

Forest stewardship



The DNR Forest Stewardship Program helps woodland owners manage their woods through advice and education, cost-share programs, and woodland stewardship plans. We work through a statewide network of DNR, public, and private foresters specially trained in forest stewardship. Forest stewardship focuses on helping woodland owners actively manage their land and natural resources, keeping the land healthy for present and future generations, and increasing the benefits of the land. We are ready to help you achieve your woodland goals, whether it is to create wildlife habitat, increase natural beauty, improve trails, enhance environmental benefits, or harvest timber.

Managing your woods

Woodland management is all the things you do to keep your woods healthy and beautiful. This work tends to happen in small steps over multiple years. For example, if you want to improve wildlife habitat you may need to remove invasive plants to allow native plants to grow, and then plant the



right trees to increase food for wildlife. After time, you may need to remove some trees to decrease competition and increase the health of remaining trees. These actions make your woods attractive to wildlife and also provide environmental benefits. We use woodland stewardship plans to help you organize and complete all of these steps.

Woodland stewardship plans

A woodland stewardship plan helps you understand what is in your woods, how to improve them, and when to do work. A unique plan is developed for your woods based on your land management goals. The plan can help you stay on track over the long-term and keep your woods healthy and beautiful. Plans are written for woodland owners with 20 to 5,000 acres where at least 10 acres have or will have trees. Plans are updated every 10 years to stay current with your needs and your woods.

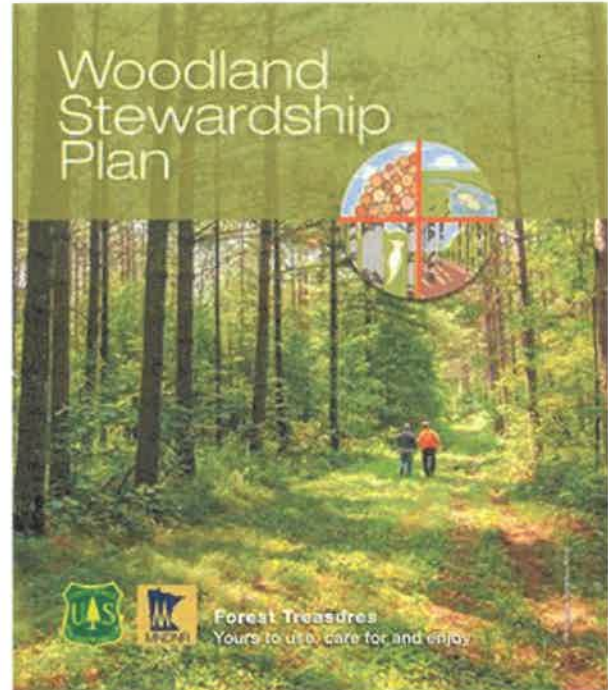
Plans are written by foresters and staff at environmental organizations and Soil and Water Conservation Districts approved by the DNR. The cost for a woodland stewardship plan depends on who writes it and the size of your woods.

While a [DNR forester \(/woodlands/cfm-map.html\)](/woodlands/cfm-map.html) can write your plan, most plans are written by approved [Minnesota woodland stewardship plan writers \(/foreststewardship/plan-writers.html\)](/foreststewardship/plan-writers.html).

Financial benefits for woodland owners

Cost-share program: The DNR has cost-share funds available to help woodland owners complete projects to improve your woods (if you have one, these are steps outlined in your woodland stewardship plan). A DNR forester works with you to develop a project plan. Project work can be done by you or a contractor. Sample projects include: wildlife and pollinator habitat improvement, tree planting, bud capping, invasive species removal, tree thinning, timber stand improvement and forest road work. More information can be found on the DNR's [Cost-share for woodland owners \(/woodlands/cost-share.html\)](/woodlands/cost-share.html) webpage.

Incentive programs: The Minnesota [Sustainable Forest Incentive Act \(/foreststewardship/sfia/index.html\)](/foreststewardship/sfia/index.html) (SFIA) is an incentive program to keep forests as forests on our landscape. The program is jointly managed by Minnesota Department of Revenue and DNR. [2c Managed Forest Land \(https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/class-2c-managed-forest-land\)](https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/class-2c-managed-forest-land) is a property tax designation that offers Minnesota woodland owners a property tax rate of 0.65% on actively managed woodland. For both programs, landowners with at least 20 acres of forest land under a registered woodland stewardship plan that was written within the last 10 years may be eligible.



The main difference between SFIA and 2c is length of commitment. SFIA is a long-term commitment (8, 20, or 50 years), which stays with the land upon sale or transfer. 2c is a short-term commitment (year-to-year) and does not transfer with the land upon sale or transfer. Comparing how much you would save in property taxes versus how much you would get in yearly payments, along with how long you want to commit, will determine if you enroll in 2c versus SFIA.

The Forest Stewardship Program (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/forest-stewardship/program>) is funded by the USDA Forest Service and run by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Questions?

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Payments and due dates



Below are some important SFIA dates to keep in mind.

When enrolling

September 15	Deadline to register your woodland management plan with the DNR to be eligible for SFIA the following calendar year.
October 31	Deadline to submit SFIA application to Department of Revenue. Covenant also must be recorded with the County Recorder's Office by this date.

Once enrolled

May 1	Department of Revenue mails annual certification letters to all SFIA enrollees.
July 1	Deadline to submit an updated woodland stewardship plan, if necessary. Plans must be updated every 10 years to remain eligible for SFIA payments.
July 1	Deadline for SFIA claimant to submit annual certification letters to the Department of Revenue.
October 1	Department of Revenue sends out annual incentive payments.

Payments

SFIA payment rates are adjusted each year based on statewide average market values and tax rates. However, they cannot decrease or increase by more than 10 percent per year. Payment rates vary according to the kind of covenant you have:



- SFIA land that is also in a conservation easement has only one covenant length (8 years) and therefore only one payment amount.
- SFIA land without a conservation easement has three possible covenant lengths and three corresponding payment levels based on the length of the covenant and the number of acres enrolled.

Visit the Department of Revenue's [Sustainable Forest Incentive Act](https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/sustainable-forest-incentive-act-faq) (<https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/sustainable-forest-incentive-act-faq>) webpage for current payment rates.

Contact sfia.dnr@state.mn.us (<mailto:sfia.dnr@state.mn.us>) if you have any questions or need additional information.

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Land eligible for SFIA



To be eligible for SFIA, your land must:

- Be at least 50 percent forested, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 88.01, subd. 7 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=88.01#stat.88.01.7>) . Ask your woodland stewardship plan writer or a DNR forester if you need help interpreting this definition.
- Be at least 20 contiguous acres. You may not add up smaller, separate pieces of land to reach 20 acres.
- Have a woodland management plan registered with the DNR that was written within the past 10 years.
- Be current on property taxes.
- Have an SFIA covenant in place at the County Recorder's Office.

Non-forested land

Some types of non-forested land may be enrolled in SFIA, such as:

- An open body of water that is less than 3 acres in size. Multiple water bodies are permitted. For example, if you have four ponds or open bodies of water that are each 2 acres in size, all 8 acres would be eligible. However, if you have one pond or open body of water that is 5 acres in size, then none of the pond or water body acres would be eligible.
- Grasslands, wetlands, and brushlands have a positive influence on local hydrology.

No more than 50 percent of each piece of enrolled land may be non-forested

Structures and houses

Land with a structure on it is not eligible for SFIA. However, land surrounding a structure may qualify. A minimum of 3 acres must be excluded for each improved structure that:

- Is greater than 300 square feet.
- Is used residentially on more than an occasional basis.
- Provides water, sewer, or electrical hookups for residential purposes.

This only applies to structures that are within the boundaries of the land enrolled in SFIA. Structures that are used exclusively to house and store forest management equipment may be eligible for SFIA.

Ineligible lands and parcels

Several types of land are not eligible for enrollment in SFIA.

- Developed or used for residential purposes
- Used for agricultural purposes, including land that is grazed by livestock or hayed
- Managed for Christmas tree production
- Enrolled in the following reserve programs:
 - Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) (<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/index>)
 - Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve (<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/reinvest-minnesota-overview>)
 - Including Permanent Wetland Preserves (PWP)
 - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) (<http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/easements/crep.html>)
- Enrolled in any conservation easement (</foreststewardship/sfia/conservation-easements.html>) dated after May 30, 2013
- Exempted from paying taxes

Although the types of land mentioned above are not eligible for SFIA, individual acres in the same parcel may still be considered for SFIA. Please email sfia.dnr@state.mn.us (<mailto:sfia.dnr@state.mn.us>) or call us at 651-259-5285 if you have questions about your land's eligibility.

Ineligible parcels

An entire tax parcel is ineligible if any of the land within it is enrolled in or classified as:

- Green Acres
- Rural Preserve
- Agricultural Preserves
- Metropolitan Agricultural Preserves

Contact sfia.dnr@state.mn.us (<mailto:sfia.dnr@state.mn.us>) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Forest management plans and SFIA registration



To be eligible for SFIA, you must have a forest management plan, also called a [woodland stewardship plan \(/foreststewardship/index.html\)](/foreststewardship/index.html), prepared by a [DNR-approved plan writer \(/foreststewardship/plan-writers.html\)](/foreststewardship/plan-writers.html). A woodland stewardship plan is a written document that outlines your intentions for managing your woods. Your land management goals set the tone for the plan, and the final document helps you better understand your land and how to improve it.

When you request a woodland stewardship plan, a DNR-approved plan writer walks your woods, describes and maps the plants, trees, and soils, and prepares a 12- to 30-page forest management plan that includes resources to help you achieve your goals based on the current conditions of your woods.

You must implement your plan to remain eligible for SFIA. Implementation can mean various things and depends on your management goals—maybe you build a trail, set up a thinning, remove invasive species, or plant new trees. After reading your plan's recommendations, you decide which actions to complete. The point is to put good woodland stewardship into practice on your land.

Having a woodland stewardship plan ensures that you fulfill the purpose of SFIA, which is to encourage long-term sustainable woodland management. A plan also makes you eligible to receive assistance from federal and state agencies.

To remain eligible for SFIA, landowner need a new plan every 10 years.

Registering your woodland stewardship plan

Your woodland stewardship plan must be less than 10 years old and registered with the DNR to be eligible for SFIA.

When you register your plan, a DNR forester reviews it to ensure the plan is eligible for SFIA and meets federal and state standards. If the plan is missing any information, the DNR forester works with the original plan writer to ensure you have an accurate, useful plan that is also SFIA compliant. Your woodland stewardship plan must be registered with the DNR before approval of your SFIA application.

Your plan writer should submit your plan to the DNR for registration. However, you must instruct your plan writer to do this and tell them you are interested in SFIA. A reminder letter will be sent from the DNR when your plan expires (plans expire in 10 years).

Do not wait until the last minute to contact a plan writer. Depending on the circumstance, it can take several months for a plan writer to complete your plan.

Can't find your plan?

woodland stewardship plans typically are 12 to 30 pages long and compiled in a large, three-ring binder titled "Woodland Stewardship Plan." The binder also includes a map and general reference material about managing your woods.

If you cannot find your plan, contact your plan writer and ask for an electronic copy. If you don't remember who your plan writer is, the DNR may be able to help you locate them.

Include the following information in your email to sfia.dnr@state.mn.us

(<mailto:sfia.dnr@state.mn.us>) :

- Your full name and your spouse's name (if applicable)
- Your official mailing address
- The county where your land is located
- The approximate number of acres, or a rough idea of how many acres, you have in the plan

If you cannot locate your plan or the plan writer, and your plan is not currently registered with the DNR, you must have a new plan written. Contact a [DNR-approved plan writer \(/foreststewardship/plan-writers.html\)](#) ASAP.

Buying land enrolled in SFIA

When you buy land enrolled in SFIA, you are not required to apply for SFIA. However, the property is still bound by the covenant restrictions until the covenant is released by the Department of Revenue.

To receive SFIA payments, you must:

- Apply for a name change using the SFIA Enrollment Application form located on the Department of Revenue's [Sustainable Forest Incentive Act](https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/sustainable-forest-incentive-act-faq) (<https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/sustainable-forest-incentive-act-faq>) webpage.
- Transfer a current woodland stewardship plan registered with the DNR into your name, or register a new plan with the DNR.
- Follow recommendations in the management plan.

Contact the previous landowner to get a copy of the plan. If the previous landowner cannot send you the plan, have them give DNR permission - by email or phone - and we will send you a copy of the plan and transfer it into your name. Send emails to for_pfm_fsp.dnr@state.mn.us (mailto:for_pfm_fsp.dnr@state.mn.us).

Additional information

For more information regarding applications, covenants, payments, important dates, and resources, visit the Department of [Revenue Sustainable Forest Incentive Act](https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/sustainable-forest-incentive-act) (<https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/sustainable-forest-incentive-act>) webpage for information regarding applications, covenants, payments, important dates, and resources.

Contact sfia.dnr@state.mn.us (<mailto:sfia.dnr@state.mn.us>) opens in a new browser tab if you have any questions or need additional information.

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Sustainable Forest Incentive Act

The Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) provides direct incentive payments to property owners to encourage sustainable use of forest lands.

Property owners can receive a payment for each acre of qualifying forest land they enroll in SFIA.

In return, they agree not to develop the land and to follow a forest management plan while they are in the program. All enrolled land must remain in SFIA for at least 8, 20, or 50 years depending on their recorded covenant (agreement) length. For information on forest management plans, visit the [Department of Natural Resources website](#).

SFIA Law Changes

Changes to SFIA were signed into law in 2025 that will affect your payment amounts and withdrawal options for 2027. For details, see the [Legislative Changes section](#).

About the Program

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Payment Rates

Payment amounts vary based on the length of your covenant and your total number of acres enrolled in SFIA. The payment rates are adjusted each year based on statewide average market values and tax rates but will not increase or decrease by more than 10% per year. For land held in a conservation easement, see the note after the table.

The 2026 payment rates are currently calculated to be:

Covenant Length	Payment Rate (per enrolled acre)
8 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Up to 1,920 acres enrolled: \$12.13More than 1,920 acres enrolled: \$16.79
20 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Up to 1,920 acres enrolled: \$16.79More than 1,920 acres enrolled: \$21.46
50 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Up to 1,920 acres enrolled: \$21.46More than 1,920 acres enrolled: \$26.12

For new applications in 2026 and land that is in a conservation easement, the payment is \$4.67 per acre.

Note: If your land was enrolled in SFIA in 2017 and also has a conservation easement, the payment rate is \$7.00 per acre and that land is limited to an 8-year covenant.

All payments received are treated as taxable income.

Qualifications

Qualifying properties **must**:

- Be current on property taxes
- Have 20 or more contiguous acres
- Be at least 50% forest land as defined in [Minnesota Statute 88.01, subdivision 7](#)
- Have a registered forest management plan in place
- Have a covenant in place limiting the property's use to forest management activities

Qualifying properties **cannot** be:

- Classified as 2c Managed Forest Land by the assessor or enrolled in:

- Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM)
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Green Acres
- Agricultural Preserves
- Rural Preserves
- Used for residential or agricultural purposes
- Improved with a structure, pavement, sewer, campsite, billboards, cell towers or roads used for purposes that are not in the forest management plan
- Covered under a Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council easement or similar easement granted after May 30, 2013

Enrollment

[Open All \[+\]](#) [Close All \[-\]](#)

How to Enroll

Before you apply, you must:

- [Obtain a Woodland Stewardship Plan](#) (also called a Forest Management Plan) and [register the plan with the Department of Natural Resources](#).
- Determine the covenant length. Covenants may be for 8, 20, or 50 years.
- Record your covenant with your County Recorder's Office.
 - [SFIA 8-Year Covenant](#)
 - [SFIA 20-Year Covenant](#)
 - [SFIA 50-Year Covenant](#)

When you apply, your [SFIA Application](#) must include:

- Current year's property tax statement for each parcel
- Recorded covenant with county stamp showing recorded date

Applications must be postmarked by October 31 and should be mailed to:

Minnesota Department of Revenue
 Mail Station 3340
 600 N. Robert St.
 St. Paul, MN 55146-3340

After Enrolling

To be in compliance with the SFIA program and receive payment, you must:

- Complete and return your certification form, including your Woodland Activity Annual Report, to Revenue by **July 1** each year. We mail these forms to enrolled property owners by May 15 each year.
- Keep your Woodland Stewardship Plan current and registered with the Department of Natural Resources. Plans are good for 10 years. To check on your plan's registration status, visit the [Department of Natural Resources](#).

Enrolling Additional Acres

To add acres to your existing SFIA enrolled acres, you must complete the entire application process for the new acres.

To add acres in a partially enrolled parcel of land, you must submit a new application for those acres. The covenant must be the same length as the existing covenant on the parcel. For example, if you previously enrolled part of a parcel in the SFIA program and entered into a 20-year covenant, any new acres **on the same parcel** must also be covered by a 20-year covenant.

Important Dates

When you enroll land in SFIA, keep these dates in mind.

Date	Activity or Due Date
May 15	Certification Forms and Woodland Activity Annual Reports are mailed to enrolled property owners.
July 1	Postmark date for returning Certification Forms and Woodland Activity Annual Reports to Revenue.
Oct. 1	Incentive payments are paid either by direct deposit or mailed to the landowner.
Oct. 31	Postmark date for completed applications to receive payments the next year.

Resources

- [Withdrawal Form](#)
- [SFIA Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Legislative Changes

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Payments

Starting in 2027, SFIA payments will be calculated differently using a lower percentage. This may result in a payment that is lower. In addition to the calculation change, the payments may now decrease more than 10% each year.

Disclaimer: The 2027 estimated payment rates are based on the 2026 data and using the revised 2027 lowered percentages.

Covenant Length	Actual 2026 Payment Rates	Estimated 2027 Payment Rates
8 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 1,920 acres enrolled: \$12.13 • More than 1,920 acres enrolled: \$16.79 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 1,920 acres enrolled: \$10.92 • More than 1,920 acres enrolled: \$15.58
20 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 1,920 acres enrolled: \$16.79 • More than 1,920 acres enrolled: \$21.46 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 1,920 acres enrolled: \$15.11 • More than 1,920 acres enrolled: \$19.78
50 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 1,920 acres enrolled: \$21.46 • More than 1,920 acres enrolled: \$26.12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 1,920 acres enrolled: \$19.31 • More than 1,920 acres enrolled: \$23.98

We will update this chart by fall of 2026 when rates are finalized.

Withdrawal Process

To withdraw, you must complete the designated 2027 withdrawal form before accepting the 2027 reduced payment. This form will be available on our website in early 2027.

If you have already been approved for release but would like to be released in 2027, you must complete the designated 2027 withdrawal form. If you do not complete the 2027 withdrawal form, the original withdrawal date will remain in effect.

Note: If you withdraw under this provision, you are still required to wait three years to re-enroll in the program.

If you accept the reduced payment in 2027, the normal withdrawal process will continue. You become eligible to apply for withdrawal once your parcel has been enrolled for at least half the covenant length.

Common Questions About this Change

Can I release a portion of my enrolled land?

Yes. You may release a portion of your enrolled land. However, you must release the entire parcel.

When can I apply to have my land released?

We will update the website in January 2027 with the required form.

After applying to have my land released, how long can I expect the process to take?

Typically, the process will be completed within 45 days.

Can I move my land into 2c (Managed Forest Land)?

Once your land has been removed, contact your county assessor for the 2c requirements. As a reminder, the application deadline for 2c is April 30 to be in effect for taxes payable for the following year.

Questions?

If you have questions about enrolling in SFIA, call 651-556-6088 or proptax.sfia@state.mn.us.

How Are We Doing?

[Rate Our Website](#)

Sustainable Forest Incentive Act FAQs

The [Sustainable Forest Incentive Act \(SFIA\)](#) provides incentive payments to encourage sustainable use of forest lands. For more information about forest management plans, visit the [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](#).

Enrollment

What if my land's classification changes?

Some uses of the property (residential or agricultural use) are prohibited by the SFIA program for enrolled acres and subject to penalties.

If your county assessor changes your land classification to one prohibited by SFIA, your land will remain under the covenant, but you may be charged the following penalties:

- 30% of the estimated market value of the changed portion of the property.
- A payback amount, plus interest, equal to the SFIA payments you received for the number of years the land was in a covenant or for half the length of the covenant, whichever is less.

Can I enroll only part of my eligible acres?

Yes, as long as you enroll at least 20 contiguous acres. To enroll more acres in the future, you must have a new covenant of the same duration for the extra acres.

Do I need to have separate covenants for each parcel I enroll?

You may have one covenant for different parcels if both of the following are true:

- Are in the same county (no matter how far apart the parcels are)
- Have the same covenant length

Otherwise, you must have a separate covenant for the different tax parcels.

What if I have wetlands on my property?

Open water less than three acres can be included in the forest management plan and enrolled in SFIA. Larger acres must be excluded from the program.

Some marshes and other wetlands that cannot grow trees but have significant impact on forested land may be eligible for SFIA.

Wetlands exempt from property taxes are not eligible for SFIA.

What if I have delinquent taxes or debts?

Property Tax

If you have delinquent property tax, your land may be removed from the program. You have 60 days to pay the taxes and your property will be reinstated without penalty.

If you do not pay the taxes within 60 days, your land will be removed. The covenant will remain on the land for a minimum of the duration of the covenant. Additionally, you will be charged a payback amount, plus interest, equal to the SFIA payments you received for the number of years the land was in a covenant or for half the length of the covenant, whichever is less.

Other Taxes and Debts

State law may require us to apply your SFIA payments to other delinquent taxes or government debts.

Land Use

What if I have a building on my property?

If the building or structure is used exclusively for forest management activities, such as storing equipment for foresting, it can be included in the enrolled acres.

If the building is used for anything other than forest management purposes, such as a home or cabin, you must exclude at least three acres from enrollment along with the structure.

At the time of enrollment you can exclude more acres if you plan to add a building later.

Can I build on the property?

The covenant prohibits you from improving or building on any acres enrolled in SFIA.

If you plan to build in the future, exclude a minimum of three acres of land that you plan to build on when you apply.

If you violate the covenant, you will stop receiving incentive payments, and the covenant would remain on your land. Additionally, you will be charged:

- A penalty of 25% of the estimated market value added by the improvement.
- A payback amount, plus interest, equal to the SFIA payments you received for the number of years the land was in a covenant or for half the length of the covenant, whichever is less.

Is camping allowed on SFIA land?

Yes. Camping and other recreational activities are allowed on SFIA land if it does not conflict with the covenant or forest management plan.

Changing Owners

What happens when someone enrolled in SFIA dies?

Within one year after the death, the person who inherits the land must notify the Department of Revenue. They may elect to terminate enrollment or apply to enroll in the program to continue receiving payments.

What if I sell or transfer the land?

If you sell or transfer all or part of the land, the covenant remains in effect. You must notify the Department of Revenue in writing within 60 days after the property title is transferred.

The new owner must abide by the recorded covenant. The new owner must apply for the program in order to receive payment.

If I buy land that is in SFIA, do I have to enroll?

No, you are not required to enroll, but the property is still bound by the covenant.

To terminate the covenant, you must request termination from the program and wait for the covenant to be released before you can build on the property or change its use. If you do not abide by the covenant, you will be subject to the penalties.

To continue receiving payments for the covenant, you must:

- Apply for a name change using the application form
- Transfer a current forest management plan registered with the DNR into your name within two years

The buyer and seller must decide who will receive payments. This may be written into a purchase agreement.

Leaving the Program

How do I withdraw from the program?

You are bound to your covenant for at least the duration of the covenant. After completing half of the covenant duration, you may request termination by completing the SFIA Withdrawal Application.

The Department of Revenue will then send a confirmation letter with the date your land will be released. After receiving the withdrawal application, there is a waiting period of half the covenant duration before land is removed from the program.

During the waiting period, the covenant is still binding, and you will continue to receive payments. Once you have withdrawn, you cannot re-enroll in SFIA for at least three years.

Cost-share for woodland owners



Do you own woods in rural Minnesota? Are you looking to practice good stewardship on your land? If so, money is available to share the costs of your woodland projects.

Taking care of your woods benefits all Minnesotans by:

- Enhancing recreational opportunities such as bird watching, hunting, and fishing.
- Improving and protecting water quality.
- Enhancing wildlife habitat.
- Supporting a healthy forest products economy.
- Providing clean air.

What is cost-share?

The DNR cost-share program provides financial assistance to private woodland owners for a wide variety of forestry-related practices. The funds can help complete goals associated with good forest stewardship. A typical project is between 3 and 20 acres but could be smaller or larger depending on your goals. Whether you want to maintain wildlife habitat, promote biodiversity, prevent wildfires, produce firewood, or create an enjoyable place to escape, we can help.

Drought-killed seedling relief funding

The DNR received legislative funding to cover costs for woodland owners to replace seedlings killed by drought. Seeded or planted seedlings killed by

drought are eligible. Funding is available through **June 30, 2027**.

Eligible activities include:

1. Preparing a site for planting
2. Purchasing seedlings
3. Planting seedlings
4. Controlling vegetative competition
5. Protecting seedlings from animal browse
6. Releasing seedlings from competing vegetation

Replacement work can begin once you are enrolled in the program. You can apply now for replacement work this fall or next spring. Funding does not apply to yard trees or landscaping projects.

Contact (</woodlands/cfm-map.html>) your stewardship forester to enroll in this program.

What is eligible?

Several activities are eligible for cost-share support. Below are just a few examples.

Reforestation and tree planting:

- Replanting after harvesting trees - consider [purchasing from the State Forest Nursery \(/forestry/nursery/ordering.html\)](#).
- Removing competing vegetation to improve a site or growth of newly planted trees.

Forest improvement:

- Thinning out undesirable trees to provide more room for desirable trees.
- Pruning lower branches of trees to improve timber quality.

Forest health and protection:

- Removing invasive species such as buckthorn or garlic mustard to improve forest health.
- Protecting trees from deer browse with tree tubes or fence enclosures.

Wildlife habitat enhancement:

- Planting trees to increase food supply for wildlife.
- Planting a native prairie to improve habitat for wildlife.

Soil and water protection and improvement:

- Using temporary grass cover to reduce soil erosion.
- Rehabbing forest roads or skid trails to minimize soil erosion.

Riparian or fisheries habitat and improvement:

- Planting stubs of cottonwood or willow to improve riparian woody cover.
- Installing tree revetments to stabilize stream banks.

Forest recreation:

- Constructing or improving recreational paths or trails.
- Felling, removing, or pruning trees to improve the aesthetic quality of woods.

Who is eligible?

Woodland owners in Minnesota who own land that is rural in nature are eligible for cost-share. Work must be done in a wooded landscape. Landscape projects around homes are not eligible. Stewardship plans are not required to use these funds. A DNR Cooperative Forest Management forester will approve eligible activities.

Yard landscaping projects are not eligible for cost-share support. Pastured or grazed lands are not eligible.

How does it work?

Contact a DNR CFM forester where your property is located to start an application. They will work with you to develop a project plan that meets your goals. You can do the work or hire a contractor. After completing your project, a DNR forester inspects your project to verify it was completed. Once approved, you receive payment from the DNR based on the type of work done.

Contact (</woodlands/cfm-map.html>) a DNR CFM forester to get started!

Questions?

Call 651-296-6157 or 888-646-6367

Email us: info.dnr@state.mn.us

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