**Fiscal Year 2025**

**DCR Cost-Share Application**

**Forest Stewardship, Foresters for the Birds & Climate Forestry Programs**

Funded through the WORKING FOREST INITIATIVE

A path through a forest

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceShape

Description automatically generated with low confidence

Application for DCR Cost-Share MUST BE APPROVED before SUBMITTING COMPLETED PLAN TO DCR

Please complete the application and IRS [Form W-9 (Rev. March 2024) (irs.gov)](https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf) and mail them to:

Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program, 355 West Boylston Street, Clinton, MA 01510, or email: [michael.downey@mass.gov](mailto:michael.downey@mass.gov)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CONTACT INFORMATION** | | | |
| Landowner Name(s): | | Plan Preparer Name: | |
| Landowner Mailing Address (street, city, state, zip): | | | |
| Landowner Telephone Number (including area code): | | Landowner E-mail: | |
| **PROPERTY INFORMATION** | | | |
| Total Property Acres:    Acres to be covered by Plan: | Town:    County: | Road: | |
| **ELIGIBILITY** | | | |
| **YES NO**  I/We are applying for Stewardship Plan Cost-Share (**NEW**)  I/We are applying for Cost-Share for Bird Habitat Assessment (**Foresters for the Birds Program**)  I/We are applying for Cost-Share for Climate Forestry (**Climate Forestry Program**)  I/We have an EXISTING Management Plan (CH 61/ 61A /61B)  I/We have an EXISTING Forest Stewardship Plan  The property has an EXISTING Forest Stewardship or Management Plan; I/we are the new owners. | | | |
| **Technical Assistance Cost-Share^ for Climate Forestry Program**  ***^Cost-Share Rate up to $120/hour*** | | | |
| I/We would like an additional 4 hours of Technical Assistance from our consulting forester before our Climate Forestry plan is written.  I/We would like an additional 2 hours of Technical Assistance from our consulting forester to review our completed Climate Forestry plan. | | | |
| **LANDOWNER SIGNATURE** | | | |
| Only applications with completed IRS [Form W-9 (Rev. March 2024) (irs.gov)](https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf) will be processed. The IRS considers Cost-share reimbursement payments reportable and must be reported on your income tax returns. The name and address submitted on the IRS Form W-9 are to whom and where the reimbursement check will be issued. IRS [Form W-9 (Rev. March 2024) (irs.gov)](https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf) must be submitted with this cost-share application.  Please contact the Forest Stewardship Office within thirty (30) days of application submission if you (the applicant) determine the information on the application to be incorrect or desire to withdraw your application. If you decide at any point to not have a Stewardship Plan prepared for your land, you must notify the Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program.  ***IRS considers Cost-share reimbursement payments reportable and must be reported on your income tax returns.***  ***You will receive an IRS Form 1099 for cost-share reimbursement payments.*** | | | |
| Landowner Signature: | | | Date: |
| **FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY** | | | |
| **Approval**  Acres Approved**:** Reimbursement approved ($):  Comments:  **Disapproval**  Ineligible  No Funds Available (keep on file)  Comments:  I certify that this application meets the eligibility requirements for Working Forest Initiative Funding and the MA Forest Stewardship Program.  DCR AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE:  DATE: | | | |

**Forest Stewardship Program**

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation’s (DCR) **Forest Stewardship Program** supports your commitment to the caring of your woodlands. Our program is designed to reduce the likelihood of the development of forestland by encouraging active forest management while fostering a deeper understanding of your woodland through a ten-year management plan written by a **Massachusetts Licensed Forester**.

[A landscape with trees and a body of water in the background

Description automatically generated with medium confidence](https://www.mass.gov/doc/caring-for-your-woods-a-starting-point-private-lands-forestry/download) [A picture containing text, tree, outdoor, green

Description automatically generated](https://www.mass.gov/doc/caring-for-your-woods-working-with-nature-private-lands-forestry/download) [A picture containing text, tree, outdoor, grass

Description automatically generated](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2019/10/07/Caring%20for%20your%20Woods%20-%20A%20valuable%20resource.pdf) [A person and person walking through a forest

Description automatically generated with low confidence](https://www.mass.gov/doc/caring-for-your-woods-setting-goals/download) [A picture containing text, tree, outdoor, grass

Description automatically generated](https://www.mass.gov/doc/caring-for-your-woods-adapting-to-changing-conditions/download) [A landscape with trees and a body of water in the distance

Description automatically generated with medium confidence](https://www.mass.gov/doc/caring-for-your-woods-managing-for-forest-carbon/download)

**Who is eligible?**

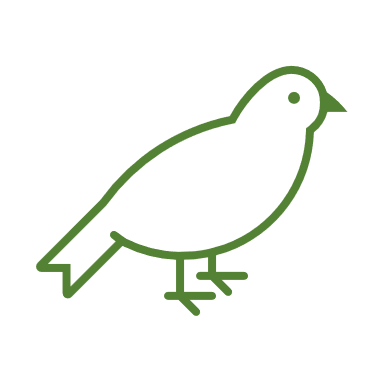
* Landowners with woodlands of 10 acres or more (with at least 7 acres designated as "wooded" and the remaining acres as "eligible") and not currently enrolled in Forest Stewardship or Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B programs.
* Landowners currently enrolled in Chapter 61A or 61B without an existing forest management/stewardship plan.
* Eligible landowners encompass individuals, trusts, land trusts, clubs, LLCs, associations, leaseholders, and corporate entities.
* Municipally-owned forestland

It's important to note that **Forest Stewardship Cost-Share Reimbursement is exclusively for new Stewardship Plans\***. Re-certifications and amendments to existing plans do not qualify for cost-share reimbursement. The cost-share application must be approved by DCR before work on the plan begins.

Feel free to explore the program and its benefits, and if you have any queries, we're here to assist you.

Your woodland stewardship journey begins by visiting [**Forest Stewardship Program | Mass.gov**](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/forest-stewardship-program)

*\*Exceptions to this rule: In the case of a new landowner who inherits a plan from the previous owner, OR a property with a state-held CR or WPR.*

**

**Foresters for the Birds Program: Enhancing and Supporting Songbird Habitat**

Embark on a journey to enhance songbird habitat on your wooded land. This program is designed to deepen your understanding of avian habitat while seamlessly aligning with your broader forest management goals. A certified **Massachusetts Licensed Forester**, specializing in Bird Habitat Assessments, will carefully evaluate your woods, examining both existing and potential bird habitat. The bird assessment becomes an integral part of your holistic approach to forest management, harmonizing with goals such as promoting forest health or enhancing recreational trails. The resulting recommendations are then seamlessly woven into your personalized Forest Stewardship Plan.

For more details visit [Foresters for the Birds (arcgis.com)](https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/ba7bd9e3ad2a49f49b0671e22486edd1).

Discover the joy of stewarding your woods while fostering a thriving haven for our feathered friends.

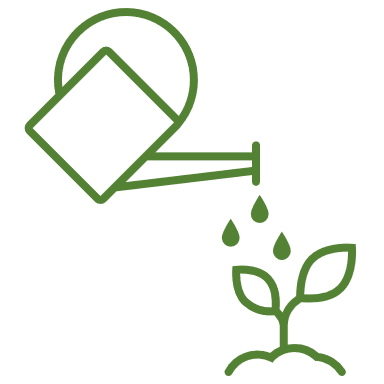
[Foresters for the Birds: Assessing Your Woods for Bird Habitat | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/guides/foresters-for-the-birds-assessing-your-woods-for-bird-habitat)

**Who is eligible?**

* Landowners and Municipalities with 10 or more acres currently enrolled in the Current Use / Forest Stewardship Program or those applying for a new Forest Stewardship Plan concurrently.

**Climate Forestry Program—Responding to Climate Change**

Whether you spend time outside in your woods or just enjoy the beauty of your trees and wildlife from your window, you likely love your woods and want to keep them healthy. Forests are always changing and adapting to new conditions. Some changes are as anticipated as the progression of green summer leaves to the bright red and gold of fall foliage, or the annual return of brightly colored migratory songbirds. Other changes in our woodlands are only visible when comparing differences across many years or decades.

******Do you wonder about the changing conditions in your woods? Many people are asking more questions about how a changing climate is impacting forests and what actions can be taken to ensure forests stay healthy no matter what the future holds. The Climate Forestry Program will seamlessly integrate climate adaptation efforts with broader goals like enhancing forest health or improving recreational trails. The resulting recommendations are thoughtfully woven into your personalized Forest Stewardship Plan.

There is an exciting NEW addition for FY 2025—the **Technical Assistance Cost-Share for the Climate Forestry Program**. This option extends a cost-share opportunity, covering a greater portion of a private forester's time to assess your goals through a climate lens and meticulously review the finished plan. For more details visit [Climate Forestry | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/guides/climate-forestry)

**Who is eligible?**

* Landowners and Municipalities with 10 or more acres currently enrolled in the Current Use / Forest Stewardship Program or those applying for a new Forest Stewardship Plan concurrently.

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

**Working Forest Initiative Cost-Share Rates**

Application for Working Forest Initiative Cost-Share MUST BE APPROVED BEFORE SUBMITTING THE COMPLETED PLAN TO DCR

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Acreage** | **Cost-share Reimbursement for NEW Stewardship Plans** |
| 10 to 36 acres | $1,140 |
| 37 to 499 ac | $1,140 + $16/ac >36 acres |
| Over 500 ac | $14,622 max reimbursement\* over 500 acres |
|  | \*500 to 999 acres = $1,140 + $14.00/acre over 36 acres ($14,622.00 maximum reimbursement) |
| Over 1,000 ac | $19,622 max reimbursement\*\* over 1,000 acres |
|  | \*\*1,000+ acres = $1,140 + $12.00/acre over 36 acres ($19,622.00 maximum reimbursement) |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Acreage** | **Foresters for the Birds** | | | **Climate Forestry Program** | | | **Climate + Bird Programs** | | |
|  | New FSP | Existing FSP | Existing CH 61/61A/61B | New FSP | Existing FSP | Existing CH 61/61A/61B | New FSP | Existing FSP | Existing CH 61/61A/61B |
| 10 to 20 ac | $500 | $800 | $1,100 | $1,000 | $1,500 | $2,000 | $1,500 | $2,300 | $3,100 |
| 21 to 50 ac | $600 | $1,000 | $1,300 | $2,000 | $2,500 | $3,000 | $2,600 | $3,500 | $4,300 |
| Greater than 51 ac | $700 | $1,200 | $1,500 | $3,000 | $3,500 | $4,000 | $3,700 | $4,700 | $5,500 |
| FSP = Forest Stewardship Plan | | | | | | | | | |

When applicable, cost-share reimbursement rates for programs like Foresters for the Birds or Climate Forestry, or when combining these programs, are provided in addition to the cost-share reimbursement for new Stewardship Plans. For instance, imagine a landowner with a 100-acre property not currently enrolled in Forest Stewardship or Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B programs, who seeks a new plan integrating both Climate Forestry and Foresters for the Birds. In this scenario, they would be eligible to receive $1,140 plus $16 per acre over 36 acres, totaling $2,164, and an additional $3,700 for Climate Forestry and Foresters for the Birds. Therefore, the total reimbursement for the landowner would amount to $5,864.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Technical Assistance Cost-Share for Climate Forestry Program** | | |
| **Cost-Share Rate** | **Assistance Category** | **Hours** |
| Up to $120/hour | Consulting Forester technical assistance before your plan is written. | Up to 4 |
| Up to $120/hour | Completed Climate Plan review by your Consulting Forester  (before plan submission to DCR). | Up to 2 |
| Up to $120/hour | Includes technical assistance from your Consulting Forester before your plan is written as well as plan review (before plan submission to DCR). | Up to 6 |