

**MA Private Lands FSC Group Certification
Reimbursement Application For
Plan Upgrade
from Chapter 61 or Stewardship to FSC standard
Fiscal Year 2010 Completion Deadline: June 30, 2010**

Landowners:

MA Private Lands Group Certification
40 Cold Storage Drive PO Box 484
Amherst, MA 01004 (413) 237-9713

Please read page 2 and complete this section. Mail to:

Landowner

Property

Name _____

Town _____

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

Road _____

Mailing address _____

County _____

Forest Stewardship Plan Case Number _____

Chapter 61/61A/61B Case Number _____

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

Plan preparer (if known) _____

Landowner Statement & Signature

I agree to keep the land under the "Upgraded DCR FSC Group Certification Standard" forest management/Stewardship Plan in forest cover during the 10-year life of the Plan (or remainder of plan period). When I undertake management activities, I agree to follow the Plan. I can amend the Plan at any time consistent with Program guidelines.

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 FSC Certification of private forestland in MA...

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that promotes the responsible management of the world's forests. Forest certification is a third party auditing system of forest management practices. The use of certification engages the marketplace, encouraging recognition of the value of forests, and moreover to advance standards in forest management practices. Certification assures consumers of forest products that the raw materials in their purchases originated from a forest managed under recognized sustainable management practices. The principles and criteria established by FSC promote ecologically beneficial, socially responsible, economically viable forest management practices.

The benefits of joining the Massachusetts certification group include:

- Incentive to maintain forests as forests
- Recognition for implementing high standards of sustainable forest management practices locally
- The ability to sell timber in the certified marketplace
- Ability to participate in the carbon market
- Market access to and possible financial gain from future demand for green certified wood products
- An opportunity to educate neighbors and the public about the importance of well-managed private forests
- Access to forest certification at a reduced cost
- 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 these forests.

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 – Landowners, both private and municipal, who commit in writing to enroll in the DCR Forest Stewardship Council 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 – Forestland as defined in the MA Forest Stewardship Program and Chapter 61/61A/61B. 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 upgrades to existing forest management plans. New Forest Stewardship Plans and/or Chapter 61/61A/61B forest management plans are not eligible to receive reimbursement. The reimbursement application must be approved by DCR before work on the upgrade plan begins.

Reimbursement rates – Upgrade Chapter 61/61A/61B Plan to DCR FSC Group Certification Standard = \$600
Upgrade Forest Stewardship Plan to DCR FSC Group Certification Standard = \$300

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 applicant's existing plan format. The reimbursement you receive will be calculated from your existing plan (e.g. Forest Stewardship, Chapter 61/61A/61B). 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 "Upgraded DCR FSC Group Certification Standard" forest management/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.