
Forest Stewardship Program (CFDA 10.678)

Authority: The Forest Stewardship Program is authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, Public Law 95-313, as amended; Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, as amended, Public Law 101-624.

Purpose: The purpose of the Forest Stewardship Program is to encourage the long-term stewardship of non-federal, non-industrial private forest (NIPF) lands, particularly in priority landscape areas that have been identified in the Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy. In cooperation with the State forestry agencies and the State stewardship coordinating committees, the Forest Stewardship Program promotes healthy forests, sustainable management, and sustainable economic development. The Forest Stewardship Program is funded through an annual appropriation to an Expanded Budget Line Item (EBLI) that includes CFAA Section 5: Forest Stewardship Program and CFAA Section 3: Rural Forestry Assistance.

Authorized Activities: Activities authorized for the Forest Stewardship Program EBLI are, for the most part, related to the delivery of information and professional technical assistance, (including the development of multi-resource Forest Stewardship plans), through State Foresters, to eligible private and non-federal forest landowners. Guidance for the delivery of planning and technical assistance is provided by the Forest Stewardship Program National Standards (<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/fsp.shtml>) and Guidelines and by the Forest Service Manual, Chapters 3210 and 3250. Other authorized activities include:

- 1) Assisting landowners to implement forest management activities, including use of existing cost share programs where appropriate;
- 2) Educating landowners about forest management practices and issues;
- 3) Coordinating with partners to improve program delivery, including regularly convening a State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee;
- 4) Providing recognition to exemplary Forest Stewardship landowners;
- 5) Training state and partner staffs on topics relevant to program delivery; and
- 6) Monitoring and reporting program implementation and effectiveness.

The CFAA Sec. 3 (b): State Forestry Assistance also authorizes the Forest Service to provide financial assistance to State Foresters (or equivalent state officials) for the following:

- 1) Develop genetically improved tree seeds;
- 2) Develop and contract for the development of field arboretums, greenhouses, and tree nurseries, in cooperation with a State, to facilitate production and distribution of tree seeds and seedlings in States where the Secretary determines that there is an inadequate capacity to carry out present and future reforestation needs;
- 3) Procure, produce, and distribute tree seeds and trees for the purpose of establishing forests, windbreaks, shelterbelts, woodlots, and other plantings;
- 4) Plant tree seeds and seedlings on non-Federal forest lands that are suitable for the production of timber, recreation, and for other benefits associated with the growing of trees;

- 5) Plan, organize, and implement measures on non-Federal forest lands, including thinning, prescribed burning, and other silvicultural activities designed to increase the quantity and improve the quality of trees and other vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat, and water yielded therefrom; and
- 6) Protect or improve soil fertility on non-Federal forest lands and the quality, quantity, and timing of water yields therefrom.

The following general guidance applies to all activities under the Forest Stewardship Program:

- Grants must be awarded to State Foresters or equivalent State officials.
- State Foresters may use funds for sub-grants to partners or contractors to carry out practices.
- Funds cannot be used to directly “cost-share” individual forest management practices with individual landowners.
- Funds cannot be used for work associated with the acquisition of conservation easements (FLP or otherwise) or title to forest property as this would be seen to augment Forest Legacy Program funding.

Accomplishments Reporting Required: Currently reported through the Performance Measurement and Accountability System (PMAS).

Accomplishment/Performance Measure	Measure Type	Grant Target
Number of landowners receiving Forest Stewardship Program technical assistance.	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Number of landowners participating in Forest Stewardship Program educational programs.	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Acres of new and/or revised Forest Stewardship Management Plans	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Acres of new and/or revised Forest Stewardship Management Plans in <i>Important Forest Resource Areas+</i>	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Number of new and/or revised Forest Stewardship Management Plans	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Total acres covered by current Forest Stewardship Management Plans (cumulative)	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Total acres in <i>Important Forest Resource Areas+</i> covered by current Forest Stewardship Management Plans (cumulative)	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Base NIPF acres in <i>Important Forest Resource Areas+</i>	Nat. Program	N/A
Number of acres in forest areas being managed sustainably as defined by current Forest Stewardship Management Plan (cumulative) – through a nationally consistent monitoring program.*	Nat. Program,	[enter target]
Number of new and/or revised EQIP Management Plans++	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Acres of new and/or revised EQIP Management Plans++	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Other project and/or region specific measures	[Region/State]	[enter target]

+ Important forest resource areas are defined as “high” potential for Forest Stewardship benefit from the Spatial Analysis Project).

++ Report the number of new or revised management plans and acres that were created using EQIP (Practice 106) cost-share assistance.