



Forestry Assistance to Forest Landowners

The 2008 Farm Bill includes a number of cost-share and assistance programs for forest landowners to help them improve the soil and water quality on their land through improving forest health, sustainability, and by providing multiple environmental benefits through the long-term growth of their forest. These Farm Bill programs are available in Virginia through a cooperative effort of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF). Several of the primary programs are summarized inside.

For More Information

To learn more about forestry cost-share programs, contact your local VDOF office or USDA Service Center, or visit

VDOF: www.dof.virginia.gov
NRCS: www.va.nrcs.usda.gov

CONTACT INFORMATION

Western Region Office, Salem:

Phone: (540) 387-5461 ; FAX: (540) 387-5445
Alleghany, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Buchanan, Carroll, Craig, Dickenson, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, Henry, Highland, Lee, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise and Wythe counties

Central Region Office, Charlottesville:

Phone: (434) 977-5193 ; FAX: (434) 296-3290
Albemarle, Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Arlington, Augusta, Buckingham, Campbell, Charlotte, Clarke, Culpeper, Cumberland, Fairfax, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Frederick, Greene, Halifax, Loudoun, Louisa, Lunenburg, Madison, Mecklenburg, Nelson, Nottoway, Orange, Page, Pittsylvania, Prince Edward, Prince William, Rappahannock, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Spotsylvania, Stafford and Warren counties

Eastern Region Office, Tappahannock:

Phone: (804) 443-2211 ; FAX: (804) 443-3164
Accomack, Brunswick, Caroline, Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Essex, Gloucester, Goochland, Greensville, Hanover, Henrico, Isle of Wight, James City, King & Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, Northampton, Northumberland, Powhatan, Prince George, Richmond, Southampton, Surry, Sussex, Westmoreland and York counties



COST-SHARE PROGRAMS FOR FOREST LANDOWNERS

Forestry Cost-Share Programs Available to Virginia Forest Landowners Through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service



Virginia Department of Forestry
900 Natural Resources Drive, Suite 800
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
Phone: (434) 977-6555
www.dof.virginia.gov

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Virginia Department of Forestry
www.dof.virginia.gov

Cost-Share Programs

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

This program provides technical assistance and cost-share to eligible landowners for forestry practices, such as site preparation and planting of hardwood and pine trees, fencing to keep livestock out of the forest, forest road stabilization, timber stand improvement (TSI) and invasive species control. Priority is given to projects with multiple management practices to be completed over a number of years.

Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP)

This program provides technical assistance and cost-share to eligible landowners who install wildlife habitat improvement practices on their land. These practices may include tree and shrub planting, prescribed burning, invasive species control, creation of forest openings, riparian buffer establishment and fencing livestock from the forest.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

This program provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners who restore, enhance and protect wetlands on their property. Landowners are paid for temporary or permanent easements to protect the wetlands.

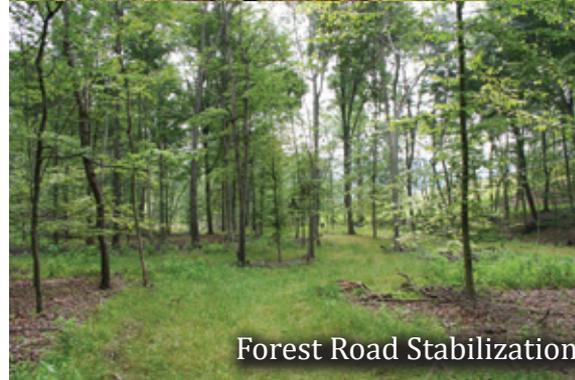
Check with your local VDOF forester or your local United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center to learn about other programs that may be available to assist you in managing and conserving your forest resources.



Timber Stand Improvement



Planting



Forest Road Stabilization



Site Preparation

Application Process

Although not required for all federal programs, a multiple resource forest management plan that includes specific management recommendations is very helpful in guiding landowners through the necessary steps to receive the most benefits from their land.

1. The landowner contacts and, if possible, meets with the VDOF forester and the NRCS conservationist to discuss the landowner's management needs.
2. If the landowner does not have a management plan, one will be developed for the property, providing specific management recommendations.
3. Upon plan completion, the landowner contacts his or her local VDOF forester or the USDA Service Center to sign up for the recommended practice(s).
4. The completed application is sent to the USDA Service Center to await approval. Application approval must be received before any work may begin.
5. Once the approved contract is signed by the landowner, VDOF and NRCS will help the landowner coordinate and schedule the management work.
6. The landowner will pay for contracted services at the time the services are rendered.
7. Upon project completion, the landowner will contact the VDOF to inspect the practices to determine if the project was completed according to the established standards.
8. If installed correctly, the VDOF will certify the practice completion on the necessary forms at the USDA Service Center.
9. NRCS will reimburse the landowner based on his or her submitted invoices for practices completed.