

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 MD DNR 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.

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.



DNR Forest Service Southern Region Offices

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The facilities and services of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources are available to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, physical or mental disability.

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

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

FOREST SERVICE



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FOREST STEWARDSHIP

Forest Stewardship Plan – Prepared by MD DNR Forest Service personnel, this long-range plan provides management recommendations that incorporate landowner's objectives and the capability of the resource. It may include wildlife, forestry, recreation, soil and water management recommendations. The plan will provide you with an assessment of the present condition of your forest and offer 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 (FCMA). Your local forester will 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 in 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 MD DNR Forest Service for plan development and some technical services may NOT be cost-sharable. Your local forester will advise you on the best program(s) to fulfill your objectives.

EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentive Program: The program offers cost-shares up to 50% for some forestry practices. Apply for this program through your local Natural Resource Conservation (NRCS) Office.

CRP and CREP – Conservation Reserve (Enhancement) Program: These programs provide financial incentives to establish vegetative buffers along waterways and establish cover on highly erodible lands (i.e. planting trees). Apply through your local NRCS office to determine if your farm acreage qualifies.

WIP – Woodland Incentive Program: This state cost-share program provides 65% funding for forestry practices on private non-industrial forest land ownerships 5 to 1,000 acres in size. Apply through your local Forest Service office.

TAX INCENTIVES

FCMA – Forest Conservation and Management Agreement: This program currently has property tax assessments for woodland at \$125.00 per acre assessed value. The minimum woodlot size is five acres (six acres with house on property) and the minimum time limit for the agreement is 15 years. FCMA's are inspected for compliance once every five years for a fee of \$100.00 per inspection. Entrance fees for the FCMA are based on assessed property values with a minimum \$50.00 fee plus a recordation fee of \$40.00. 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 will require 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 \$100.00 fee depending on acreage for each inspection and the follow up letter to the county assessor. There are no entrance or recordation fees associated with this program.

MD Income Tax Modification – The program allows woodland owners to deduct double the cost for reforestation and timber stand improvement practices from the Federal adjusted gross income on the MD tax return. This deduction is applicable for approved practices on properties with a total forest ownership of 10 to 500 acres.

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

MORE FORESTRY SERVICES

In addition to Forest Stewardship Plan preparation and inspections, the MD DNR 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 Forest Service cannot mark sawtimber (trees > 12" DBH), do volume estimates, or determine appraised value. The fee is \$12.00 per acre marked.

Forestry Services Coordination - 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 \$4.00 per acre.

Planting Site Examinations – The Forest Service will conduct an on-site examination of any fields or open areas that landowners wish to plant in trees or shrubs and prepare a planting plan. A flat fee of \$40.00 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 \$10.00 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 four to five 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 1-800 -TREES-MD. Ordering information can also be found at: www.dnr.maryland.gov/forests/nursery.

Note: fees charged by the MD DNR Forest Service for plan development and technical services may NOT be cost-sharable. Fees for services are subject to change.