



Fiscal Year 2024

DCR Cost-Share Application

Forest Stewardship, Foresters for the Birds & Climate Forestry Programs

Funded through the WORKING FOREST INITIATIVE

Please complete the application and IRS Form W-9 and mail them to:

Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program, 355 West Boylston Street, Clinton, MA 01510, or email: michael.downey@mass.gov

CONTACT INFORMATION		
Landowner Name(s)	Plan Preparer Name	
Landowner Mailing Address (street, city, state, zip)		
Landowner Telephone Number (including area code)	Landowner E-mail	
PROPERTY INFORMATION		
Total Property Acres	Town	Road
Acres to be covered by Plan	County	
CONSERVATION RESTRICTION INFORMATION (required for CR Plan Renewal Funding)		
<i>CR must be State Held to be eligible for CR Plan Renewal cost-share</i>		
Conservation Restriction Holder:		
Registry District where the CR is recorded:		
CR Book:		
CR Page:		
ELIGIBILITY		
YES	NO	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I/We are applying for Stewardship Plan Cost-Share (NEW) OR Conservation Restriction Plan Renewal Cost-Share
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I/We are applying for Cost-Share for Bird Habitat Assessment
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I/We are applying for Cost-Share for Climate Forestry Pilot Area (see page 3 for eligible towns)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I/We have an <u>EXISTING</u> Management Plan (CH 61/ 61A /61B)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I/We have an <u>EXISTING</u> Forest Stewardship Plan
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I/We have a state-held CR/WPR on this property (Cost-share for CR Plan Renewal Program is only available for State Held CR/WPR)
LANDOWNER SIGNATURE		
<p>Only applications with completed IRS Form W-9 and Conservation Restriction Information will be processed. Cost-share reimbursement payments are considered reportable by the IRS and must be reported on your income tax returns. The name and address submitted on the IRS Form W-9 are to whom and where the reimbursement check will be issued. IRS Form W-9 must be submitted with this cost-share application.</p> <p>Please contact the Forest Stewardship Office within thirty (30) days of application submission if you (the applicant) determine the information on the application to be incorrect or desire to withdraw your application. If you decide at any point to not have a Stewardship Plan prepared for your land, you must notify Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Reimbursement payments are considered reportable by the IRS and must be reported on your income tax returns.</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>You will receive an IRS Form 1099 for this payment.</u></p>		
Landowner Signature		Date
FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY		
Approval		Disapproval
Acres Approved _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Ineligible
Reimbursement approved (\$) _____		<input type="checkbox"/> No Funds Available (keep on file)
Comments _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> I certify that this application meets the eligibility requirements for Working Forest Initiative Funding and the MA Forest Stewardship Program.		
DCR AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE _____		DATE _____

Forest Stewardship Program

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) **Forest Stewardship Program (FSP)** supports you in your desire to practice long-term guardianship of your woodlands. The primary objective of the **FSP** is to reduce the likelihood of the development of forest properties by encouraging active forest management. Working on a ten-year management plan with a **Massachusetts Licensed Forester** offers an excellent opportunity to learn more about your woodland.

To learn more visit <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/forest-stewardship-program>



Who is eligible?

- Landowners owning woodlands of 10 acres or more (7 of which must be wooded with remaining acres being classified as “eligible”), that are not currently enrolled in Forest Stewardship or Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B programs.
- Landowners currently enrolled in Chapter 61A or 61B that does not have a forest management/stewardship plan are eligible to receive cost-share reimbursement. Eligible private landowners include individuals, trusts, land trusts, clubs, LLCs, associations, and corporate entities.
- Municipally-owned forestland parcels are also eligible. Leaseholders are eligible as well.



Forest Stewardship Cost-Share Reimbursement is only for new Stewardship Plans*. Re-certifications and amendments to existing plans are not eligible to receive reimbursement. The cost-share application must be approved by DCR before work on the plan begins.

**Exceptions to this rule: In the case of a new landowner who inherits a plan from the previous owner, OR a property with a state-held CR or WPR.*

Foresters for the Birds—A Woodland Owner Program Focused on Supporting Songbird Habitat



This program supports landowners with woods who would like to learn more about the bird habitat on their land and how to enhance it in conjunction with other forest management goals. A **Massachusetts Licensed Forester** certified in conducting Bird Habitat Assessments will assess your woods for existing and potential bird habitat. The Bird Habitat Assessment will be integrated into your efforts toward other goals such as improving forest health, generating income, or enhancing recreational trails. These recommendations will then be incorporated into your Forest Stewardship Plan. [Foresters for the Birds \(arcgis.com\)](https://www.arcgis.com)

[Foresters for the Birds: Assessing Your Woods for Bird Habitat | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov)

Who is eligible?

- Landowners & Municipalities with 10 or more wooded acres that are currently enrolled in the Current Use / Forest Stewardship Program or applying for a new Forest Stewardship Plan at the same time.

Climate Forestry Program—Responding to Climate Change

Whether you spend time outside in your woods, or just enjoy the beauty of your trees and wildlife from your window, you likely love your woods and want to keep them healthy. Forests are always changing and adapting to new conditions. Some changes are as anticipated as the progression of green summer leaves to the bright red and gold of fall foliage, or the annual return of brightly colored migratory songbirds. Other changes in our woodlands are only visible when comparing differences across many years or decades.



Do you wonder about the changing conditions in your woods? Many people are asking more questions about how a changing climate is impacting forests and what actions can be taken to ensure forests stay healthy no matter what the future holds. The Climate Forestry Program will integrate your climate adaptation efforts towards other goals such as improving forest health, generating income, or enhancing recreational trails. These recommendations will then be incorporated into your Forest Stewardship Plan.

[Climate Forestry | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov)

Who is eligible?

- Landowners & Municipalities with 10 or more wooded acres that are currently enrolled in the Current Use / Forest Stewardship Program or applying for a new Forest Stewardship Plan at the same time.

These programs, funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, are open to all eligible applicants without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, retaliation, marital or family status.

Working Forest Initiative Cost-Share Rates

APPLICATION FOR WORKING FOREST INITIATIVE COST-SHARE
MUST BE APPROVED BEFORE SUBMITTING THE COMPLETED PLAN TO DCR

Acreage	Cost share Reimbursement for NEW Stewardship Plans
10 to 36 acres	\$910
37 to 499 acres	\$910 + \$13.00 per acre over 36
Over 500 acres	Based on a written estimate by MA Licensed Forester & approved by DCR
	\$9,577 maximum reimbursement for applicants over 500 acres
	\$14,651 maximum reimbursement for applicants over 1,000 acres

	Foresters for the Birds			Climate Forestry Program			Climate + Bird Programs		
	New FSP	Existing FSP	Existing CH 61/61A/61B	New FSP	Existing FSP	Existing CH 61/61A/61B	New FSP	Existing FSP	Existing CH 61/61A/61B
10 to 20 acres	\$300	\$600	\$900	\$500	\$600	\$900	\$800	\$1,200	\$1,800
21 to 50 acres	\$400	\$800	\$1,100	\$600	\$800	\$1,100	\$1,000	\$1,600	\$2,200
Greater than 51 acres	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,300	\$700	\$1,000	\$1,300	\$1,200	\$2,000	\$2,600

When applicable—cost-share reimbursement rates for Foresters for the Birds or Climate Forestry or combining Climate Forestry and Foresters for the Birds are “in addition to” NEW cost-share reimbursement rates.

For example, a landowner with a 100-acre property that is not currently enrolled in Forest Stewardship or Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B programs and is wanting a NEW plan with Climate and Birds would be eligible to receive:

$$\$910 + \$13/\text{acre over 36 acres} = \$1,742 \text{ plus } \$1,200 \text{ (Climate \& Birds) for a total of } \$2,942$$