

Procedure for Transferring Land from the Commercial Forest (CF) to the Transitional Qualified Forest (TQF) Property Designation

Commercial Forest (CF) is administered by Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR): www.michigan.gov/commercialforest, 517-284-5849, or businskis@michigan.gov

Transitional Qualified Forest (TQF) is administered by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD): www.michigan.gov/qfp, 517-284-5630, or MDARD-QFP@michigan.gov

Eligibility for waiver of CF Withdrawal Penalty:

- Must own CF land as of September 1, 2016
- Limited to 160 acres per landowner per township*
- Must be approved by MDARD for TQF enrollment
- Must apply no later than September 1, 2021

**Note: any remaining CF land that does not meet CF requirements must be withdrawn with payment of the withdrawal penalty.*

Landowners must submit two Applications (ideally at the same time):

- 1) CF Withdrawal Application (PR4042-2) to MDNR, which includes:
 - Recorded Deed evidencing acquisition no later than Sept 1, 2016;
 - Application Fee (\$1/acre, \$200.00 minimum, \$1,000 maximum); and
 - Indicate that you want to transfer to TQF.
- 2) QFP Application Package to MDARD, which includes:
 - Application with TQF box checked for appropriate parcel(s)
 - \$50 Fee
 - Forest Management Plan
 - Practice Schedule
 - Copy of recent tax bill
 - Copy of most recent deed and/or land contract

Note: A complete application must be received by September 1st to be considered for enrollment in the subsequent tax year.

The procedure for moving land from the CF program to the TQF property designation under waiver of the CF withdrawal penalty is as follows:

1. Submit a CF withdrawal application to the MDNR by September 1 in the year in which you want to withdraw the land.
2. Apply to the MDARD for the TQF property designation no later than September 1 of the same year.
3. The MDNR and MDARD will process your applications in tandem and, if approved, will issue to you the following two (2) documents that will require notarized signatures of all landowners:
 - a. Commercial Forest Withdrawal Certificate, issued by MDNR
 - b. Transitional Qualified Forest Affidavit, issued by MDARD

4. Return both of the notarized documents to the MDARD.
5. The MDNR will sign the Withdrawal Certificate. The CF withdrawal will be effective on the date of the DNR's signature.**
6. MDARD/MDNR will record the two documents with the Register of Deeds and notify local units of government of the change in status.

****Until the CF Withdrawal Certificate is signed by the MDNR, your CF land must remain in compliance with the CF statute and administrative rules, including being open to the public for hunting and fishing.**