



NCFS- Stewardship Incentives Program (NCFS-SIP)

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The N.C. Forest Service is a division of the N.C. Depart. of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Steve Troxler, Commissioner






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Discussion Items

- Overview of NCFS-SIP/Eligibility
- Applying for NCFS-SIP
- Minimum Plan Standards for Stewardship Plans
- Minimum Map Standards
- Reimbursement Payments

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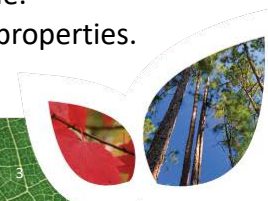


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NCFS-SIP Program Overview & Eligibility

- Funding provided by the USFS through the 2020 Forest Stewardship Program Supplemental Grant.
- \$67,300 is currently available for Forest Stewardship and Tree Farm Plans. (\$100,000 original funding)
- Plans must be prepared by a private sector Natural Resource Professional.
- NCFS will review each plan based on the minimum plan standards checklist for the respective plan type.
- Funds are available to all non-industrial private landowners. Land owned by the state, publically owned land, and forest industry lands are not eligible.
- Each eligible landowner can receive up to 3 total plans for separate properties.



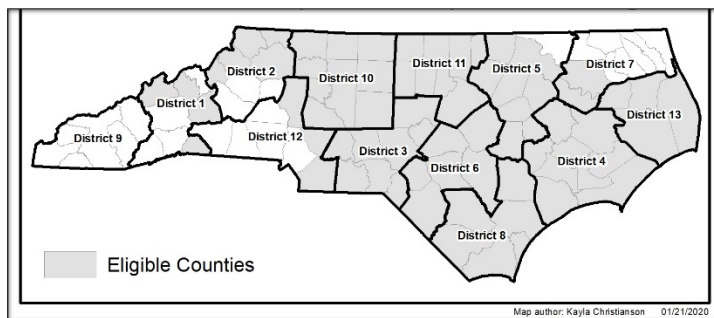
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NCFS-SIP Eligibility

- 72 Counties are eligible for NCFS-SIP



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Ineligible Counties



- North Carolina Counties NOT eligible for NCFS-SIP funding: Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Swain, Macon, Jackson, Haywood, Transylvania, Buncombe, Henderson, Rutherford, Mitchell, Burke, Cleveland, Caldwell, Alexander, Catawba, Lincoln, Gaston, Mecklenburg, Northampton, Hertford, Gates, Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden, and Currituck.
- These counties were not declared Disaster Recovery areas for Hurricanes Michael and Florence.

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NCFS-SIP Eligibility



- A single NCFS-SIP plan must cover all contiguous woodland between 10 to 10,000 acres (tracts under 10 acres are not eligible). This could include a single tax parcel or a combination of adjacent tax parcels. These parcels should be touching or separated by no more than a road or path.
- Forestland must make up a portion of any eligible property, but at least 10 total acres must be dedicated to natural resource management goals (forestry, wildlife, water quality, etc.).
- Agricultural land may not be part of the plan unless designated for future natural resource management goals.
- Private non-industrial forest lands managed under existing Federal, State, or private sector financial and technical assistance programs (including rental agreements and easements) are eligible for NCFS-SIP funding.

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NCFS-SIP Eligibility

- Forest Stewardship and/or NC Tree Farm plan updates are also eligible for NCFS-SIP funding and will be paid at the same rate.
- Plan updates should include bringing a landowner’s older, existing plan up to the current Forest Stewardship and/or NC Tree Farm standards with updates to stand/area descriptions, management recommendations and content.
- If significant landscape changes have occurred, and would justify updates to the current stand description/recommendations these would qualify as plan updates under NCFS-SIP.
- Amendments or the use of only an addendum form **would not** qualify as a plan update.
- NCFS-SIP will not pay for plans prepared through other funding sources (Ex. CAP 106 Plans through NRCS). If individual practices have been previously funded through state or federal cost-share (FDP, SPBPP, EQIP, etc.), NCFS-SIP funding is available for plan preparation for these landowners.



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NCFS-SIP Reimbursement Rates

Plan Acres:	Flat Rate:
10-50	\$600
51-100	\$1,000
101-200	\$1,500
201-400	\$2,000
401-600	\$2,500
601-10,000	\$3,000



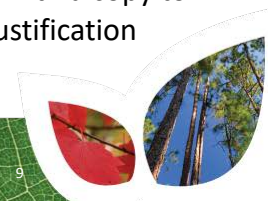
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Applying for NCFS-SIP



- Review Application ([NCFS-SIP App](#))
- Work will not be authorized until written notice (approval letter) has been received of allotment of funds to the project. After notification of NCFS-SIP funding to the landowner, the Natural Resource Professional can move forward with plan development.
- From the date of funding approval, the landowner will have 3 months to have their plan completed and submit documentation for payment. Extensions may be requested by NCFS Service Foresters by emailing the Forest Stewardship Coordinator with a copy to the ARF-FM. A single 1-month extension may be granted with proper justification provided by the landowner.



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Minimum Plan Standards - Stewardship



- Review Minimum Standards Checklist for Forest Stewardship Plans ([FS Checklist](#))
- “Plan Components” (Numbers 1-10) must be addressed for all Stewardship Plans for NCFS-SIP.
- “Resource Elements” (Numbers 11-27) must be considered but not all 16 elements are required to be addressed within the plan. Stewardship landowners are landowners managing for multiple resources. Address what is relevant within the plan and resource elements not relevant can be addressed with the Addendum. The Addendum will provide information to the landowner about potential management opportunities. ([Stewardship Addendum](#))



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NCFS-SIP Minimum Map Standards



- All maps must be digitized over aerial photography and include:
 - Tract Boundary
 - Management Areas
 - Soils/Hydrology ([Web Soil Survey](#))
 - Significant Resource Elements
- NCFS prefers to receive a shapefile from the plan writer if they have this capability. (Tract Boundary Only)
- Google Earth Pro can be used by the plan writer to create a KMZ file.



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Landowner Reimbursement Payments



After the plan is complete the landowner will submit the following to the local NCFS District Office for reimbursement payment:


1. A copy of the completed management plan (Tree Farm or Stewardship Plan) with map(s).
2. A copy of the paid invoice for plan preparation services from the Natural Resource Professional.
3. A Substitute W-9 form completed by the landowner with the original signatures.



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Questions?

Learn more at www.ncforestservice.gov

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