



Land Management Division (LMD) Training Takeaways

September 2025

This training resource is designed to help conservation district directors and employees stay informed of key points discussed in recent web-based training. The document should be listed on the district's meeting agenda for discussion and review.

Land Management Division (LMD) Goals

- Deliver conservation programs assisting landowners with addressing resource concerns that impact soil, water, and safety. The division consists of four areas:
 - Land Restoration
 - Unpaved Roads
 - Invasive Woody Species Mitigation
 - Conservation Planning/Nutrient Management Planning

Unpaved Roads Program

- Focuses on best management practices to reduce runoff from roads into streams to improve water quality
- County Commissioners must attend a training to be eligible to apply for a grant; grants of up to \$75,000 are available with a 1:1 In-Kind match required from the county
- Districts assist with delivering the program by connecting with their local county commissioners, taking receipt of the grant funds, and making payment to the county
- Districts receive a \$200 admin fee for each grant awarded through their district
- Program is available to all districts statewide

Invasive Woody Species Mitigation

- Focuses on wildfire mitigation practices – brush free zone establishment, Fighting Fire with Fire trainings, and prescribed fire financial assistance for landowners
 - Began with the Terry Peach North Canadian Watershed as a pilot project
 - Also includes an eastern red cedar removal study site
- Districts assist with delivering the program in a variety of ways
 - Employing Land Management Technicians who are jointly supervised by the district and OCC, working with LMD staff to identify areas of concern
 - Connecting with Rural Fire Departments and Prescribed Burn Associations regarding available trainings; hosting trainings and facilitating grant payments to RFDs and PBAs who qualify by attending a training
 - Working with landowners to connect them with resources for prescribed burn plans and assisting with making payments to landowners completing proper burns
- In some cases, districts receive an admin fee for their participation in certain parts of the program
- Program is available to all districts statewide

Invasive Woody Species Removal Cost-Share Pilot Program

- Available only to select land units in districts within identified focus areas
 - Altus-Lugert
 - Beaver River
 - Blue River
 - Eufaula Lake
 - Lincoln/Logan/Payne/Pawnee Counties

- Focus of the program is to reduce invasive species in the identified watersheds and reduce wildfire risk by cost-sharing with producers on approved brush management practices
- Eligible districts will participate by receiving applications, filing claims, and making payments (similar to the SHIP program)
- OCC LMD Staff will serve as the technical representative, will rank applications, and approve practice implementation

Agreements

- Districts must enter into agreements with the LMD to participate in:
 - Unpaved Roads Program
 - Office space agreements
 - Employee agreements (i.e. Land Management Technicians, Shared Conservation Planners)
 - Additional programs or arrangements that may be identified
- An agreement is not required for a district to participate in the Prescribed Fire Assistance program or the Fighting Fire with Fire trainings/programs; however, the LMD must be notified/approve the participation
- Agreements must be reviewed and approved by the district board during a regular board meeting; agreements may be new or amended depending on the project and funding availability

Submitting LMD Claims

- Districts must submit claims for LMD programs and expenses on an OSF-3 form separate from any other program.
- Claims must use the 2-digit item code "97"
- If a district receives funds in advance of a project being completed, the district must retain these funds as "restricted" funds – they may not be used to cover expenses for any reason other than the agreed upon project
- The district will always receive notification from the LMD regarding approval for payment. Once the approval is received, the district will prepare the claim, have it approved for payment at a regular district board meeting, and submit the claim to OCC.

Additional Resources

- OCC Land Management Division staff
- Land Management Division resources page on the OCC website
- Training Resources section of the OCC website