the contract, and sign off on completed work. If work does not meet specifications according to the contract, the Forest Health Specialist will work with

you and/or the contractor to explain any necessary steps to meet specifications and certify payment.

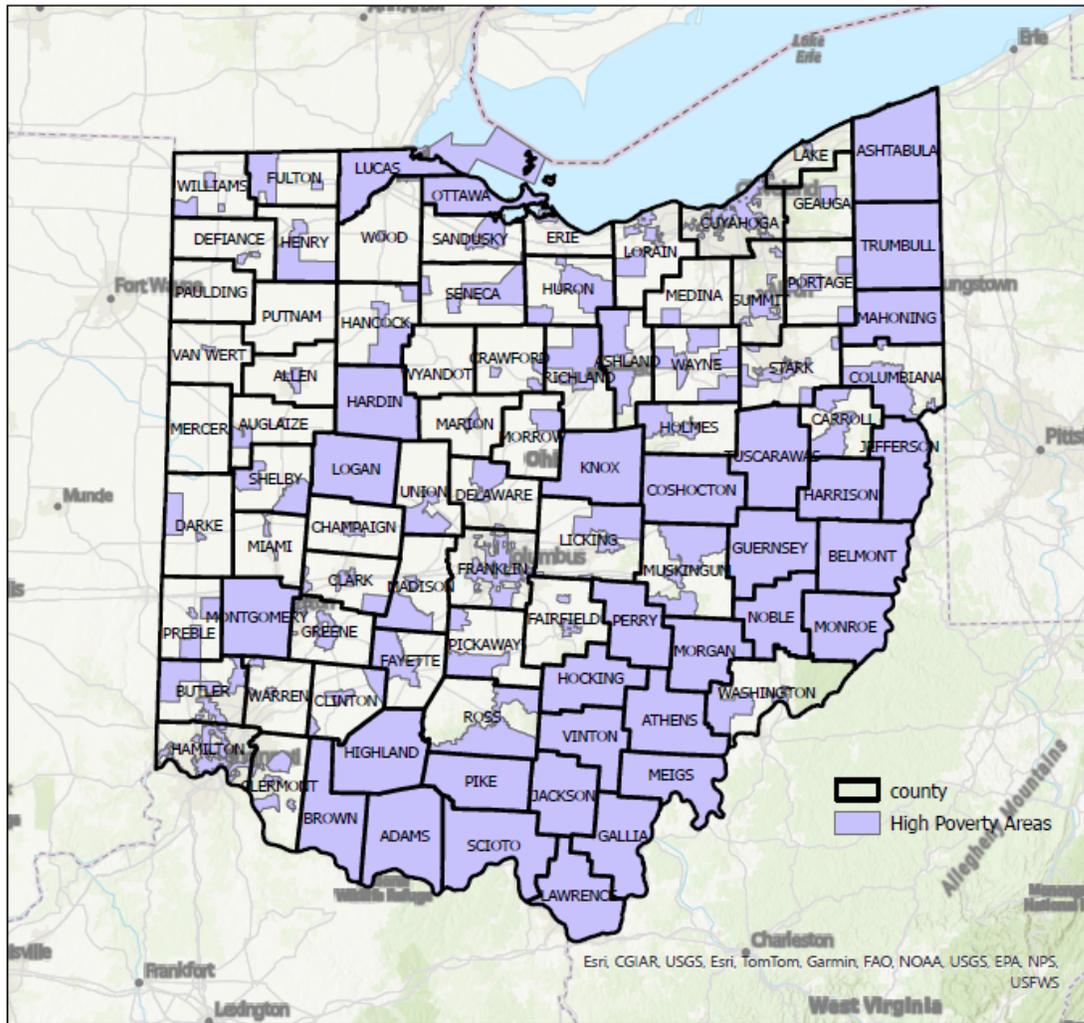
3. Invoices from a contractor conducting the treatments and/or receipts for insecticide for the treatment will need to be submitted to the Forest Health Specialist to start the payment process. These will not be used to calculate payment rates, only to verify proof of proper chemical purchased and services provided.

### **What will my post-contract requirements be?**

Once you have completed the requirements in your contract, your battle with HWA will likely not be over. Treatment effectiveness should last for multiple years. Your woods will need annual monitoring in the winter for HWA and declining hemlock health. Future treatments may be needed to address new HWA infestations and maintain the success achieved during your contract. Your Forest Health Specialist will provide you with a Hemlock Management Plan to assist you with future treatment recommendations.

Appendix A.

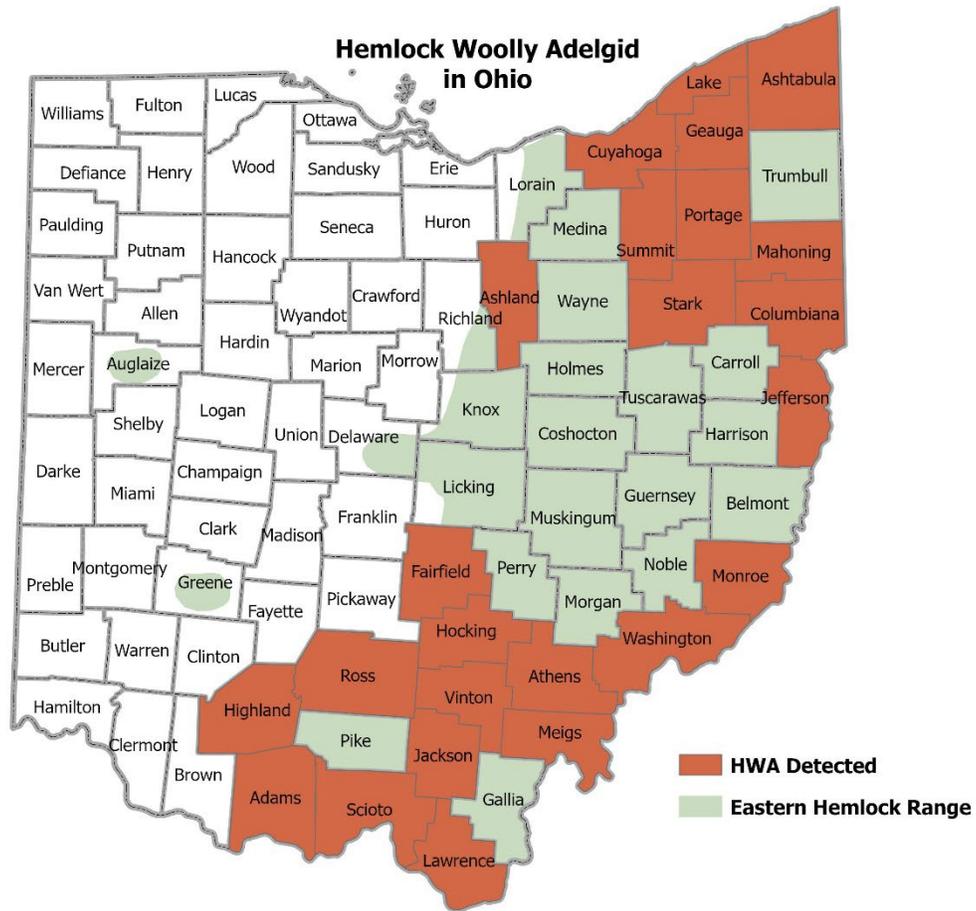
Ohio Areas Identified as High Poverty for IRA Grants



USDA: Data combined from Ohio Census Tract Shapefile from United States Census Bureau and USDA ERS Poverty Area Measures Table. Highlighted census tracts are those indicated as having high poverty (>20%) for the 2015-2019 time frame. Economic Development Administration - Census Poverty Status Viewer data for high poverty area tracts, possible high poverty area tracts, and persistent poverty counties. Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC): Data taken from online maps through ARC <https://www.arc.gov/classifying-economic-distress-in-appalachian-counties/>. Counties with more than 50% of their total area identified as high poverty with all of these tools were included at the county level based on approval from USFS SPTF.

Map created by Stephanie Downs. June 27, 2025.

**Appendix B.**



Ohio counties with confirmed HWA infestations as of December 2025.