



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources



Eastern Washington Forest Landowner COST-SHARE INFORMATION

Valid for October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015

Extensive areas of Eastern Washington forest land are in overcrowded, unhealthy condition making them susceptible to damage from wildfire, insects and drought stress.

This cost-share program provides financial incentives to help eligible landowners implement practices to improve the health of their forest and reduce the risk of damage from threats like wildfire and insect and pests.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the purpose of this cost-share program?

A: This program is intended to encourage eligible non-federal forest owners to implement practices which improve forest health and reduce the risk from wildfire and insect infestation on forest lands in Eastern Washington.

Q: Who funds and administers the program?

A: The program is funded by federal wildfire hazard reduction and forest health grant funds from the USDA Forest Service and state forest health restoration funds appropriated by the Washington State Legislature. The program is administered by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Q: Do I need to apply for cost-share funds in order to receive forest management advice from DNR?

A: No. Landowner Assistance Foresters, and a Wildlife Biologist, from DNR's Forest Stewardship Program are available to provide forest management advice statewide. Forest owners can request assistance by contacting DNR Region Offices, e-mailing to foreststewardship@dnr.wa.gov, or calling the Statewide Forest Stewardship Program Manager at (360) 902-1706.

Q: Is funding available throughout Eastern Washington?

A: Owners of eligible forest land in all eastern Washington counties (includes Skamania) may apply. However, the cost-share program is supported by a variety of underlying federal and state funding sources which vary over time and are often limited to geographically specific areas. Availability of cost-share funds at any given time may vary depending on the location of the property in relation to currently available funding sources.

Q: Who qualifies for cost-sharing?

A: Non-federal owners of eastern Washington forest land whose total statewide forest land ownership in Washington does not exceed 5,000 forested acres.¹ Examples of eligible parties include

¹ Public agencies are exempt from the 5,000-acre maximum ownership requirement.

individuals, families, tribes, organizations, companies not in the wood processing business, non-profit groups, youth camps, homeowners associations, and state, county, and local government entities.

Q: Does land need to be in a “forestry” property tax classification to qualify?

A: No. Forested land qualifies regardless of its property tax classification status.

Q: Are there minimum and maximum acreage requirements?

A: Minimum: There is no minimum acreage requirement for the Forest Stand Improvement (FSI) practices (e.g. thinning, pruning, slash disposal). There is a 20-acre minimum for cost-shared Forest Stewardship Plans. There is a \$500 minimum cost-share approval amount for all applications.

Maximum: The applicant can own no more than 5,000 total forested acres within the State of Washington. Public agencies are exempt from the 5,000-acre maximum ownership requirement.

Q: What kinds of things are eligible for cost-sharing?

A: Forest Stewardship Plans (prepared by a private consulting forester), flammable brush control, non-commercial thinning, pruning, slash disposal, and creation of “defensible space” around structures.

Q: How much cost-sharing can a landowner receive?

A: Approved applicants are reimbursed for 50% of their total actual cost, not to exceed the maximum reimbursement rate shown in the enclosed Cost-Share Rate Schedule. Reimbursement is made at the rates in effect at the time the application was originally approved, regardless of the current rates in effect at the time the work is actually completed.

Q: What conditions or requirements apply?

A: The terms, conditions, and requirements are listed on the [cost-share application form](#). **BE SURE TO READ ALL OF THESE TERMS, CONDITIONS, AND REQUIREMENTS CAREFULLY AND COMPLETELY BEFORE SIGNING AND SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION.**

Q: Do I need to have a DNR-approved Forest Stewardship Plan to receive cost-sharing?

A: Requirements for a Forest Stewardship Plan are as follows²:

Number of Forested Acres in the Ownership	Forest Stewardship Plan Required?	Cost-share Available for Developing a Forest Stewardship Plan?
Less than 20	No	No
20 to 40	Optional	Yes
40 or more	Yes	Yes

Q: Can I apply for cost-share funds for a Forest Stewardship Plan even if the plan is not specifically required in my case?

A: Yes, if the plan will cover at least 20 forested acres. There is no cost-sharing for plans on ownerships less than 20 acres.

Q: How do I apply?

A: You can [apply online](#) or by submitting a copy of your application by fax or US Mail:

- Fax: 360-902-14287
- US Mail: Washington DNR; Forest Stewardship Program; PO Box 47012; Olympia, WA 98504-7012

² Exceptions: 1) Public agency projects, and multi-landowner group projects conducted under a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) do not require a Forest Stewardship Plan; and 2) DNR may waive the Forest Stewardship Plan requirement if cost-share funds are not currently available for plan preparation.

Q: Is there a designated “application period”?

A: No. Applications are approved continuously throughout the year as long as funds are available.

Q: If I’ve already started or completed a project, can I still qualify for funding?

A: No. All cost-shared plans and projects must receive written approval from the DNR **before** any work begins.

Q: Are there other cost-share programs available to forest landowners?

A: Yes. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is available to farm, ranch, and non-industrial private forest landowners, statewide. EQIP is administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). EQIP can potentially fund a wide variety of forestry-related practices, however, eligible practices, and their relative priorities and probability of funding, may vary by locality. Contact the NRCS office which serves the county in which your forest land is located for more information. (Listed under “US Department of Agriculture” in the federal government section of your phone book or on line at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/wa/home/>).

DNR administers two other financial assistance programs for small forest owners:

- Family Forest Fish Passage Program
http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/SmallForestLandownerOffice/Pages/fp_sflo_fffp.p.aspx(http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/SmallForestLandownerOffice/Pages/fp_sflo_fffp.p.aspx) – Helps fund projects to remove barriers to fish passage on forest roads. Program Manager: Laurie Cox, (360) 902-1427, laurie.cox@dnr.wa.gov
- Forest Riparian Easement Program
http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/SmallForestLandownerOffice/Pages/fp_sflo_fre.p.aspx – Helps compensate small forest owners for the value of timber which, by state law, must be left unharvested to protect riparian areas, fish habitat, and water quality. Program Manager: Dan Pomerenk, (360) 902-1404, daniel.pomerenk@dnr.wa.gov

Q: Can I use cost-share funds from this program in conjunction with other federal cost-share or financial incentive program funds for the same project?

A: No. Other federally funded programs (e.g. EQIP) cannot be used to pay for the same practices on the same acres as this program. Other federally-funded programs may be used on other parts of your ownership and/or to fund practices entirely different from those funded by this program.

Q: Who can I contact if I have questions or need more information?

A: You can contact your DNR Landowner Assistance Forester through the Region Office which serves the area where your land is located or e-mail to foreststewardship@dnr.wa.gov.

- Okanogan, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Lincoln, and Spokane counties: Steve Harris, NE Region Forest Landowner Assistance Manager WA DNR, 225 S. Silke Rd., Colville, WA 99114-9369. (509) 684-7474. FAX: (509) 684-7484.
- Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Yakima, Skamania, Klickitat, Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, Asotin, and Whitman counties: Chuck Wytko, SE Region Forest Landowner Assistance Manager, WA DNR, 713 E. Bowers Rd., Ellensburg, WA 98926-9341. (509) 925-8510. FAX: (509) 925-8522.
- Statewide Forest Stewardship Program Manager: Steve Gibbs, WA DNR, P.O. Box 47012, Olympia, WA 98504-7012. (360) 902-1706. FAX: (360) 902-1428. steve.gibbs@dnr.wa.gov
- Statewide Forest Stewardship Wildlife Biologist: Ken Bevis, WA DNR, 713 Bowers Rd., Ellensburg, WA 98926-9341. Cell: (360) 489-4802. Desk: (509) 925-0962. ken.bevis@dnr.wa.gov

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of discrimination: write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). The U.S. Department of Agriculture and Washington State Department of Natural Resources are equal opportunity service providers and employers.

COST-SHARE RATE SCHEDULE

Cost-share is paid at 50% of the applicant’s written documented cost, with the payments not to exceed the maximums specified below.

Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP)

New Forest Stewardship Plans, prepared by a private sector natural resource professional acceptable to DNR, are reimbursed at 50% of actual cost, not to exceed the amounts shown below. Revision of existing plans that are less than 10 years old is also cost-shared at 50%, however, the maximum cost-share amount for a revised plan is less than that assigned to a new plan. Replacement of an existing plan which is older than 10 years is considered a “new” plan.

The following are not eligible for cost-sharing:

- Plans on properties with less than 20 forested acres.
- Plans prepared by persons with an ownership interest in the property.
- Plans resulting from Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Shortcourses.
- Plans prepared by public employees.
- Plans completed prior to approval of application.
- Plans not meeting written Forest Stewardship Plan Guidelines.
- Plans prepared for ineligible ownerships.

FSP Class	Cost-share per Plan (50% reimbursement, not to exceed the amounts listed)	
	New Plan	Revision of Plans Less than 10 Years Old
Less than 20 acres	None	None
FSP-1: 20 to 100	\$900	\$500
FSP-2: 101 to 250 acres	\$1,100	\$800
FSP-3: 251 to 500 acres	\$1,500	\$1,000
FSP-4: 501 to 1,000 acres	\$2,000	\$1,300
FSP-5: 1,001 + acres	\$2,800	\$1,600

Forest Stand Improvement (FSI) Practices for Forest Health Improvements/Wildfire Hazard Reduction

FSI Practice	Limitations	Cost-share/acre (50% reimbursement, not to exceed the amounts listed)
FSI-1: Brush control		\$75
FSI-2: Non-commercial thinning	cut < 500 trees/acre	\$135
FSI-3: Non-commercial thinning	cut 501-1,000 trees/acre	\$165
FSI-4: Non-commercial thinning	cut 1001-2000 trees/acre	\$210
FSI-5: Non-commercial thinning	cut 2001+ trees/acre	\$255
FSI-6: Pruning	standard – up to 10 feet	\$160

FSI Practice	Limitations	Cost-share/acre (50% reimbursement, not to exceed the amounts listed)
FSI-7: Pruning	increased difficulty – over 10 feet or large limbs	\$210
FSI-8: Prescribed broadcast burn		\$175
FSI-9: Light slash disposal		\$165
FSI-10: Medium slash disposal		\$275
FSI-11: Heavy slash disposal		\$385
FSI-12: Extremely heavy slash disposal		\$450