Service Delivery Options for Private Woodland Owners Interested in Forest Stewardship

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Minnesota DNR Forestry

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Outline

Property Wide Management Planning Options

Project Level Planning Options

Special Project Areas

Sources of information

Get Involved

Take Action
Property Wide Management Planning

Why would I get a woodland management plan?

I want to improve my woods but I don’t know who where to begin

I need more ideas on how I can improve my woods

The cost of owning my woodland is high and I would like to qualify for a tax incentive so I can keep it
Property Wide Management Planning

Forest Stewardship Program

Encourages long-term stewardship of important State and private forest landscapes, by assisting landowners to more actively manage their forest and related resources

Provides landowners with professional planning and technical assistance they need to keep their land in a productive and healthy condition

Federal program that is administered by MN DNR Forestry

Product ➔ Woodland Stewardship Plan
Property Wide Management Planning

**Woodland Stewardship Plan**

- Need 20 acres of non-ag and non-developed land to qualify
- 10-year forest management plan
- Must be written by a DNR approved plan writer
- A professional forester walks your woods and develops management recommendations based on your goals and objectives
- Plan qualifies landowner for tax incentive programs → 2c and SFIA
- Private forestry consultants write most plans
- DNR Forestry Fee: $350 + $7/acre

$300 incentive payment currently available!
Property Wide Management Planning

Woodland Stewardship Plan

Land is broken down by similar cover types

Management recommendations are developed for each cover type

Google: “MN Forest Stewardship”
Property Wide Management Planning

Forest Management Conservation Activity Plan (CAP or CAP 106)

- Administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Landowner receives incentives payment through EQIP
- Similar to the Woodland Stewardship Plan with some additional criteria
- Written by NRCS staff or Technical Service Providers (TSPs)
- Can also be used to qualify to 2c or SFIA

Contact your local NRCS service center to start an application:

[offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app](offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app)

or Google: “NRCS EQIP MN”
Tax Incentive Programs

Sustainable Forest Incentives Act (SFIA)

• Administered by the MN Department of Revenue
• Provides incentive payments to encourage sustainable use of forest lands
• ~ $7.00/acre incentive payment (taxable)
• Can’t develop land or use for agriculture
• 8 year minimum enrollment
• September 30 application deadline
• Requires a current Woodland Stewardship Plan written by an approved plan writer to be eligible
Tax Incentive Programs

**Tax Classification – 2c Managed Forest Land**

- Administered by the County Assessor
- Reduces tax rate to 0.65%
- Can’t develop, use for agriculture, or subdivide property
- Apply by May 1 annually
- Requires a current Woodland Stewardship Plan written by an approved plan writer to be eligible
- Woodland Stewardship Plan must be registered with the DNR
Tax Incentive Programs

To learn more about 2c and SFIA:

dnr.state.mn.us/foreststewardship/index.html

Or Google: “MN 2c SFIA”
Project Level Assistance

Why would I seek assistance for a woodland project?

I have a Woodland Stewardship Plan and now I want to start implementing it

I want to do woodland project and I would like financial help to do it

I have an idea for a project but I don’t the best way to complete it
Project Level Assistance

Project Examples

Goal: Improve wildlife habitat

• Plant oak seedlings
• Install tree tubes to improve growing conditions and protect from deer browse
• Herbicide spray to reduce heavy grass competition
Goal: Improve forest health and productivity

- Thin out undesirable trees
- Promote growth of healthy crop trees by removing competing vegetation
Project Level Assistance

Project Examples

Goal: Increase plant biodiversity

• Restore oak savanna
• Prescribed fire
Project Level Assistance

Project Examples

Goal: Protect water quality and reduce soil erosion

• Smooth out and grade skid trails
• Install water bars
• Apply grass seed
Project Level Assistance

Financial assistance is available

1. State Cost-share

2. Federal Cost-share

3. County Cost-share
Project Level Assistance

State Cost-share – MN DNR Forestry Cost-share Program

Program launched last month for the first time since 2010

• A Woodland Stewardship Plan is not required
• A professional forester prepares a project plan
• No minimum acreage
• Landowner is reimbursed roughly 50% of the cost to install the project after work is complete

Funds are available today
Project Level Assistance

**State Cost-share – MN DNR Forestry Cost-share Program**

**Process:**
1. Contact a DNR CFM Forester
2. Discuss what type of project you are thinking of doing
3. A professional forester walks you land and marks out the project area
4. A project plan is developed for you to complete the project
5. The cost-share application is submitted and funds are secured
6. The work is completed by yourself or hired out to a contractor
7. A DNR Forester inspects work and verifies it is completed according to the project plan
8. Payment is made to the landowner
Project Level Assistance

Sample project plan

Contact a DNR Cooperative Management Forester (CFM) to apply:

www.dnr.state.mn.us/woodlands/cost-share.html

Google: “MN DNR Financial Assistance”
Project Level Assistance

Federal Cost-share Programs:

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
1. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
2. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Farm Services Agency (FSA)
1. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
Project Level Assistance

**Federal Cost-share - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

Technical and financial help to landowners for conservation practices that protect soil and water quality.

- Administered by the NRCS
- Project plans can be written by DNR Foresters, NRCS staff, and Technical Service Providers (TSPs)
- Will take applications year round. Next deadline is August 2017?

Contact your local NRCS service center to start an application:

[offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app](offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app)

or Google: “NRCS EQIP MN”
Project Level Assistance

Federal Cost-share – Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Rewards participants for existing conservation performance

- Administered by the NRCS
- Complete overhaul for 2017
- 5 year contract
- Annual payment on previous years performance
- The higher the performance the higher the payment
- Need to adopt one additional enchantment
- Next application deadline TBD in 2017

Contact your local NRCS service center to start an application:
offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app
or Google: “NRCS CSP MN”
Project Level Assistance

Federal Cost Share - Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- Administered by the Farm Services Agency (FSA)
- Landowner receives annual incentive payments by taking sensitive cropland out of production by planting grass or trees
- 10 or 15 year agreements
- Must have planted a crop on the land 4 out of the last 6 years
- General Sign-up – periodic competitive application process
- Continuous Sign-up – applications are taken any time

Contact your local FSA office to apply:
Google: “MN FSA CRP”
Project Level Assistance

County Cost-share - Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)

• Annual tree seedling sale in the Spring
• Specialize in water quality and soil protection
• Cost share for forestry projects are available in certain counties (Tullibee Lakes and Healthy Forests for Healthy Waters Projects)

www.maswcd.org
Google: “MN SWCD”
Project Level Assistance

Timber Sale Assistance

DNR Foresters
• Appraise timber, paint boundaries, and send out bid announcement to buyers
• Service fee is 13% of sale value
• Can’t administer sale once cutting begins

Private Forestry Consultant
• All services listed above
• Negotiate price for service
• Can administer sale when cutting begins and recommend loggers
Special Project Area

Golden Winged Warbler Habitat

Target Landowner: Looking to harvest trees, especially if tree value is low due to over maturity

- Administered the NRCS through EQIP
- Promotes creation of young forest habitat for wildlife
- American Bird Conservancy Forester designs a woods harvest in a way to benefit the Golden Winged Warbler
- Landowner receives incentive payment per acre to offset project cost

Eligible Counties: Lake, St. Louis, Koochiching, Itasca, Aitkin, Carlton, and Cass

www.gwwa.org

Contact the NRCS in Duluth: 218-720-5209, ext. 3
Special Project Area

Tullibee Lakes

- Administered by County SWCDs
- Funded by Clean Water Legacy
  - Projects must be linked to protecting or improving water quality
- Goal is to get forested vegetation on 75% of the watershed
- Protect forestland through easements and SFIA
- Receive a Woodland Stewardship Plan for $200
- Cost-share is also available for projects
Special Project Area

Tullibee Lakes

Website shows if your land is in the project area:

www.dnr.state.mn.us/tullibeelake.html

Google: “MN DNR Tullibee”
Special Project Area

Healthy Forests for Healthy Waters

• Funded by Clean Water Legacy
  • Projects must be linked to protecting or improving water quality
• Protect forestland through easements and SFIA
• Receive a Woodland Stewardship Plan for $200
• Cost share also available

To apply:
www.fillmoreswcd.org
www.wabashaswcd.com
Sources of Information

MyMinnesotaWoods

www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu
Sources of Information

*Woodlands of Minnesota* Landowner Handbook Series
Sources of Information

Woodlands of Minnesota Landowner Handbook Series

• Other content available online
• EBook and PDF version

mndnr.gov\woodlands
Sources of Information

Sustainable Forestry – A Management Guide for Private Forest Landowners

Sources of Information

Tax Advice

Geary Searfoss CPA

715-266-8290

gscpa@centurytel.net
Sources of Information

Minnesota Forestry Association’s Call Before You Cut hotline

- Sample timber sale contract
- Professional forester contacts
- Logger contacts
Get Involved!

Join the Minnesota Forestry Association (MFA)
• The MFA works on behalf of family forest owners, through education and advocacy, to promote stewardship of woodlands
www.minnesotaforestry.org

Join the Minnesota Women’s Woodland Network (MNWWN)
• Provides the opportunity to recognize and enhance the role of women in woodland management
www.mnwwn.org
Get Involved!

Join a landowner cooperative

Central MN Small Woodland Owners Association
Email: CJConv@staplesnet.com

North Shore Forest Collaborative
- Revitalize and maintain a healthy and functioning ecosystem along the North Shore of Lake Superior with emphasis on restoring and maintaining native trees and associated forest communities.

northshoreforest.org
Get Involved!

Become a Master Woodland Owner
mwop.umn.edu

Become a Tree Farm
www.treefarmsystem.org
Get Involved!

Attend a landowner workshop
• September 30 in Iron Junction
• erjpb@frontier.com

Attend a Minnesota Forest Resource Council (MFRC) Regional Landscape Committee meeting
• Google: “MFRC landscape committee”
Take Action!

Get a Woodland Stewardship Plan

Contact an approved Minnesota Stewardship Plan Preparer

$300 cost share payment available until 6/30/2017 or until funds last

Google: “MN stewardship plan writer”

www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu/minnesota-stewardship-plan-preparers
Take Action!

Get a Project Plan

Contact a MN DNR CFM Forester

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Forester</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James MacDonald</td>
<td>218-386-1314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Rudolph</td>
<td>218-634-2172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Gronewold</td>
<td>218-308-2064</td>
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<tr>
<td>Josh Donatell</td>
<td>218-328-8912</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven Horndt</td>
<td>218-753-2580</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thor Pakosz</td>
<td>218-723-4791</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roger Nelson</td>
<td>218-735-3954</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alex Brothen</td>
<td>218-203-4428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent Wolf</td>
<td>218-846-8284</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kylee Berger</td>
<td>218-846-8286</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Miller</td>
<td>320-679-3683</td>
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<tr>
<td>Troy Holcomb</td>
<td>218-429-3025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Wilder</td>
<td>651-539-3315</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Reinikainen</td>
<td>651-259-5830</td>
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<tr>
<td>Val Green</td>
<td>507-724-5264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brett Anderson</td>
<td>507-333-2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randy Schindel</td>
<td>507-389-8811</td>
</tr>
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[Map showing locations and contacts]
Take Action!

Install the project

Contact a Private Forestry Consultant
  • Timber harvest assistance
  • Install or design a forestry project
  • Woodland Stewardship Plan writing
  • General forestry advice and assistance

MN Association of Consulting Foresters
web.paulbunyan.net/norfor

Approved Woodland Stewardship Plan Writers
www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu/minnesota-stewardship-plan-preparers

Society of American Foresters Certified Foresters
www.eforester.org
Take Action!

Contact a trained Logger

Also includes a Master Logger Certification program

www.mlep.org
Take Action!

Contact a MN DNR Wildlife Private Land Specials

For wildlife habitat assistance in wetlands, brushlands, and forestland

www.dnr.state.mn.us/privatelandhabitat/specialists.html

Google: “MN DNR Wildlife Private”
Questions?

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