

Financial Assistance Opportunities for Longleaf Pine Establishment and Management in North Carolina

	Assistant Program	Description	Types of Activities	Agency	Eligibility	Length of Agreement	Easements	Payments	Landowner's Obligations
Establishment, Management, and Restoration	<u>Forest Development Program (FDP)</u>	A reforestation, aforestation and forest stand improvement cost-sharing program; the goals of the program include timber production and the creation of the benefits associated with active forest management	Site prep, tree planting, and releasing regeneration cost-shared; State Forester prepare or approve a management plan	NC Forest Service	Private individual, group, association, or corporation owning land suitable for forestry purposes	The landowner must maintain the stand for at least 10 years	N/A	40% reimbursement for costs of site preparation; 60% reimbursement for cost of seedling purchases, tree planting, release of desirable seedlings from competition, or other work needed to establish/improve forests; Up to 100 acres FDP cost share annually	Assist with cost-share; implement planned reforestation, aforestation, or stand improvement.
	<u>Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program (SPBPP)</u>	Cost share assistance for approved forest management practices that minimize future SPB outbreaks and restore productive stands with healthy, managed forests.	Pre-commercial thinning on stands with >700 pine stems per acre; and site prep and establishment for longleaf and shortleaf pine	NC Forest Service	Nonindustrial private forest land and tribal land; governmental land not eligible	The landowner must maintain the stand for at least 10 years	N/A	50% cost-share for pre-commercial thinning;	Assist with cost-share; implement planned reforestation, aforestation, or stand improvement.
	<u>Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP)</u>	Financial and technical assistance incentives to promote forest management and environmental quality; optimize environmental benefits; and help forest managers meet environmental regulations	Site prep, tree planting, wildlife enhancement, soil stabilization, and water quality protection	Natural Resources Conservation Service	Competitive program for nonindustrial private forest land	More than 1 year, less than 10 years	N/A	Up to 75% cost-share or 100% of estimated income forgone by producer to implement particular conservation practice; no more than \$300,000 over 6 years	Develop and implement a woodland plan; assist with cost and establishment of conservation practices
	<u>Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)</u>	Encourages producers to undertake additional conservation activities or improve, maintain, and manage existing conservation activities	Site prep, tree planting, wildlife enhancement, and timber stand improvement	Natural Resources Conservation Service	A competitive program to meet "stewardship threshold" for at least one resource concern and address one additional priority resource concern	5 years	N/A	May not exceed \$200,000 for all contracts entered into during a 5-year period	Develop and implement a woodland plan that includes installing or maintaining conservation practices

Financial Assistance Opportunities for Longleaf Pine Establishment and Management in North Carolina

	Assistant Program	Description	Types of Activities	Agency	Eligibility	Length of Agreement	Easements	Payments	Landowner's Obligations
Establishment, Management, and Restoration (Continued)	<u>Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program</u>	Provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners to restore and enhance habitat for the benefit of migratory birds and rare species	Site prep, planting, mid story control, invasive species control, burning; nationally competitive	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Private landowners	Work must be accomplished within 1-5 years	N/A	Up to 75% cost share	Maintain habitat in restored condition for 10 years; Assist with cost-share
	<u>Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and CRP CP-36 (Longleaf Pine Initiative)</u>	Helps agriculture producers safeguard environmentally sensitive lands; CRP is for conversion of marginal cropland to long-term conservation cover	Site preparation, tree planting, permanent wildlife habitat establishment, soil stabilization, water quality protection, and tree thinning with debris removal	Farm Service Agency	Individual, Corporation, and Association with agricultural land meeting cropland definitions; land owned for at least one year	10-15 years	N/A	50% cost share to max \$50,000 per person per year; rental payments, *CP-36 provides a payment of \$100 per acre for longleaf pine CRP contracts for 10+ years	Develop and implement a woodland plan for the conversion of cropland to a less-intensive use; assist with the cost, establishment, and maintenance of conservation practices
	<u>Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)</u>	A voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water	Site preparation, tree planting, permanent wildlife habitat establishment, soil stabilization, and water quality protection on filter strips and forested buffers	Farm Service Agency	Individual, Corporation, Association, or state and local government with agricultural land meeting cropland definitions; land owned for at least one year	10, 15, 30 years or permanent	Filter strips and forested buffers	Cost share dependent on contract length; 2X annual rental payments	Develop and implement a woodland plan for the conversion of cropland to filter strips or forested buffers; assist with the cost, establishment, and maintenance of conservation practices
	<u>Arbor Day Foundation and National Association of State Foresters Replanting</u>	The program helps meet the needs of forests recovering from fire, storms, disease, and other threats	Funding for seedlings	Arbor Day Foundation	Public lands	Length based on agreement	N/A	Cost of seedlings	Develop and implement a woodland plan that includes installing conservation practices

Financial Assistance Opportunities for Longleaf Pine Establishment and Management in North Carolina

	Assistant Program	Description	Types of Activities	Agency	Eligibility	Length of Agreement	Easements	Payments	Landowner's Obligations
Easement Purchase	<u>Forest Legacy Program</u>	Grants to states to protect important forest areas	Assist in the purchase of a working forest conservation easement; national competitive	US Forest Service administered by NC Forest Service	Private forestland within a state-defined Forest Legacy Area	Permanent	Yes, fee simple purchases also allowed	Federal government may fund up to 75% of project costs, with at least 25% coming from private, state, or local sources	To qualify, landowners prepare a multiple resource management plan as part of the conservation easement acquisition
Regulatory Assistance	<u>The Safe Harbor Program for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in NC</u>	Landowner incentive program to benefit red-cockaded woodpeckers (RCW) through voluntary habitat improvements	Provides regulatory assurance to landowners that no additional land restrictions will be imposed as a result of their management actions	US Fish and Wildlife Service in the Sandhills; NC Wildlife Resource Commission in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain	Non-federal North Carolina landowners	For the life of the Safe Harbor Management Agreement	NA	Reduction in regulatory restrictions imposed by the federal Endangered Species Act	Enhance/maintain existing RWC habitat if present, perform or allow habitat enhancement activities, and coordinate with authorized biologist/consultants
Tax Incentives	<u>Present-use Value Program for Forestlands</u>	Forestlands are assessed at a value consistent with its present use rather than its higher market value	Decreased property tax rate	County tax office	Private landowners and certain business entities and trusts; 20 acres in production of trees; land owned for a least 4 years; must have a current approved woodland plan	Permanent unless property no longer qualifies as forestland; 3 years of roll back taxes with interest will be required if land status changes	N/A	Significantly reduced tax rate on qualifying forestland	Commercial produce trees on at least 20 acres of land
	<u>Wildlife Conservation Land Program</u>	Reduces property tax burden for land managed under a Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement	Decreased property tax rate	NC Wildlife Resource Commission and county tax office	Land managed for the benefit of priority wildlife species; 20 contiguous qualifying acres minimum; No more than 100 acres per county	For the life of the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement	N/A	Wildlife conservation land may be classified as agriculture land for tax purposes	Manage property for the benefit of priority wildlife species; Obtain a Wildlife Conservation Habitat Agreement from NC Wildlife Resource Commission