Funded by DCR's Working Forest Initiative and Managed by the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation And UMass Extension

Forest Stewardship Program

New Forest Stewardship Plans

Who is eligible – privately-owned woodlands of 10 acres or more (7 of which must be wooded), that <u>are not</u> currently enrolled in Forest Stewardship or Chapter 61, 61A or 61B programs. Landowners currently enrolled in Chapter 61A or 61B that <u>do not</u> have a forest management/stewardship plan are eligible to receive reimbursement. Eligible private landowners include: individuals, trusts, land trusts, clubs, LLC's, associations, and corporate entities. Municipally-owned forest land parcels of 25 acres or more are also eligible. Leaseholders are eligible as well. <u>Not eligible</u>: Entities principally engaged in the processing of wood products; properties that have existing stewardship/forest management plans (*see exception below), and corporations with publicly-held stock.

What land cover is eligible – Abandoned fields, wetlands, and power line rights of way can also be included in the plan. Not eligible acres are: active hay fields, cropland, commercial blueberries, Christmas trees, orchards, houses and outbuildings and the lawns and landscaped areas around them.

Reimbursement is only for new management plans. Re-certifications and amendments to existing plans (Chapter 61, Tree Farm, etc.) are not eligible to receive reimbursement. *The exception to this rule is the case of a new landowner who "inherited" a plan from the previous owner. The reimbursement application must be approved by DCR before work on the plan begins.

10-36 acres plan \$850

36-500 acres plan \$850 + \$12.00/acre over 36ac over 500 acres plan based on a written estimate by a MA Licensed Forester & approved

by DCR



Plan Upgrade to meet DCR FSC Group Certification Standard

Who is eligible – Landowners, both private and municipal, who commit in writing to enroll in the DCR Forest Stewardship Council Group Certification Program who have an existing Forest Stewardship Plan or Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B forest management plan are eligible. Eligible private landowners include individuals, trusts, land trusts, clubs, LLC's, associations, and corporate entities. Municipally-owned forest land parcels of 25 acres or more and entities principally engaged in wood processing and properties that are permanently protected are also eligible. Leaseholders are eligible as well. Not eligible: Corporations with publicly held stock.

What land cover is eligible – Forestland as defined in the MA Forest Stewardship Program and Chapter 61/61A/61B. Not eligible acres are: active hay fields, cropland, commercial blueberries, Christmas trees, orchards, houses and outbuildings and the lawns and landscaped areas around them.

Reimbursement is only for upgrades to existing forest management plans. New Forest Stewardship Plans and/or Chapter 61/61A/61B forest management plans are not eligible to receive reimbursement. The reimbursement application must be approved by DCR before work on the upgrade plan begins.

Plan upgrade to meet FSC Group Certification Standard Stewardship to FSC Group \$300

Chapter 61/61A/61B to FSC Group \$600

For Forest Stewardship Program information and an application, contact:

Mike Downey at DCR Pittsfield at (413) 784-1828 x135: Michael.Downey@state.ma.us or Marcheterre Fluet at Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D at: (413) 256-1201: marcheterrefluet@berkshirepioneerrcd.org For Group Certification - Doug Hutcheson at DCR Amherst (413) 545-5993: <a href="mailto:double.com/double.co

Download information and forms at:

http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/service/documents/Stew OneStop announcement.pdf

Forest Viability and Enhancement Program

Who is eligible – Forest landowners currently engaged in any one or a combination of the following three forest-based business categories:

- 1.) Traditional forest products (saw logs, lumber, cordwood, pallets and pulp) 100 acre minimum.
- 2.) Non-traditional forest products medicinal and nutraceutical plants (ginseng, witch-hazel and slippery elm bark), food products (maple syrup, mushrooms and nuts), decorative and handicraft products (wreaths, greens, landscaping plants, basket splints, birch bark or other wood/vine products) or rustic furniture 20 acre minimum

 3.) Postration and wildlife including cross country ski/biking trails, wildlife viewing and environmental education –
- 3.) Recreation and wildlife including cross country ski/hiking trails, wildlife viewing and environmental education 100 acre minimum.

Landowners not currently engaged in a forest-based business may be eligible for the Forest Viability Program if they can demonstrate proficient knowledge of and experience with their proposed forest-based business project.

How the program works – The Forest Viability program works with the business owner to write an individualized business plan to improve the economic viability and environmental sustainability of a forest-based business. Applicants will be selected via a competitive application and review process. Once accepted, the program has two parts:

Phase I—Development of a Forest Viability Enhancement Plan Requires commitment to a Forest Stewardship Plan \$5,000 in business planning services
Phase I takes 6 to 9 months to complete

Requires attendance at an orientation meeting

Requires commitment to work with a team of consultants to develop the business plan

Phase II—Implementation contract award

\$250/acre - not to exceed \$20.000

In exchange for a non-development covenant on your property for a period of 20 years, the state will provide seed capital, up to \$20,000, to implement the changes recommended in the business plan.

For more information:

Call Kent Lage at Mass Farm Bureau at: (508) 881-4766; E-mail kent@mfbf.net

Applications available at: www.mfbf.net

Pilot Forest Carbon Offset and Trading Program

What is Carbon Offset and Trading - Trees capture carbon naturally through photosynthesis. By removing carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse gasses" from the atmosphere, trees help to reduce or reverse global warming. This program rewards landowners for long-term, sustainable management of their forests by aggregating and selling the carbon annually sequestered by trees. These carbon credits have a value that can be sold to offset emissions on a personal or commercial level. Carbon sequestration is a complementary goal to other forestland uses and landowner goals such as recreation, wildlife, and wood production.

Carbon credits are accrued annually; you are selling the annual increase in carbon sequestered by your forest, and guaranteeing that this amount will remain sequestered for 15 years. The CCX is an open market exchange that trades carbon just like any other commodity; the market sets the price. In 2008 carbon credits traded on the CCX ranged from a high of \$7.50 to a low of \$1.20 per ton. A similar project in Michigan returned forest owners an average of \$8 per acre.

Who is eligible - The land to be enrolled must be capable of sequestering sufficient amounts of carbon to generate gross revenues in excess of start up and participation costs; parcels of limited size and/or unproductive lands may not be eligible. CarbonTree will accept applications from any size of certified forest [certified by American Tree Farm System (ATFS) – Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) or Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)]; however properties of less than 100 acres are not likely to be economical at current market prices. The forest owner must enroll the entire certified forested ownership. No eligible forestland can be withheld from participation.

For more information and an information packet:

Call Mike Burns at CarbonTree LLC at: (518) 463-1297 ext 313: Email MBurns@ESFPA.org Download information at: http://carbontreellc.com

Estate Planning Outreach Services – managed by UMass - Amherst

For more information:

Call Paul Catanzaro at UMass Amherst at: (413) 545-4839; E-mail cat@umext.umass.edu

Download information at: http://www.masswoods.net