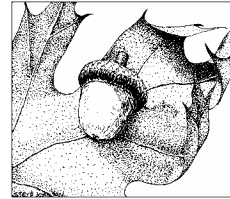




## Stewardship Notes



Greetings MA Licensed Forester,

**The wait is over!** The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's Forest Stewardship Program currently has funds available for preparing new stewardship plans and upgrading existing plans for the purpose of enrolling in Green Certification.

The funding has been made available through the new Forest Landowner Assistance initiative, "One-Stop-Shopping". Through this initiative, woodland owners as well as consulting foresters will have the ability to access funding or information for a spectrum of needs, such as carbon sequestration credits, estate planning, green certification, and reimbursement for stewardship plans. More information will be available related to these programs will be available in the coming months.

The Forest Stewardship Program, in partnership with you, is looking forward to introducing many forest landowners to the idea that the flow of public benefits such as clean water and air, wildlife habitat, recreation, and long-term wood supply is directly related to the health and sustainability of private forestland.

Forest Stewardship/Green Certification—a quick overview

### **Eligibility Information:**

#### *Forest Stewardship*

**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, and which do not have a permanent conservation easement recorded on the property. 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 that are not permanently protected are also eligible. Leaseholders are eligible as well.

**Not eligible:** Entities principally engaged in the processing of wood products; properties with a permanent conservation restriction; and corporations with publicly held stock.

#### *Green Certification*

**Eligible:** Landowners, both private and municipal, who commit in writing to enroll in the MA Private Lands Group Certification program that have an existing Forest Stewardship Plan or Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B forest management plan are eligible. 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 and entities principally engaged in wood processing and properties that are permanently protected are also eligible. Leaseholders are eligible as well.

**Not eligible:** Corporations with publicly held stock.

**What land cover is eligible?**

Forest Stewardship

**Eligible acreage:** Abandoned fields, wetlands, and power line rights of way can also be included in the plan.

**Non-eligible acreage:** active hay fields, cropland, commercial blueberries, Christmas trees, orchards, houses and outbuildings and the lawns and landscaped areas around them.

Green Certification

**Eligible acreage:** Forestland as defined in the MA Forest Stewardship Program and Chapter 61/61A/61B.

**Non-eligible acreage:** active hay fields, cropland, commercial blueberries, Christmas trees, orchards, houses and outbuildings and the lawns and landscaped areas around them.

**Reimbursement information:**

Forest Stewardship

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.

**Rates for New Forest Stewardship Plans**

10-36 acres	<b>\$850</b>
37-500 acres	<b>\$850 +\$12.00/ac</b> over 36 acres
500 acres or more	based on a written estimate by MA Licensed Forester & approved by DCR

Green Certification

Reimbursement is only for upgrades to existing Forest Management or Forest Stewardship plans for the purpose of enrolling in MA Private Lands Group Certification. The reimbursement application must be approved by DCR before work on the upgrade plan begins.

**Rates for Upgrade of existing plan**

Existing Chapter 61, 61A, 61B to Forest Stewardship/Green Certification-	<b>\$600</b>
Existing Forest Stewardship to Forest Stewardship/Green Certification-	<b>\$300</b>

## **Application Process**

- To apply, please fill out the "Reimbursement Application". Applications will be available online <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/service/lawsnforms.htm> or by contacting your district service forester.
- Send completed application to:  
Mike Downey  
Forest Stewardship Program  
740 South St, PO Box 1433  
Pittsfield, MA 01202
- When the application is received at the Pittsfield office it will be reviewed and the landowner and consulting forester will be notified of status (e.g. approved/disapproved, initial reimbursement dollars approved) within 5 business days.
- All plans approved for reimbursement must be completed and received by DCR no later than by June 30, 2009
- Landowners wishing to enroll in MA Private Lands Group Certification must use the new directions and forms which will be available online <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/service/lawsnforms.htm> or by contacting your district service forester.

Please feel free to contact:

Michael Downey, Stewardship Program Service Forester, (413) 442-8928 x135 or  
Douglas Hutcheson, Green Certification Private Lands Service Forester, (413) 237-9713  
with any questions.