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Stewardship



FOREST

The Sign
You Care



What is a “Stewardship Forest”?

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orests are more than just trees - they are a vital resource in Nebraska. Forests provide homes for deer, squirrels, birds and a multitude of other animals.






Forests clean air, purify water and protect valuable topsoil. Forests provide wind protection and conserve energy. Forests are a place to hike, picnic and camp. Forests grow wood for fuel, posts and lumber to build homes, furniture, toys and tools. Forests provide solace and beauty.

A “Stewardship Forest” is a parcel of well-managed forest or associated land whose owner is publicly recognized for being a “good steward” of the land. Your land can become a Stewardship Forest with your participation in the Nebraska Forest Stewardship Program.



How Can the Forest Stewardship Program Help Me?

The Nebraska Forest Stewardship Program is a multi-agency effort designed to help private landowners plant, protect and enhance their forest and related resources. Direct benefits to you include:

-  **Forestry Assistance.** All landowners who participate in the Forest Stewardship Program will have a comprehensive Forest Stewardship Management Plan prepared for their property. Your plan will be tailored to help reach your specific forest management goals.
-  **Financial Assistance.** Cost-share assistance is available to help landowners plant and improve their forest and related resources to maximize multiple forest benefits.
-  **\$ Income.** Good forest management accelerates growth and quality of trees which improves opportunities for income from future harvests of wood products.
-  **Public Recognition.** Qualified Stewardship Forest owners will join a distinguished cadre of Nebraska landowners who proudly display the Stewardship Forest sign - publicly identifying you as a good steward of your land.
-  **Satisfaction.** Often the greatest reward in owning a Stewardship Forest is personal - the satisfaction and enjoyment of knowing that you are managing your land in the best way possible.



Do I Qualify?

Basic requirements to participate in the Forest Stewardship Program are simple.

- You must be a private, non-industrial landowner.
- Your property must be rural, either forestland or land suitable for growing trees.

When Will My Land Become a Stewardship Forest?

Accomplishment is the key to Stewardship Forest status. When significant progress has been made following the prescriptions outlined in your Forest Stewardship Management Plan, a Nebraska Forest Service forester will approve your land as an “official” Stewardship Forest. You will then be presented the Stewardship Forest sign to proudly display on your property. Your Stewardship Forest sign publicly recognizes your commitment and care for the land, both now and for future generations.

How Do I Get Started?

The first step is to request assistance. A request form is attached for your convenience.

Your request will be referred to the nearest Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) office. A NFS service forester will arrange an on-site visit to confirm eligibility, discuss management options, and initiate the planning process with you. Depending on your objectives, one or more resource specialists may help develop your Forest Stewardship Management Plan.

Is Cost-Share Assistance Available?

Landowners with an approved Forest Stewardship Management Plan are eligible for cost-share assistance under several programs, including the new Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP). Nebraska SIP includes nine practices. The cost-share rate for all funded SIP practices is up to 75% of actual costs.

- SIP 1 - *Management Plan Development.*
Develop a written plan which outlines actions to achieve landowner objectives.
- SIP 2 - *Reforestation and Afforestation.* Plant trees for conservation purposes.
- SIP 3 - *Forest and Agroforest Improvement.*
Improve an existing stand of forest trees for multiple resource benefits.
- SIP 4 - *Windbreak and Hedgerow Establishment, Maintenance and Renovation.*
Establish, maintain and renovate tree and shrub shelterbelts to reduce soil erosion and protect livestock, crops and roads.
- SIP 5 - *Soil and Water Protection and Improvement.* Maintain or improve water quality and soil productivity on forestland.
- SIP 6 - *Riparian and Wetland Protection and Improvement.* Protect, restore and improve wetlands and riparian acres to
- improve water quality.
- SIP 7 - *Fisheries Habitat Improvement.*
Protect and enhance in-stream habitat for native fisheries.
- SIP 8 - *Wildlife Habitat Improvement.*
Restore, improve, or establish permanent habitat for game and nongame wildlife species.
- SIP 9 - *Forest Recreation Enhancement.*
Establish and enhance outdoor recreation in forestland.



The Sign
You Care



Nebraska Forest Stewardship Program Coordinator
Nebraska Forest Service
105 Mussehl Hall, UNL
P. O. Box 830714
Lincoln, NE 68583-0714

Dear Coordinator,

I would like to receive advice and assistance to qualify my land as a Nebraska "Stewardship Forest." Please make arrangements for a Nebraska Forest Service forester to contact me.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Business Phone: () _____

Property Location: _____

I am interested in Planting Trees Improving Existing Woodland or Windbreak

Other: specify _____



**The Sign
You Care**



**NEBRASKA FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM COORDINATOR
NEBRASKA FOREST SERVICE
105 MUSSEHL HALL, UNL
P. O. BOX 830714
LINCOLN NE 68583-0714**



Where Can I Get More Information?

Information and assistance is available from the following cooperating agencies/organizations.

- Nebraska Forest Service
- USDA Soil Conservation Service
- USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
- Nebraska Natural Resources Districts
- Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
- University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension
- USDA Forest Service
- The Nature Conservancy
- Private forestry consultants
- Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
- Nebraska Natural Resources Commission



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U.S. Department of Agriculture. Kenneth R. Bolen, Director of Cooperative Extension, University of Nebraska, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

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