

**MA Private Lands Group Certification
Fiscal Year 2017 Reimbursement Application For
Plan Upgrade**

**from Chapter 61/61A/61B or Stewardship to Forest Stewardship
Council™ (FSC) standard**

Completion deadline for plan submission: May 5, 2017

Application must be submitted and approved prior to submitting completed plan to DCR

Only applications with completed IRS Form W-9 will be processed

Landowners:

**MA Private Lands Group Certification
40 Cold Storage Drive, PO Box 484
Amherst, MA 01004 (413) 545-7020**

Please read page 2 and then complete this section and mail to:

Landowner

Property

Name _____

Town _____

Soc. Sec. # or Tax ID. # (REQUIRED) _____
(Please indicate whose Soc. Sec. #) _____

Road _____

Mailing address _____

County _____

Total acres of property _____

Acres to be covered by plan _____

Daytime Phone _____

Ownership Type and other information

Evening Phone _____

Please check the listings that apply to this ownership

Email _____

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> individual or joint | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation restriction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> non-profit, land trust | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Stewardship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> non-profit, other | <input type="checkbox"/> CH61 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> group/association | <input type="checkbox"/> CH61A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> municipality | <input type="checkbox"/> CH61B |

Plan preparer (if known) _____

Landowner Statement & Signature

I agree to keep the land under the Plan in forest cover during the 10-year life of the Plan. When undertaking management activities, I pledge to abide by the management provisions of the Plan during the ten year period following approval. I understand that in the event I convey all or a portion of the land described in the plan during the period of the plan, I will notify the Department of Conservation and Recreation of this change in ownership. I can amend the Plan at any time consistent with Program guidelines.

If I withdraw the Plan from the Program during the 7-year agreement (commitment) to the MA Forest Stewardship Program, I will notify DCR and I will repay the reimbursement dollars I received for the Plan.

Landowner signature _____ Date _____

For Departmental Use:

Approval

Disapproval

Extent approved (acres) _____

_____ Ineligible property or ownership

Initial reimbursement approved (\$) _____

_____ No funds available: keep on file

Comments _____

_____ I certify that this application meets with eligibility requirements of MA Forest Stewardship Program.

DCR Authorizing signature _____

Date _____

About FSC™ Certification of private forestland in MA...

The Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC) is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that promotes the responsible management of the world's forests. Forest certification is a third party auditing system of forest management practices. The use of certification engages the marketplace, encouraging recognition of the value of forests, and moreover to advance standards in forest management practices. Certification assures consumers of forest products that the raw materials in their purchases originated from a forest managed under recognized sustainable management practices. The principles and criteria established by FSC promote ecologically beneficial, socially responsible, economically viable forest management practices.

The benefits of joining the Massachusetts certification group include:

- Incentive to maintain forests as forests
- Recognition for implementing high standards of sustainable forest management practices locally
- The ability to sell timber in the certified marketplace
- Ability to participate in the carbon market
- Market access to and possible financial gain from future demand for green certified wood products
- An opportunity to educate neighbors and the public about the importance of well-managed private forests
- Access to forest certification at a reduced cost
- The flow of public benefits such as clean water and air, wildlife habitat, recreation and long-term wood supply is directly related to the health and sustainability of these forests.

Reimbursement Information:

Who is eligible – Landowners, both private and municipal, who commit in writing to enroll in the DCR Forest Stewardship Council Group Certification Program that have an existing Forest Stewardship Plan or Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B forest management plan are eligible. Eligible private landowners include individuals, trusts, land trusts, clubs, LLC's, associations, and corporate entities. Municipally owned forest land parcels of 25 acres or more and entities principally engaged in wood processing and properties that are permanently protected are also eligible. Leaseholders are eligible as well. Not eligible: Corporations with publicly held stock.

What land cover is eligible – Forestland as defined in the MA Forest Stewardship Program and Chapter 61/61A/61B. Not eligible acres are: active hay fields, cropland, commercial blueberries, Christmas trees, orchards, houses and outbuildings and the lawns and landscaped areas around them.

Reimbursement is only for upgrades to existing forest management plans. New Forest Stewardship Plans and/or Chapter 61/61A/61B forest management plans are not eligible to receive reimbursement. The reimbursement application must be approved by DCR before work on the upgrade plan begins.

Reimbursement rates –

Upgrade Chapter 61/61A/61B Plan to DCR FSC™ Group Certification Standard

10-499 acres = \$640, 500-999 acres = \$960

Upgrade Forest Stewardship Plan DCR FSC™ Group Certification Standard

10-499 acres = \$320, 500-999 acres = \$640

For properties of 1,000 or more acres approval must be obtained from the Statewide Stewardship Committee, contact your District Service Forester for more information.

Reimbursement payments are considered taxable by the IRS and must be reported on your income tax returns.

The approval notice will specify a reimbursement amount based upon the applicant's existing plan format. The reimbursement you receive will be calculated from your existing plan (e.g. Forest Stewardship, Chapter 61/61A/61B). The formula we use allows our program to make a firm commitment to you (and many others), yet stay within our allotted budget.

This program, funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, is open to all eligible applicants without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, gender, or sexual orientation.