



Cost-Share Application
Forest Stewardship Plan & Foresters for the Birds Program

WORKING FOREST INITIATIVE FUNDING
FISCAL YEAR 2017

Application must be submitted and approved prior to submitting completed plan to DCR
Only Applications with completed IRS Form W-9 Will Be Processed

Landowners:

Please read side 2, and then complete Application & IRS Form W-9 and mail to:

Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program
355 West Boylston Street
Clinton, MA 01510
978-368-0126 x129 (office) 413-212-3039 (cell)

Landowner

Property

Name

Town

Mailing address

Road

County

Daytime Phone

Estimated total acres of property

Evening Phone

Acres to be covered by plan

Email

Ownership Type and other information

Plan preparer (if known)

Please check the listings that apply to this ownership

I/We are applying for Forest Stewardship Plan Cost-Share (NEW)

I/We have an EXISTING Forest Stewardship Plan

I/We are applying for Cost-Share for Bird Habitat Assessment

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 Plan during the 10-year period. 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.

Please contact the Forest Stewardship Office within thirty (30) days of application submission if you (applicant) determine the information on the application to be incorrect or desire to withdraw your application.

Landowner signature Date

Cost-share reimbursement payments are considered reportable by the IRS and must be reported on your income tax returns. (IRS Form W-9 must be submitted with this cost-share application.)

For Departmental Use Only:

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 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 property map, individual forest stand information, 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.

Cost-Share Reimbursement Information:

Who is eligible?

- Landowners owning woodlands of 10 acres or more (7 of which must be wooded with remaining acres being classified as "eligible"), 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 cost-share 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.

Forest Stewardship Cost-Share Reimbursement is only for new management plans. Re-certifications and amendments to existing plans 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 cost-share application must be approved by DCR before work on the plan begins.

Cost-Share Reimbursement rates:

- 10 to 36 acres = \$910**
- 37 to 499 acres = \$910 + \$13.00/acre over 36 acres**
- Over 500 acres = based on a written estimate by MA Licensed Forester & approved by DCR**



Foresters for the Birds—A Woodland Owner Program Focused on Supporting Songbird Habitat

This new program is intended to support landowners with woods who would like to learn more about the bird habitat on their land and how to enhance it in conjunction with other forest management goals. A Massachusetts Licensed Consulting Forester certified in conducting Bird Habitat Assessments will assess your woods for existing and potential bird habitat. The Bird Habitat Assessment will be integrated into your efforts towards other goals such as improving forest health, generating income, or enhancing recreational trails. These recommendations will then be incorporated into your Forest Stewardship Plan.

Reimbursement Information:

Who is eligible?

- Private Landowners with 10 or more wooded acres that are currently enrolled in the Forest Stewardship Program or apply for a Forest Stewardship Plan at the same time.

Cost-Share Reimbursement rates for NEW Forest Stewardship Plan with Bird Assessment:

- 10 to 20 acres = \$300**
- 21 to 50 acres = \$400**
- Greater than 51 acres = \$500**

Cost-Share Reimbursement rates for EXISTING Forest Stewardship Plan with Bird Assessment:

- 10 to 20 acres = \$600**
- 21 to 50 acres = \$800**
- Greater than 51 acres = \$1,000**

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

You will receive an IRS Form 1099 for this payment.

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.**

These programs, funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, are open to all eligible applicants without regard to age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, marital or family status, sex or sexual orientation.