

»»» PRIVATE WOODLAND MANAGEMENT «««

# PROGRAMS & RESOURCES FOR LANDOWNERS

FALL 2024 EDITION



## BUILDING WILDFIRE RESILIENCY IN MINNESOTA'S ARROWHEAD

**SUSTAIN  
AND  
RESTORE  
YOUR  
FOREST.**

**INCREASE  
YOUR  
WILDFIRE  
RESILIENCY.**

### »»» **WHAT'S INSIDE**

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EQIP - Environmental Quality Incentives Program

**MN DNR - Department of Natural Resources**  
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Erosion Control & Water Management Cost-Share Program  
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**Additional Resources for Private Landowners**  
Fire Adapted Communities  
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Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) is a framework for community wildfire resilience. It is a network of individuals and organizations who exchange information and work together to help their communities live safely with fire.

Communities throughout northeast Minnesota are part of a fire dependent landscape. Being fire adapted means understanding your wildfire risk, taking personal responsibility to care for the landscape, and implementing actions to reduce the risk of loss to wildfire for you and your community. The

MN Arrowhead FAC collaborates to empower communities with the knowledge, resources, and tools necessary to build wildfire resiliency.

*We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land itself in Northeastern Minnesota and the native Anishinaabe people who have stewarded and continue to steward the land for generations.*



# NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

Technical and financial assistance program that covers part of the costs of implementing conservation practices on private land for working farms, ranches, and forests.

[www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/eqip-environmental-quality-incentives](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/eqip-environmental-quality-incentives)

### »»» ELIGIBILITY

Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners.

*No minimum acreage. This is a competitive grant program.*

### »»» TIMELINE

There is a set deadline each year to submit an EQIP application. NRCS reviews and ranks the applications, followed by the landowner being notified if they have been pre-approved for their project. Contracts are then finalized and work can begin, which can be almost a year after the application deadline.

*The length of an EQIP contract varies but cannot exceed 10 years.*

### »»» FUNDING

EQIP is funded through the 2018 Farm Bill and the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act. The 2024 funding levels for hazardous fuels reduction activities total ~\$1200/acre, which increases if accompanied by tree/shrub planting.

*Payments are reimbursable and taxable income.*

### »»» FOREST PRACTICE PLAN

A Forester with NRCS helps a landowner develop a forest practice plan that meets the landowner's goals for their property and addresses resource concerns. This plan is specific to an EQIP grant and is free to the landowner. The practice plan is a roadmap for selecting the conservation practices and activities that will receive funding.

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*Landowners in the North St. Louis SWCD service area with 20+ acres may be eligible to also receive a free Woodland Stewardship Plan (WSP) with their EQIP application (up to a certain acreage).*



## MN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR)

MN DNR's forest stewardship program helps woodland owners actively manage the health and benefits of their land and natural resources.

[www.dnr.state.mn.us/foreststewardship](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/foreststewardship)

### COST-SHARE FOR WOODLAND OWNERS

Financial assistance for forestry-related practices that help woodland owners complete projects to improve your woods.

*No minimum acreage.*

#### ➤➤➤ ELIGIBILITY

Woodland owners who own land that is rural in nature.

*A Woodland Stewardship Plan is not required to use these funds - a DNR forester will approve eligible activities.*

#### ➤➤➤ TIMELINE

The program operates on a rolling basis.

#### ➤➤➤ FUNDING

A DNR Forester works with a landowner to apply, develop a project plan, and inspect the completed project. Once the completed work is approved, the landowner receives payment from the DNR based on the type of work done.

*Payments are reimbursable and considered taxable income.*

#### ➤➤➤ OPTIONS FOR FORESTRY-RELATED PRACTICES

- Reforestation and tree planting
- Wildlife habitat enhancement
- Soil and water protection and improvement
- Riparian or fisheries habitat and improvement
- Forest recreation

### WOODLAND STEWARDSHIP PLANS (WSP)

A WSP provides valuable information to a private woodland owner:

- Reliable field inventory of the forest types present
- Description of the surrounding landscape
- Maps, drawings, or photos of a landowner's property
- List of management practices to meet a landowner's goals

*Plans are written for 20 to 5,000 acres (at least 10 treed acres). The estimated cost is \$300+\$10/acre. A WSP needs to be updated every 10 years.*

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MN DNR has produced a series of [Woodland Handbooks](#) to help woodland owners understand the issues facing their woods and how to manage them.



## FOREST LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

SFIA and 2c are incentive programs managed jointly by the MN Department of Revenue and Department of Natural Resources. Both programs require at least 20 acres of forest land and a registered WSP.

*It is either/or for these incentive programs.*

### ➤➤➤ SUSTAINABLE FOREST INCENTIVE ACT (SFIA)

- The landowner receives payment for each acre of qualifying forest enrolled in the SFIA.
- Payment amounts vary based on the covenant length and total number of acres enrolled in the program.
- The land cannot be developed and the WSP must be followed for the length of the covenant.

*Payments are treated as taxable income.*

### ➤➤➤ CLASS 2C MANAGED FOREST LAND

- A property tax designation that offers woodland owners a property tax rate of 0.65% on actively managed woodland.
- A property owner needs to enroll annually to receive this property tax designation.

## MN FIREWISE

Firewise addresses the wildfire risk to homes located near natural spaces, referred to as the wildland-urban interface (WUI) - where human development and undeveloped wildland meet. The program helps prepare homeowners and communities to become more resilient against wildfires.

[www.dnr.state.mn.us/firewise](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/firewise)

### ➤➤➤ FIREWISE FOR HOMEOWNERS

The local Firewise coordinator will work with homeowners to share resources and programs available to take steps towards becoming Firewise. A free home evaluation will identify wildfire safety projects that a homeowner can implement to protect their home and property.

### ➤➤➤ FIREWISE FOR COMMUNITIES

A community can become a recognized Firewise USA site. This process opens up funding and mentorship opportunities to help complete home site assessments, wildfire mitigation projects, community education, and access improvement projects. Firewise USA communities are eligible for the MN Firewise Community Grant, which assists in community wildfire hazard mitigation efforts.

#### Firewise Community and Wildfire Prevention

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## SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD)

SWCDs work to conserve water, soil, and related natural resources on private land. Programs include forestry, wetlands, water and soil, and invasive species. SWCDs provide technical assistance, cost-sharing, and natural resource management information and education to landowners, industries, businesses, and agencies.

### North Saint Louis SWCD

[www.nslswcd.org](http://www.nslswcd.org)

### South Saint Louis SWCD

[www.southstlouisswcd.org](http://www.southstlouisswcd.org)

### Lake County SWCD

[www.co.lake.mn.us/soil-and-water-conservation-district](http://www.co.lake.mn.us/soil-and-water-conservation-district)

### Cook County SWCD

[www.co.cook.mn.us/government/departments/soil\\_and\\_water](http://www.co.cook.mn.us/government/departments/soil_and_water)

## PRIVATE FORESTRY

SWCDs offer site visits and consultation for landowners to discuss forest planning and stewardship, as well as land management and wildlife questions and concerns. Foresters help landowners identify issues, outline solutions, and navigate additional technical and financial assistance programs available to accomplish forest management projects.

## EROSION CONTROL AND WATER MANAGEMENT COST-SHARE PROGRAM

Financial and technical assistance is available to landowners through the state's cost-share program administered by a local SWCD. The program enables landowners to implement projects for erosion control, sedimentation control, or water quality improvement to protect and improve soil and water resources.

## ONE WATERSHED ONE PLAN (1W1P)

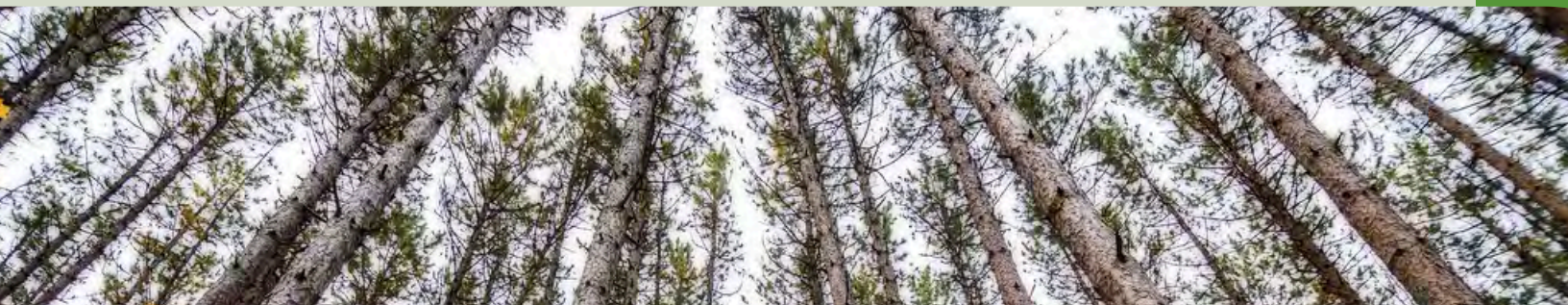
The 1W1P program develops comprehensive watershed management plans at the watershed level for social, environmental, and economic well-being. Priority issues and resources are identified in the watershed, management goals are identified, and projects and programs to protect and restore a watershed's resources are developed.

[www.bwsr.state.mn.us/one-watershed-one-plan-participating-watersheds](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/one-watershed-one-plan-participating-watersheds)

➤➤➤ LAKE SUPERIOR NORTH 1W1P

➤➤➤ RAINY RIVER HEADWATERS-VERMILION RIVER 1W1P

➤➤➤ ST. LOUIS RIVER 1W1P



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR LANDOWNERS

### ➤➤➤ MN ARROWHEAD FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES

[minnesotafac.org](http://minnesotafac.org)

- Landowner outreach and education
- Trainings for local fire departments on wildfire preparation and protection.
- Facilitating the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

### ➤➤➤ WILDFIRE RISK TO COMMUNITIES

[wildfirerisk.org](http://wildfirerisk.org)

- Interactive maps, charts, and resources to help communities understand, explore, and reduce wildfire risk.
- Individual communities can view interactive charts and maps about wildfire risk and discover resources to reduce risk.

### ➤➤➤ SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT

[fs.usda.gov/main/superior/fire](http://fs.usda.gov/main/superior/fire)

- Fire management is an integral part of land and resource management.
- Information and updates on fire prevention, prescribed fire, and wildfire are available through the Superior National Forest.

### ➤➤➤ CURRENT FIRE DANGER

[dnr.state.mn.us//forestry/fire/firerating\\_restrictions](http://dnr.state.mn.us//forestry/fire/firerating_restrictions)

- Fire danger and burning restrictions maps are updated daily.
- Maps with up-to-date, county-specific information.
- Active wildfires: [inciweb.wildfire.gov](http://inciweb.wildfire.gov)

### ➤➤➤ OPT-IN EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

**St. Louis County Emergency Notifications Signup**

[member.everbridge.net/453003085616005/login](http://member.everbridge.net/453003085616005/login)

**Lake County Emergency Notifications Signup**

[member.everbridge.net/453003085619442/login](http://member.everbridge.net/453003085619442/login)

**Cook County Emergency Notifications Signup**

[public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/E1C720D90332](http://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/E1C720D90332)



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