



FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM FOREST STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION FOR LANDOWNERS

This information is provided under authority of Part 501 of Act 451, PA 1994 as amended, and the U.S. Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, CFDA 10.664.

The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) encourages the active management of forest resources owned by non-industrial private landowners (min.size: 12 contiguous acres). The purpose of the FSP is to help landowners increase the benefits derived from their land while conserving it for the future. This also benefits the community and larger forest landscapes.

Once the landowner has decided to have a Forest Stewardship plan written, he/she selects a certified plan writer from the list maintained by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This list contains private forestry consultants and private wildlife biologist consultants who can assist in developing a plan. In order to qualify for cost share funds, the person must be listed as a Certified Forest Stewardship Plan Writer.

The landowner and plan writer agree to a cost for the plan. The cost of the plan will vary depending on several factors including acreage, site, number of stands, etc. **The total cost of the plan is negotiated between the plan writer and the landowner.**

There is, however, a formula which determines the amount of cost share that may be reimbursed for an eligible and approved plan under the FSP. The formula is:

\$300 base, plus \$1.25 per acre
(maximum \$2,000)

OR

50% of the cost of the plan, whichever is less.
The landowner must pay at least 50% of the total plan cost.

For example, on a 40-acre parcel, the cost share reimbursement varies, depending on the total cost and the formula:

| 40 acres | Cost A | Cost B | Cost C |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|---------|
| Total Cost | \$300 | \$700 | \$1,000 |
| Forest Stewardship Program | \$150 | \$350 | \$350 |
| Landowner | \$150 | \$350 | \$650 |

The cost share funds are paid directly to the Stewardship plan writer, after he/she completes the plan, it is accepted by the landowner, and it is approved by the DNR Service Forester.

Process for having a Forest Stewardship Plan written:

1. Landowner and plan writer enter into a written agreement.
2. Landowner and plan writer complete the Michigan Forest Stewardship Assessment Form (PR4061).
3. Landowner and plan writer complete a Stewardship Plan Eligibility Application and Invoice (PR4065-3).
4. Plan writer submits the application to DNR Service Forester for land eligibility approval.
5. Plan writer writes plan. The plan must include information on threatened and endangered species.
6. Landowner signs and accepts plan.
7. Landowner pays plan writer (minimum of 50% of plan costs).
8. Plan writer submits plan to DNR Service Forester for review and approval.
9. The DNR Service Forester reviews, approves or disapproves (note: plans will not be approved for payment if there are outstanding threatened and endangered species issues) the plan.
10. If approved, DNR Service Forester sends the invoice to the Stewardship Coordinator for reimbursement to plan writer.
11. Plan writer is reimbursed in accordance with guidelines.
12. If the plan writer is not eligible for reimbursement, he/she, and the landowner will be advised.

Once the plan is complete, the landowner should use the recommendations in the plan as a guide to implementing proper forest practices, and also be aware that:

- The landowner decides which recommendations to follow. Plan implementation is completely voluntary.
- When implementing practices, the landowner is not required to hire or use the person who wrote the plan. Some plan writers provide a full range of consulting services, and others do not. The decision of which provider to use, what services to purchase and at what cost, is strictly up to the landowner. If you need additional information, contact the MDNR Service Forester in your area.
- There **may** be several public and/or private cost-share programs that provide assistance for the practices described in the plan such as the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). Each program has its own requirements and guidelines.

If you have any questions, please contact the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management, Service Foresters or Stewardship Coordinator listed below:

| NAME | LOCATION | TELEPHONE | E-MAIL | GEOGRAPHIC AREA |
|---|--------------|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Ernie Houghton | Esanaba | 906-786-2351 | houghtoe@michigan.gov | West half of Upper Peninsula |
| Rich Stevenson | Newberry | 906-293-5131 | stevenrd@michigan.gov | East half of Upper Peninsula |
| Tom Stone | Indian River | 231-238-4282 | stonet@michigan.gov | Northern & Northeast Lower Peninsula |
| Steve Kalisz | Cadillac | 231-775-9727, Ext. 6043 | kaliszs@michigan.gov | Northwest & middle Lower Peninsula |
| Dave Neumann | Lansing | 517-241-9054 | neumannnd@michigan.gov | Southwest Lower Peninsula |
| Mike Hanley | Lansing | 517-241-1608 | hanley@michigan.gov | Southeast Lower Peninsula |
| Debra Huff (Stewardship Coordinator) | Lansing | 517-335-3355 | huffd@michigan.gov | Statewide |

The Forest Stewardship Program is administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management, and funded by the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry Program.

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If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire additional information, please write: Human Resources, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 30028, Lansing MI 48909-7528, or Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Cadillac Place, 3054 West Grand Blvd, Suite 3-600, Detroit, MI 48202, or Division of Federal Assistance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203

For information or assistance on this publication, contact Forest, Mineral and Fire Management, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 30452, Lansing MI 48909-7952, Telephone 517-373-1275.

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