

	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, afforestation and forest stand improvement cost-sharing program for timber production and the creation of the benefits associated with active forest management	Site prep, tree planting, and releasing regeneration cost-shared NCFS 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	Up to 40% reimbursement of costs for most practices; 60% reimbursement for longleaf planting \$10,000 maximum annual reimbursement for up to 100 acres	Assist with cost-share; Implement planned reforestation, afforestation, 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 Reduced to 400-450 trees per acre	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 stand improvement.
	<u>Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP) (FY14-18)</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, prescribed burning, forest stand improvement, wildlife enhancement, soil stabilization, and water quality protection	Natural Resources Conservation Service	Competitive program for nonindustrial private forest land See local NRCS office for specific requirements	Up to 10 years	N/A	Amount based on average costs to implement conservation practice(s) May not exceed \$450,00 for all EQIP contracts entered between 2014-2018	Develop and implement a conservation plan; Assist with cost and establishment of conservation practices



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Establishment, Management, and Restoration	<u>Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)</u> (FY14-18)	Helps producers build on their existing conservation efforts while strengthening their operations.	Site prep, tree planting, prescribed burning, wildlife enhancement, and timber stand improvement	Natural Resources Conservation Service	Competitive program See local NRCS office for specific details & requirements	5 years; Potential to renew contract with additional conservation activities if objectives from initial contract are met	N/A	Payments based on implemented practices & acreage. Minimum annual payment of \$1500 Limited to \$40,000 per fiscal year & \$200,000 over the term of the 5-year contract period.	Develop and implement a conservation plan that includes installing or maintaining conservation practices
	<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, tree planting, groundcover establishment, 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 70% cost share	Maintain habitat in restored condition for 10 years; Assist with cost-share
	<u>Conservation Reserve Program (CRP):</u> CP-3A* CP-36** Longleaf Pine Initiative	Offsets the costs associated with removing cropland from production and converting to long-term conservation cover Targets highly erodible soils, restores wildlife habitat, & environmentally beneficial cover types.	Site preparation, tree planting, prescribed burning, permanent wildlife habitat establishment, soil stabilization, water quality protection, and tree thinning with debris removal	Farm Service Agency	Individual, corporation, association, partnership, non-profit, estate, or trust with agricultural land meeting cropland requirements Land owned for at least one year	10-15 years	N/A	Up to 50% cost share, not to exceed max flat rate; Annual rental payments; Max \$50,000 per person/year CP-36 provides signing incentive payment (SIP) of \$75 per acre (\$7.5/acre x 10 years) & additional 40% installation cost share for contracts 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
<p>*CP-3A removes cropland from agricultural production focusing primarily on tree establishment; periodically announced, competitive "general" sign-ups</p> <p>**CP-36 is an ecosystem based practice with longleaf & understory establishment requirements; continuous sign up</p>									



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Establishment, Management, and Restoration	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	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, wetland restoration, soil stabilization, and water quality protection on filter strips and forested buffers	Farm Service Agency NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation	Individual, corporation, association, partnership, non-profit, estate, or trust with agricultural land meeting cropland requirements or marginal pastureland* (*practice specific) Land owned for at least one year	10-15 year contracts State contract extension: 30 years or permanent	Filter strips, forested buffers, tree planting (longleaf), wetland restoration, bottomland timber establishment	Cost share: Federal--up to 50%, not to exceed max flat rate; State--dependent on contract length Annual payments: 70 or 100% incentive dependent upon practice; not to exceed \$150/acre Federal max \$50,000 per person/year	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
	Arbor Day Foundation and National Association of State Foresters Replanting	The program helps meet the needs of forests recovering from fire, storms, disease, and other threats	Funding for seedlings	Arbor Day Foundation	Public land	Length based on agreement	N/A	Cost of seedlings	Develop and implement a woodland plan that includes installing conservation practices
Easement Purchase	Forest Legacy Program	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



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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 (Sandhills) NC Wildlife Resources Commission (Piedmont & Coastal Plain)	Non-federal North Carolina landowners	For the life of the Safe Harbor Management Agreement	NA	Assurances that future regulations imposed by the Federal Endangered Species Act will not increase.	Enhance/maintain existing RWC habitat if present, perform or allow habitat enhancement activities, and coordinate with authorized biologist/consultants
Property Tax Reduction	<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	Reduces tax valuations on properties which are actively managing for forest production.	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 Lands Program</u>	Reduces property tax burden for land managed under a Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement	Reduces tax valuations on properties which are actively managing to enhance critical habitats and declining species.	NC Wildlife Resources Commission and county tax office	Land managed for the benefit of priority wildlife species &/or habitats; 20 contiguous qualifying acres minimum; No more than 100 acres per county	For the life of the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement; Roll back penalty assessed if agreement is not followed	N/A	Tax valuation of qualifying lands will be the same as agricultural lands.	Manage property for the benefit of priority wildlife species; Obtain a Wildlife Conservation Habitat Agreement from NC Wildlife Resource Commission

