

MARYLAND'S SOUTHERN REGION

The Southern Region of the Department of Natural Resources – Forest Service consists of Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties. The area covers 1,243,500 acres of land, with 587,600 acres being forested.

The forested lands of Maryland provide many benefits to its citizens. They protect water, air and soil, and provide forest products, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities and aesthetic value.

Primarily non-industrial private landowners own the forests of the Southern Region. Good stewardship helps to ensure the continuity of this valued resource for all Marylanders into the future. To help landowners care for their land, the Maryland Forest Service has a variety of programs to offer technical and financial assistance. These programs cover establishment, protection, planning and management of forests.

The Mission of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources

The Department of Natural Resources preserves, protects, enhances and restores Maryland's natural resources for the wise use and enjoyment of all citizens.

Maryland Forest Service Mission

To restore, manage, and protect Maryland's trees, forests, and forested ecosystems to sustain our natural resources and connect people to the land.

Forest Service Southern Region Offices

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Publication #DNR 02-080117-15

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This document is available in alternative format upon request from a qualified individual with a disability.



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Mark Belton, Secretary

FOREST STEWARDSHIP

Forest Stewardship Plan This long-range plan provides management recommendations that incorporate landowners objectives and the capabilities of their resources. It may include wildlife, forestry, recreation, soil and water management recommendations. The plan provides an assessment of the present condition of your forest and offers long-term recommendations on how to best manage the resource to receive the intended results. This type of plan is required to apply for state and federal fund cost-share programs and for participation in a Forest Conservation and Management Agreement. **To have a Forester write your plan, you must own between 10 & 500 acres of forestland located in one of our priority areas.** Your local forester will determine if your property qualifies for plan assistance and provide you with the schedule of fees associated with the preparation of your Forest Stewardship Plan.

COST-SHARE PROGRAMS

Cost-share programs are available to assist landowners with the costs of reforestation, site preparation and wildlife enhancement activities. Funding for some programs may be available on a limited basis. Fees charged by the Maryland Forest Service for plan development and some technical services may NOT be cost-shareable. Your local forester will advise you on the best program(s) to fulfill your objectives.

The Woodland Incentive Program provides 65 percent funding for forestry practices on private, non-industrial forestland ownerships 5 - 1,000 acres in size. Apply through your local Maryland Forest Service office.

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program offers cost-share payments variable by practice. Landowners should contact their local Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) office for current cost-share rates and to apply for this program. Your local Maryland Forest Service office can assist with the application.

The Conservation Reserve Program and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs provide financial incentives to establish vegetative (i.e. planting trees) buffers along waterways and establish cover on highly erodible lands. Apply through your local Farm Services Agency office to determine if your farm acreage qualifies.

TAX INCENTIVES

The Forest Conservation and Management Agreement currently has property tax assessments for woodland at \$125 per acre assessed value. The minimum woodlot size is five acres (six acres with house on property) and the minimum term for the agreement is 15 years. These properties are inspected for compliance once every five years for \$100 per inspection. Entrance fees are based on assessed property values. A brochure is available which details the program's fees.

Woodland Assessment Counties allow the use of a Forest Stewardship Plan prepared by a licensed forester as indication of ongoing forestry activities as long as forestry management is included in the stewardship plan. As such, property tax assessments will be based on the woodland tax rate for the county. The woodland tax rate is currently assessed at \$187.50 per acre. The county assessor requires a letter of inspection from a forester every three years. It must state the forestry work in the plan has been followed. If this service is provided, there is a \$50 to \$100 fee, depending on acreage and the follow-up letter to the county assessor. There are no entrance or recordation fees associated with this program.

The Maryland Income Tax Modification allows woodland owners to deduct double the cost for reforestation and timber stand improvement practices from the federal adjusted gross income on the Maryland tax return. This deduction is applicable for approved practices on properties with a total forest ownership of 3 - 1,000 acres.

Public Law 96-451 – This Federal law allows for a 10 percent 7-year investment tax credit and a amortization for reforestation projects.

Note:

- * **Certain activities are eligible to receive both Woodland Incentive Program and Environmental Quality Incentive Program assistance, up to 90 percent of cost.**
- * **Fees charged by the Maryland Forest Service for plan development and technical services may NOT be cost-shareable.**
- * **Fees for services are subject to change.**

MORE FORESTRY SERVICES

In addition to Forest Stewardship Plan preparation and inspections, the Maryland Forest Service also provides the following services.

Timber Stand Improvement Marking This involves the physical marking of trees for firewood, pulpwood, seed tree designation, routine thinnings, etc. The Maryland Forest Service cannot mark sawtimber (trees > 12" DBH), volume estimates, or determine appraised value. The fee is \$12 per acre marked.

Forestry Services Coordination Maryland Forest Service professionals are available to coordinate forestry activities that are provided by private sector vendors. This includes tree plantings, site preparation, aerial spraying, non-commercial timber stand improvement, etc. Coordination services are billed at a rate of \$4 per acre.

Planting Site Examinations The Maryland Forest Service will conduct an on-site examination of any fields or open areas on which landowners wish to plant trees or shrubs and prepare a planting plan. A flat fee of \$40 is charged for this service. Orders placed for tree seedlings from the John S. Ayton Tree Nursery within four months of the exam will be credited \$10 toward the cost of the seedlings.

Forestry Equipment Rental Certain specialized forestry equipment is available for rent by private landowners for use on both public and private lands. Please contact your local forestry office for equipment rental information.

JOHN S. AYTON STATE FOREST TREE NURSERY

Located in Caroline County, this nursery grows 4 - 5 million pine, hardwood and shrub seedlings each year. Orders are taken on a first come, first served basis beginning in the fall for seedlings that are shipped in the spring. The seedlings are available, at cost, to the citizens of Maryland and Delaware, and must be planted for conservation and reforestation purposes. A seedling catalog can be obtained by calling the nursery at 410-673-2467. Ordering information can also be found at: dnr.nursery.dnr.maryland.gov.