

**Massachusetts  
Forest Stewardship Program**



**Reimbursement Application  
Forest Stewardship Plan  
Working Forest Initiative Funding  
FISCAL YEAR 2012**

**Deadline for Forest Stewardship Plan Submission: May 4, 2012**

**Landowners:**

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

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

**Landowner**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Or Taxpayer Identification Number \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUIRED** (please indicate whose SS/TIN#)

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Plan preparer (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**Property**

Town \_\_\_\_\_

Road \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated total acres of property \_\_\_\_\_

Acres to be covered by plan \_\_\_\_\_

**Ownership Type and other information**

Please check the listings that apply to this ownership

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual or Joint    | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Restriction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit, land trust | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Stewardship       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit, other      | <input type="checkbox"/> CH61 enrollment planned  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Group or association   | <input type="checkbox"/> CH61A enrollment planned |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal              | <input type="checkbox"/> CH61B enrollment planned |

**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. When undertaking management activities, I pledge to abide by the management provisions of the Stewardship Management Plan during the 10-year period following approval. I understand that in the event that I convey all or a portion of the land described in this plan during the period of the plan, I will notify the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) of this change in ownership. 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 notify DCR and I will repay the reimbursement dollars I received for the Plan.

Landowner signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**For Departmental Use:**

**Approval**

Extent approved (acres) \_\_\_\_\_

Initial reimbursement approved (\$) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

**Disapproval**

\_\_\_\_\_ Ineligible property or ownership

\_\_\_\_\_ No funds available: keep on file

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

DCR Authorizing signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **About Forest 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 to learn more about your woodland. A forester considers multiple aspects of forest resource management, including soil and water quality and the way your woodland fits into the larger landscape surrounding it.

The process of creating your Forest Stewardship Plan helps you identify the resources and opportunities available on your property and determine your management goals which *may* include—for example—wildlife habitat improvement, creation of hiking trails or vistas, and generating firewood, timber, or other products. *Harvesting wood products is not a program requirement, though it may be an important means to achieve your stated objectives.*

Your Forest Stewardship Plan will contain a map of each forest stand, a description of your management goals, and recommended managing practices designed to bring you closer to achieving your goals. Implementing your ten-year Plan will help maintain your woodland in a healthy, productive condition for present and future owners, and increase the environmental and economic value of your land.

The primary objective of the Forest Stewardship Program is to reduce the likelihood of development of forest properties by encouraging active forest management.

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

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## **Reimbursement Information:**

### **Who is eligible?**

- Landowners owning 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.

### **Who is 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.

### **What land cover is not eligible?**

- 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 who inherits a plan from the previous owner. The reimbursement application must be approved by DCR before work on the plan begins.

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

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

*The approval notice will specify a reimbursement amount based upon the stated "acreage to be covered by plan" on your application. The reimbursement amount you receive will not exceed the value as determined by the rate formula. 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. **Please contact the Forest Stewardship Office within 30 days of application submission if you (applicant) determine information on the application to be incorrect.***