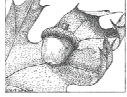


**Massachusetts
Forest Stewardship Program**



**Reimbursement Application
Forest Stewardship Plan
Working Forest Initiative Funding
Fiscal Year 2010
Completion Deadline: June 30, 2010**

Landowners:

Forest Stewardship Program
740 South Street, P.O. Box 1433
Pittsfield, MA 01202 (413) 442-8928 x135

Please read side 2, then complete this section and mail to:

Landowner

Property

Name _____

Town _____

Soc. Sec. No. or T.I.N. (required) _____
(indicate whose SSN)

Road _____

Mailing address _____

County _____

Estimated total acres of property _____

Acres to be covered by plan _____

Daytime Phone _____

Ownership Type and other information

Evening Phone _____

Please check the listings that apply to this ownership

Email _____

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> individual or joint | <input type="checkbox"/> corporation or business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> non-profit, land trust | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation restriction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> non-profit, other | <input type="checkbox"/> CH61 enrollment planned |
| <input type="checkbox"/> group or association | <input type="checkbox"/> CH61A " " |
| <input type="checkbox"/> municipal | <input type="checkbox"/> CH61B " " |

Plan preparer (if known) _____

Landowner Statement & Signature

I agree to keep the land under the Forest Stewardship Plan in forest cover during the 10-year life of the Plan. Implementing my Stewardship Plan is voluntary. However, when I undertake management activities, I agree to follow the Plan. I can amend the Plan at any time consistent with Program guidelines. If I withdraw the Plan from the Program during the 7-year agreement (commitment) to the MA Forest Stewardship Program, I will repay the reimbursement dollars I received for the Plan.

I certify that I do not own more than 1,000 acres of non-industrial private forestland in the United States or any territory or possession of the United States. ___ (Initial) **OR** I own more than 1,000 of non-industrial private forestland and will contact my DCR Service Forester about obtaining approval by the Statewide Stewardship Coordinating Committee. ___ (Initial).

Landowner signature _____ Date _____

For Departmental Use:

Approval

Disapproval

Extent approved (acres) _____

Ineligible property or ownership

Initial reimbursement approved (\$) _____

No funds available: keep on file

Comments _____

___ I certify that this application meets with eligibility requirements of MA Forest Stewardship Program.

DCR Authorizing signature _____ Date _____

About Stewardship Plans...

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's **Forest Stewardship Program** supports you in your desire to practice long-term guardianship of your woodlands. Working on a ten-year management plan with a Massachusetts licensed forester offers an excellent opportunity for you to increase your knowledge of your forest property. The primary objective of the Forest Stewardship Program is to reduce the likelihood of development of forest properties by encouraging active forest management.

The Stewardship Plan is a planning process that helps you identify the resources and opportunities available on your property and what you would like to realize from your property. A Forest Stewardship Plan considers all aspects of forest resource management. Soil and water quality, wildlife and fish habitat, timber and other wood products, and outdoor recreation are among the many factors to be taken into account. A plan documents management decisions and practices designed to maintain the land in a productive and healthy condition for present and future owners. The plan specifies actions that may increase the environmental and economic values of your land, and helps you focus on what is really important to you. The work proposed should closely relate to what your goals are for your property. Harvesting wood products is not a program requirement, though it may be an important means to achieve your stated objectives.

This program, funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, is open to all eligible applicants without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, gender, or sexual orientation.

Reimbursement Information:

Who is eligible – Privately owned woodlands of 10 acres or more (7 of which must be wooded), that are not currently enrolled in Forest Stewardship or Chapter 61, 61A or 61B programs. Landowners currently enrolled in Chapter 61A or 61B that do not have a forest management/stewardship plan are eligible to receive reimbursement. Eligible private landowners include individuals, trusts, land trusts, clubs, LLC's, associations, and corporate entities. Municipally owned forest land parcels of 25 acres or more are also eligible. Leaseholders are eligible as well. Not eligible: Entities principally engaged in the processing of wood products; properties that have existing stewardship/forest management plans (*see exception below), and corporations with publicly held stock.

What land cover is eligible – Abandoned fields, wetlands, and power line rights of way can also be included in the plan. Not eligible acres are: active hay fields, cropland, commercial blueberries, Christmas trees, orchards, houses and outbuildings and the lawns and landscaped areas around them.

Reimbursement is only for new management plans. Re-certifications and amendments to existing plans (Chapter 61, Tree Farm, etc.) are not eligible to receive reimbursement. *The exception to this rule is the case of a new landowner that inherited a plan from the previous owner. The reimbursement application must be approved by DCR before work on the plan begins.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|----------|--|
| Reimbursement rates – | 10-36 ac. | = | \$850 |
| | 37-500 ac. | = | \$850 +\$12.00/ac over 36 acres |
| | over 500 ac. | = | based on a written estimate by MA Licensed Forester & approved by DCR |

Reimbursement payments are considered taxable by the IRS and must be reported on your income tax returns.

The approval notice will specify an estimated reimbursement amount based upon the estimated acreage the plan will cover. The reimbursement you receive will be calculated from your plan and the number of acres actually addressed by the completed plan. The formula we use allows our program to make a firm commitment to you (and many others), yet stay within our allotted budget. It is not meant to suggest what a good Stewardship Plan should cost in your particular case – there are too many variables at play. Many factors affect the cost of a plan: access to the parcel, terrain, variety of habitats and forest cover types, availability of maps, surveys and other documents, presence of good boundary indicators, and the complexity of your goals for the land you love. Consultants' fees also vary. Take the time you need to find a professional you feel comfortable working with and who understands your needs.