

Climate Stewardship Incentive Program (C-SIP)



**Financial Assistance for Climate-Informed Forestry
Practices**



FORES↑SWORK



What is C-SIP?

C-SIP is a product of the Healey Administration's **Forests as Climate Solutions** Initiative.

The focus of this financial assistance program is soil protection, carbon retention and increasing the adaptive capacity of the forest when pursuing forest management activities.

Funding for the program comes from a US Forest Service Grant, approved through the 2025 Inflation Reduction Act. The grant timeline runs through the end of 2029. The federal funding is not tied to state fiscal years, allowing more flexibility and multi-year contracts.

The **C**limate **S**tewardship **I**ncentive **P**rogram provides cost-share funding for 7 major climate-informed forestry practices:

Harvest Layout

Legacy Tree Retention

Invasive Plant Control

Climate Smart BMPs

Temporary Barriers to Animal Browse

Enrichment Planting

Tree Inoculation

Each practice may have more than one component, and land stewards may apply for more than one practice related to their climate-forward goals.

Eligibility

Applicants

- Individuals
- Municipalities
- Partnerships
- For-profit entities
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Leaseholders
- Not-for-Profit (NFP) entities that:
- Owners in-fee of forest land, and
 - Qualified for tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code

Priority Admission is given to land stewards who meet one or more of the criteria below. This priority focus supports groups who have historically had limited engagement with DCR's Service Forestry programmatic offerings by ensuring they have access to the resources needed for successful land management:

- Beginning farmers, ranchers, or forest stewards
- Farmers or forest land stewards residing in high-poverty areas
- Federally or Massachusetts State-recognized Tribes, Alaska Native corporations/villages, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders.
- Limited resource producers.
- Veterans
- Women Landowners

For practices requiring a Forest Cutting Plan, an approved Forest Cutting Plan is not required at the time of application. However, the plan must be obtained and approved before practice implementation in accordance with program requirements.

Maximum Reimbursement Amount

A landowner or entity may receive up to maximum of **\$50,000**.

C-SIP 1

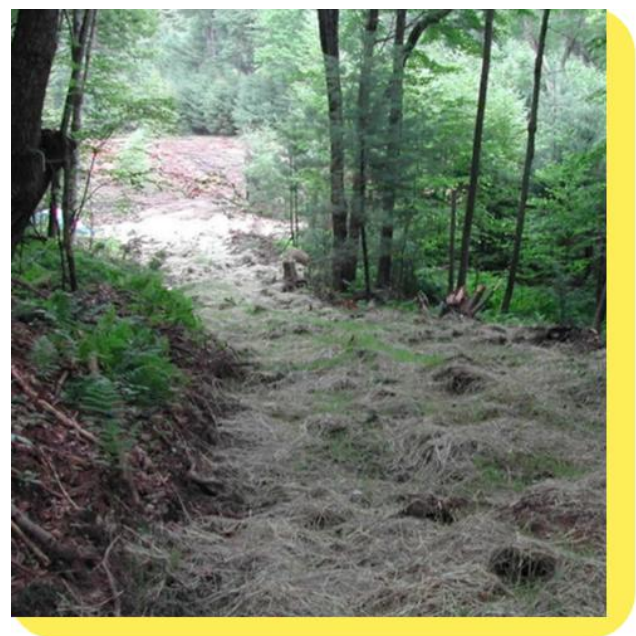
HARVEST LAYOUT

Clearly flag or mark (with paint) the following:
skid roads; extent of landing locations; water control structures (i.e., water bars or other water diversion structures); locations for timber mats; soil protection measures

Practice-specific application requirements:

- C-SIP Practice Plan
- C-SIP Spatial Data

*Forest Cutting Plan Not required at the time of application. Intent to submit a cutting plan is required



C-SIP 2

LEGACY TREE RETENTION

Biologically old and very large trees are uncommon in our landscape. Their preservation retains carbon, increases stand complexity, and provides refuge to forest components that are slow to colonize new areas.
The strategic retention of these legacy trees during management activities, particularly when situated near existing downed wood, snags, and other site features, provides additional ecological advantages.

Practice-specific application requirements:

- Forest Management or Stewardship Plan
- C-SIP Practice Plan
- C-SIP Spatial Data
- Forest Cutting Plan



C-SIP 1 Cost-Share Rates	
Acres	Cost-Share Rate
Up to 50 acres	Up to 4 hours (at \$120/hour) Maximum \$480
51-100 acres	Up to 8 hours (at \$120/hour) Maximum \$960
Greater than 100 acres	Up to 12 hours (at \$120/hour) Maximum \$1,440

C-SIP 2 Cost-Share Rates	
Component	Cost-Share Rate
2.1: Individual Legacy Tree Retention (marking)	\$60 per tree Tree limit: 5 trees/ac. Maximum per ac: \$300 Maximum reimbursement: \$6,000
2.2: Patch Legacy Tree Retention (marking)	\$640 per acre Maximum Reimbursement: \$6,400

C-SIP 4 INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES CONTROL

A changing climate allows invasive plant species to thrive and spread. Reducing their population increases the health, vigor, and diversity of desirable, native plant populations. This in turn increases the health and resilience of forests.

Practice-specific application requirements:

- Forest Management or Stewardship Plan
- C-SIP Practice Plan
- C-SIP Spatial Data



C-SIP 4 Harvest Layout Cost-Share Rates		
Component	Cost-Share Rate	Prescence of target species in treatment area
Heavy	\$1,193/acre	Greater than 67%
Moderate	\$543/acre	26% t 66%
Light	\$309/acre	10% to 25%
Light Mechanical	\$474/acre	10% to 25%, and it is appropriate for removal with a chainsaw, brush saw, and/or another mechanical method (e.g., mower/chipper).

C-SIP 6 TEMPORARY BARRIERS TO ANIMAL BROWSE

Protect young trees from deer browse. Protecting seedlings supports regeneration and carbon sequestration. Improves species diversity and age-class structure for resilience.

Practice-specific application requirements:

- Forest Management or Stewardship Plan
- C-SIP Practice Plan
- C-SIP Spatial Data



Reimbursement rates:

C-SIP 6A: Use of tree shelters to protect planted seedlings from deer browse: \$15/seedling (max. 100 seedlings/acre*).

C-SIP 6B: Use of tree shelters around natural regeneration: \$15/seedling (max. 50 seedlings per acre*)

* Up to 200 seedlings per acre may be approved with prior authorization.

The combined maximum reimbursement for C-SIP 6A and 6B is \$3,000 per acre at 200 seedlings per acre

C-SIP 5

CLIMATE-SMART BMPs

Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) dedicated to erosion control are proven techniques used to mitigate the impacts of timber harvests on water quality, site productivity, and soil health. The efficacy of BMPs is most pronounced when planned before, and implemented during, harvesting activities. Long-term effectiveness depends on monitoring, vigilant inspection, and adequate maintenance throughout the entirety of the timber harvest and at harvest closeout.

C-SIP 5.1

Log-reinforced waterbars on skid roads

Log reinforced water bars constructed during, and/or after a harvest will outlast traditional earthen water bars and prevent water runoff from extreme weather events. Implementation of properly constructed and maintained water diversions for skid trails and roads to stabilize soil throughout the harvest.

Practice-specific application requirements:

- C-SIP Practice Plan
- C-SIP Spatial Data
- Forest Cutting Plan

C-SIP 5.2

Seeding for soil stabilization and pollinator habitat

Seeding can stabilize soil and minimize soil erosion in disturbed areas and on slopes. Seeding establishes perennial vegetative cover, which helps control soil erosion in disturbed areas. It reduces erosion and sediment loss by protecting bare soil surfaces from displacement by raindrop impacts, reducing stormwater flow rates and volumes, and providing permanent stabilization. This practice is economical, adaptable to different site conditions, and allows selection of a variety of plant materials.

Practice-specific application requirements:

- C-SIP Practice Plan
- C-SIP Spatial Data
- Forest Cutting Plan



Reimbursement rates:

\$250/ water bar throughout harvest **OR**

\$75/water bar at harvest closeout

Reimbursement rates:

\$600 - \$1,200/acre

C-SIP 5

CLIMATE-SMART BMPs

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C-SIP 5.3

BMP Materials

The proper use and placement of soil stabilization products, such as Straw Bales, Wattles, and Fiber Blankets, can be used as a temporary means to intercept extreme runoff/trap sediment in areas with disturbed soils and high resource concerns throughout the harvest.

Practice-specific application requirements:

- C-SIP Practice Plan
- Forest Cutting Plan



Reimbursement rates:

May include one or more of the following components (not to exceed \$600):

Straw bale and stakes: \$20/bale
Biodegradable Fiber Blanket: \$150/roll
Wattle and stakes at: \$150/wattle

C-SIP 5.4

Timber Mats

Timber mats are an effective BMP in timber harvesting, helping to reduce impacts on hydrology, nutrient cycling, and forest soils that store carbon. They are often temporarily installed on landings, access roads, skid roads, stream crossings, and wetland crossings. Eligible applicants may receive financial assistance for the purchase of new mats through a cost-share reimbursement process.

Practice-specific application requirements:

- Forest Cutting Plan



Reimbursement rates:

Up to \$500/mat
Up to 20 mats are eligible for cost-share

New C-SIP Practices (July 2026)

C-SIP 7

Enrichment Planting and Reforestation

Planting climate-adapted species sustains long-term carbon sequestration. Promotes forest diversity and reduces climate-related risks. Supports next-generation forest adaptation.



C-SIP 7 Component	Cost-Share Rate
Planting Labor	Up to \$20/seedling
Seedling	Up to \$17/seedling

C-SIP 8

Tree Inoculation

Inoculating tree species including ash and hemlock promotes vigor and survivability against novel pests

Cost-Share Rates (see C-SIP practice standards for more details)

Practice	Cost-Share Rate	Treatment Maximum	Minimum Tree Size	Funding restrictions
Trunk injection, Ash	\$1,500 project base rate + \$10.50 per inch DBH	\$3,500 or \$7,000	12 inches DBH (white ash) 6 inches DBH (all other ash species)	Licensed applicator required Sexing of trees is mandatory for any treatment after the first treatment
Trunk injection, Hemlock	\$1,500 project base rate + \$12 per inch DBH	\$3,500	6 inches DBH	Licensed applicator required
Basal spraying, Hemlock	\$1,500 project base rate + \$0.75 per in DBH (imidacloprid) \$2.00 per inch DBH (dinotefuran)	\$3,500	None	Licensed applicator required Not allowed in proximity to pollinators or in wet areas
Insecticide tablets, Hemlock	\$1,500 project base rate + \$0.35 per inch DBH	\$3,500	None	Licensed applicator required Not allowed in proximity to pollinators or in wet areas

Future C-SIP Practices (Summer 2026 – Currently Being Drafted)

C-SIP 3.1: Marking for Commercial Thinning

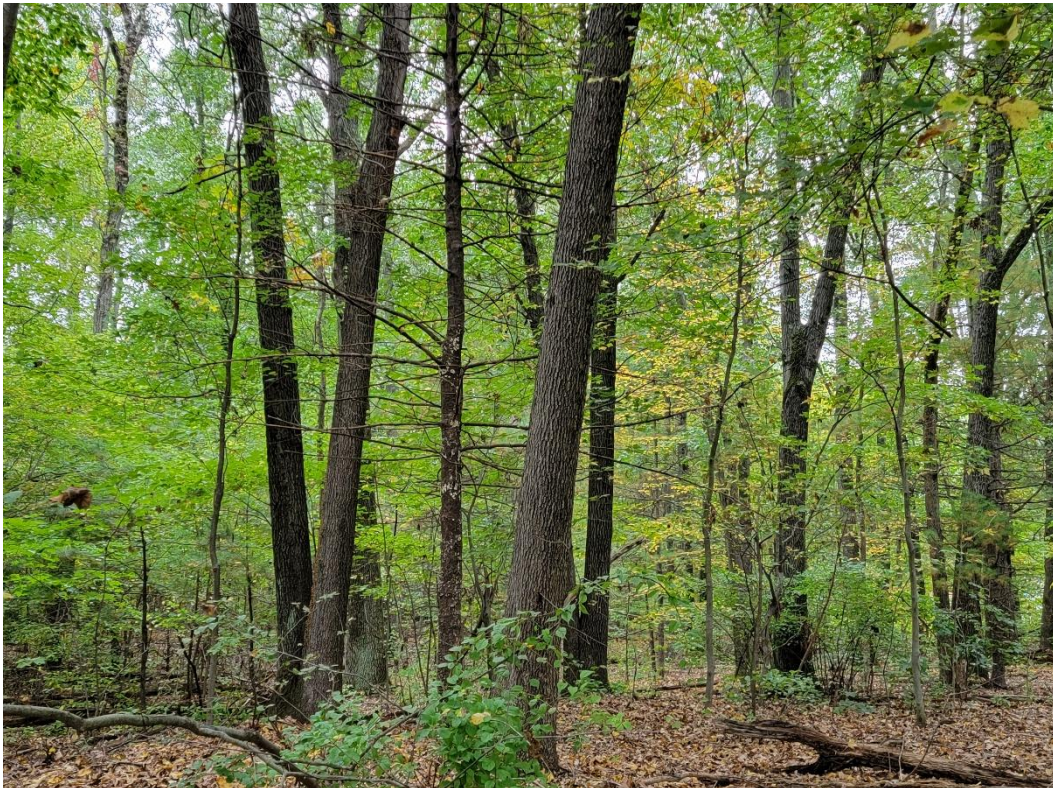
C-SIP 3.2: Marking for Group Selection

C-SIP 3.3: Leave Tree Marking: Patch cut/ Shelterwood

Marking allows specific trees to remain during a timber harvest to increase forest health, vigor, and regeneration. This practice is done in a way that supports increased structural diversity within the harvested stand.

C-SIP 9: Non-commercial tending (crop-tree release, weeding, cleaning)

Applying climate-focused silviculture to local forests reduces the impacts from future stressors and disturbances and allows the forest community to adapt to changing conditions.



C-SIP Practice Plan

The Practice Plan captures the climate impacts, adaptation strategies, and monitoring commitments needed for project review.

The Practice Plan provides a structured approach to:

- Identifying vulnerabilities to climate-driven disturbances
- Prioritizing mitigation and resilience treatments
- Engaging land stewards in proactive, climate-smart stewardship

Flat Rate: \$500 per completed practice plan or amendment.

Limit: One Practice Plan or amendment per application. Additional applications for the same property require proof that earlier approved practices have been implemented before new funding can be authorized for a subsequent Practice Plan or Plan Amendment.

No acreage-based adjustments

C-SIP Monitoring

C-SIP Expansion annual monitoring helps land stewards and foresters evaluate forest conditions, track progress toward their goals, and identify emerging threats such as pest outbreaks, invasive species, or storm damage. Through consistent observation and documentation, monitoring provides an early warning system for disturbance events and enables swift and well-coordinated management responses. Each applicant approved for C-SIP Expansion funding is required to conduct at least one (1) monitoring report as part of participation in C-SIP Expansion*. This requirement complements the CSIP Expansion Practice Plan (aka C-SIP Practice Plan) and other practices listed in the Cost-Share Practices Table.

C-SIP Practice	Practice Acres	Cost-Share Rate
C-SIP Monitoring	1-20 Acres	\$400
	21-50 Acres	\$600
	51+ Acres	\$800

Ready to Apply?

STEP 1: Review the C-SIP Handbook and Materials with Your Consulting forester

Work with your private consulting forester to review the C-SIP Handbook and identify the C-SIP practices that best support your forest management goals. C-SIP materials are available on our [website](#).

STEP 2: Complete the application and IRS Form W-9.

Complete the C-SIP application and the required IRS Form W-9.

STEP 3: Submit Your Application

Submit your completed application by email to DCR.Forestry@mass.gov or by mail to:

MA Forest Stewardship Program
355 West Boylston Street
Clinton, MA 01510

Mail your completed IRS Form W-9 to:

Massachusetts Woodlands Institute

Attn: Emily Boss

P.O. Box 450

5 Mechanic Street

Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

Office: (413) 625-9151 ext. 104

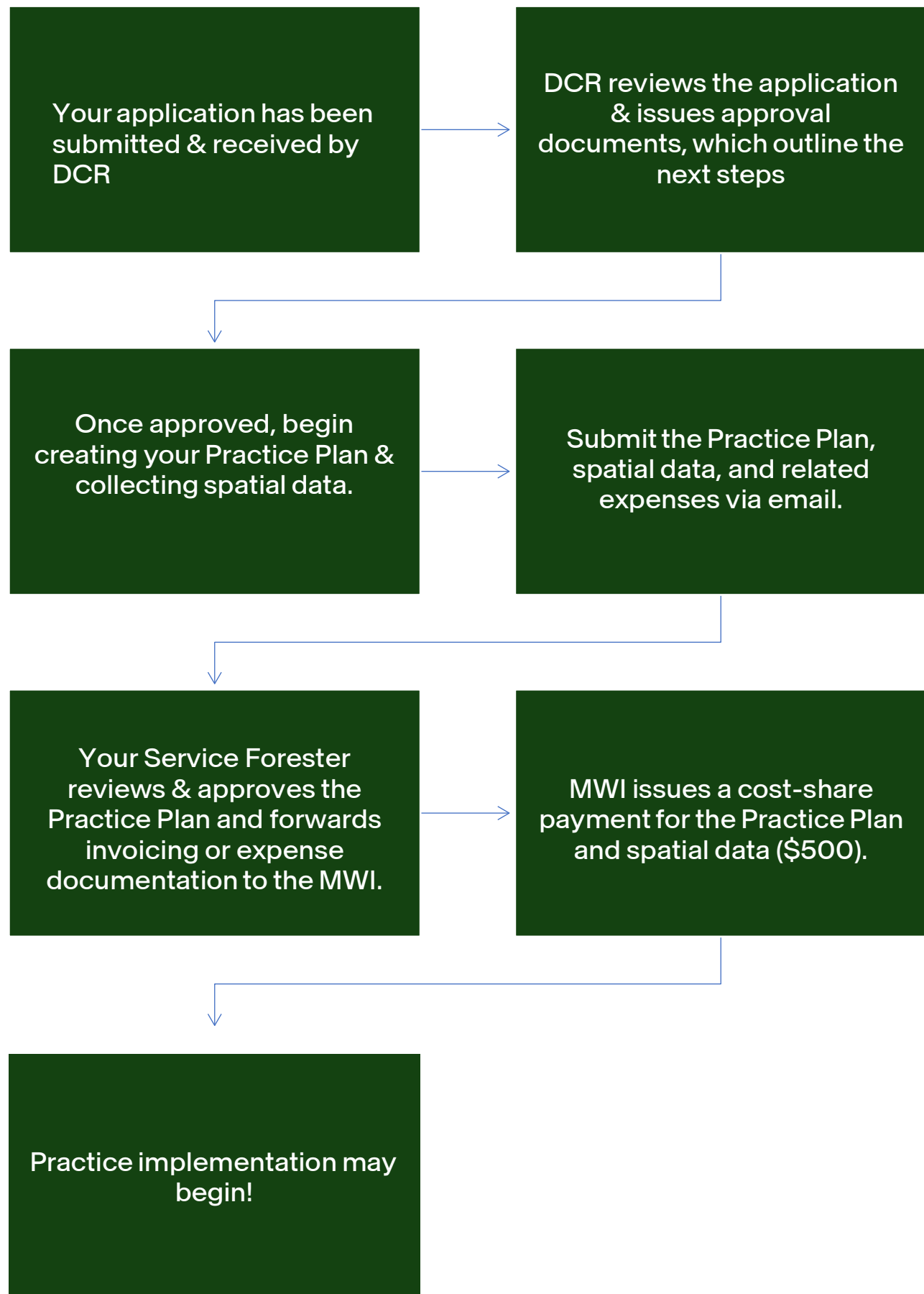
Email: emily@masswoodlands.org

Application Deadline: C-SIP Cost-Share applications will be accepted until funds are exhausted or **October 31, 2029**, whichever occurs first.

Award Notifications: Cost-share awards are announced on a rolling basis.

Important: Only applications accompanied by a completed IRS Form W-9 will be processed.

C-SIP Order of Operations



C-SIP Questions & Contact Information

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