

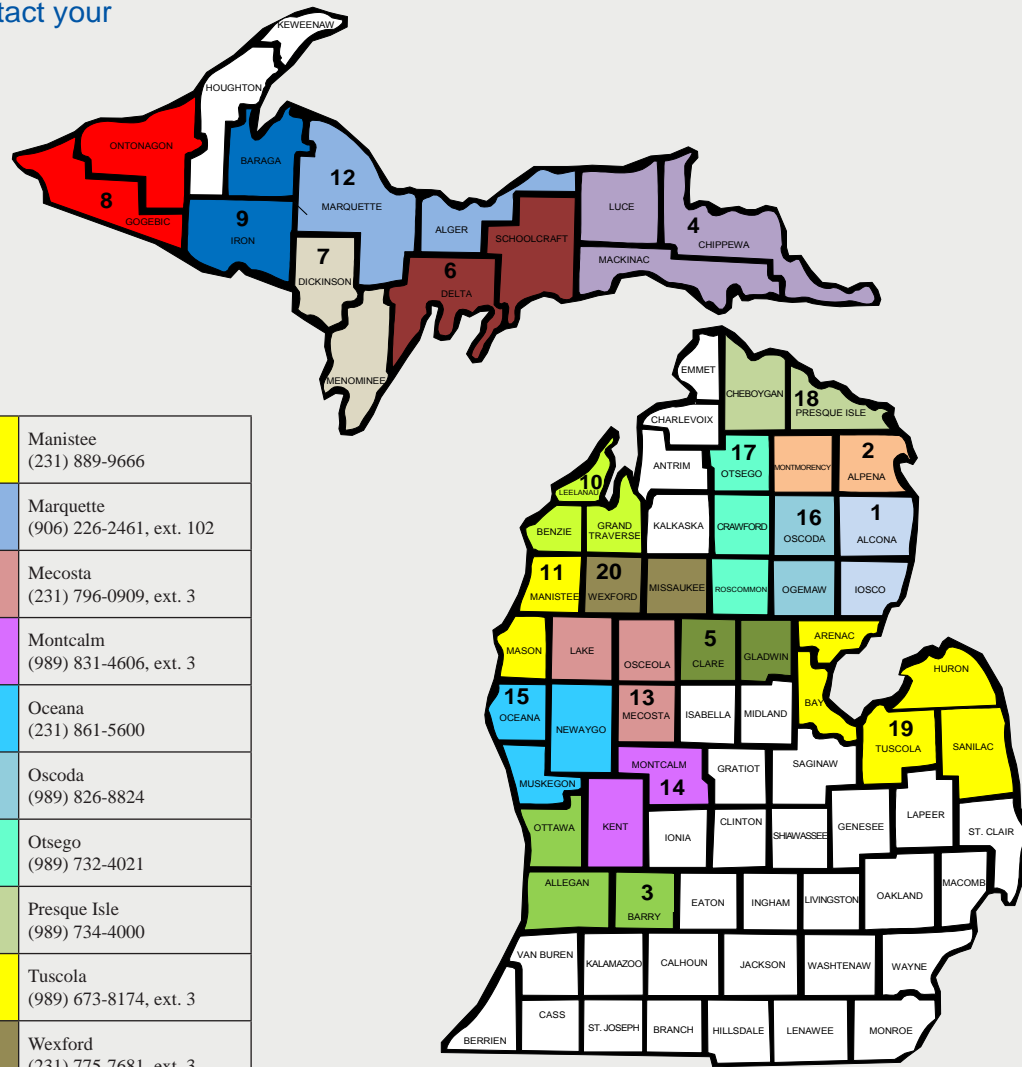
## Conservation Organizations

There are a variety of conservation organizations that can help private landowners manage their woodlots. Potential assistance includes technical assistance, equipment for planting and managing habitat, and seed for wildlife plantings. Contact local chapters of conservation organizations in your area to determine what assistance may be available.

- Ruffed Grouse Society/American Woodcock Society [www.ruffedgrousesociety.org](http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org)
- National Wild Turkey Federation [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org)
- Quality Deer Management Association [www.qdma.com](http://www.qdma.com)
- Pheasants Forever [www.pheasantsforever.org](http://www.pheasantsforever.org)
- Michigan United Conservation Clubs [www.mucc.org](http://www.mucc.org)
- The Nature Conservancy [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)
- Ducks Unlimited [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org)
- Land Conservancies

## FORESTRY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For technical assistance contact your local conservation district.



1	Alcona (989) 724-5272	11	Manistee (231) 889-9666
2	Alpena (989) 356-3596, ext. 3	12	Marquette (906) 226-2461, ext. 102
3	Barry (269) 948-8056, ext. 3	13	Mecosta (231) 796-0909, ext. 3
4	Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac (906) 635-1278	14	Montcalm (989) 831-4606, ext. 3
5	Clare (989) 539-6401	15	Oceana (231) 861-5600
6	Delta (906) 553-7700	16	Oscoda (989) 826-8824
7	Dickinson (906) 774-1550, ext. 180	17	Otsego (989) 732-4021
8	Gogebic (906) 663-4512	18	Presque Isle (989) 734-4000
9	Iron (906) 875-3765	19	Tuscola (989) 673-8174, ext. 3
10	Leelanau (231) 256-9783	20	Wexford (231) 775-7681, ext. 3

[www.michigan.gov/mifap](http://www.michigan.gov/mifap)



# Financial Assistance

## For Sustainable Forest Management in Michigan



Michigan's Forestry Assistance Program exists to increase active and engaged forest management on non-industrial private forestland. Forestry Assistance Program foresters, employed by local Conservation Districts, provide education, outreach, and one-on-one technical assistance to family forest owners. A survey conducted by Michigan State University of family forest owners concluded that roughly 20% of the nine million acre resource is actively managed.

## Conservation Districts

Michigan's 78 Conservation Districts provide natural resource management services to help citizens conserve their lands and our environment for a cleaner, healthier, economically stronger Michigan. Districts provide quality and cost-effective conservation technical assistance and information to citizens to provide conservation improvement to the land and foster understanding and wise management of our natural resources. Districts provide a number of assistance programs, including tree sales, no-till drill rental for native grasses and/or food plots, hand-held broadcast seeders for native seed, tree planter rental, technical habitat assistance, and educational presentations. For more information on services provided by your local Conservation District, visit [www.macd.org/local-districts.html](http://www.macd.org/local-districts.html).

## USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Farm Bill Programs

### Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

A voluntary conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to landowners to implement conservation practices on eligible agricultural and non-industrial private forestland, EQIP provides financial assistance to plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns to improve forest health, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and air quality. Priorities include habitat restoration for at-risk wildlife species, reduction of nonpoint source pollution (i.e., sediments, nutrients) entering surface and groundwater, and carbon storage and sequestration. For more information, visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).

Program	Eligible Land	Length of Agreement	Program Payments	Producer Responsibilities
EQIP	Private, public, and tribal lands in agricultural production, including cropland, grassland, and non-industrial private forestland.	1-10 year(s)	Payments support practice implementation based on typical practice scenarios.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and follow a Conservation Plan that describes the landowner and environmental objectives, and best management practices.</li> <li>• Incur installation, and operation and maintenance costs.</li> </ul>

### Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

A voluntary program that helps landowners maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns, and meet the landowners objectives. For additional information, visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).

Program	Eligible Land	Length of Agreement	Annual	Program Payments	Producer Responsibilities
CSP	Private and tribal lands in agricultural production, including cropland, grassland, and non-industrial private forestland.	5 years	Yes	Based on baseline inventory and additional conservation activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and follow Conservation Plan that describes the landowner and environmental objectives, and best management practices.</li> <li>Incur installation, and operation and maintenance costs.</li> </ul>

### Michigan Department of Natural Resources

#### Forest Resources Division, Forest Stewardship Program

The Forest Stewardship Program helps landowners manage, protect, and enjoy their forest. The Forest Stewardship Program connects landowners with a professional forester to develop a Forest Stewardship Plan to help them achieve their personal goals for their land. The program is a partnership between the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and private sector foresters and wildlife biologists. Since 1991, more than 5,300 landowners in Michigan have developed their own unique Forest Stewardship Plan to help them manage, protect, and enjoy over 850,000 acres of forestland.

Each Forest Stewardship Plan is a custom plan that describes the landowner's personal goals, unique forest resources, and suggested management activities. There are 120 certified plan writers with several available to write plans in every county in Michigan. DNR Service Foresters review Forest Stewardship Plans to ensure that the plans meet program standards.

The Forest Stewardship Program also provides financial assistance to lower the cost of a Forest Stewardship Plan. A partial cost share of \$200 per plan, plus \$0.50 per acre up to \$2,500 for parcels  $\geq 20$  acres, is available throughout the year. The cost share is paid through grants to the certified Plan Writers to minimize the application and payment process for landowners. Fees for plan writing will vary between Plan Writers.

See [www.michigan.gov/foreststewardship](http://www.michigan.gov/foreststewardship) for information about the Forest Stewardship Program.

Program	Eligible Land	Program Payments	Producer Responsibilities
Forest Stewardship Program	Non-industrial private forestland (family forests). Financial assistance is available for forested parcels that are at least 20 acres.	\$200 per plan, plus \$0.50 per acre up to \$2,500. The percentage of the landowner's cost is not specified.	Develop a Forest Stewardship Plan with a Certified Forest Stewardship Plan Writer. Implementation is voluntary.

### Commercial Forest Program

The Commercial Forest (CF) Program provides a significant property tax reduction to private forestland owners as an incentive to retain and manage their forestland for long-term timber production in support of the state's forest products industry. The CF Program is governed by the CF statute and administrative rules.

See [www.michigan.gov/commercialforest](http://www.michigan.gov/commercialforest) for information about the Commercial Forest Program.

Program	Eligible Land	Enrollment	Length of Agreement	Annual Payments	Producer Responsibilities
Commercial Forest Program	Private forestland. Minimum of 40 contiguous acres.	Submit List Applications to DNR by April 1.	Perpetuity or until land is withdrawn or declassified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Property tax is based on a specific tax rate;</li> <li>Current rate is \$1.25 per acre per year;</li> <li>Rate increases by 5 cents/acre every 5 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a forest management plan.</li> <li>Implement forest management plan.</li> <li>Provide foot access for the acts of hunting and fishing.</li> <li>Penalty for withdrawal.</li> </ul>

### Wildlife Division, Private Lands Program

The Private Lands Program (PLP) focuses on providing private landowners with resources to create and manage habitat to benefit a variety of wildlife. With additional funding from the hunting license restructuring, the Department of Natural Resources is expanding efforts to assist hunters and wildlife on private lands. PLP staff provide technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners for habitat improvements for targeted species and habitats in priority areas.

Additional technical assistance may be available for landowners interested in improving habitat for deer, wild turkey and small game species. For contact and additional information, please see the Private Lands Habitat section on the DNR website: [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

### U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

#### Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program

PFW focuses on improving habitat for federal trust resources: migratory birds, federally-listed endangered or threatened species, and interjurisdictional fish. PFW also includes restoration of grasslands, streams (both in the channel and within the riparian corridor), and specific habitats used by federally-listed endangered or threatened species. PFW encourages working together in a voluntary manner with private landowners to restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. Many landowners contribute funds for permits or construction and in-kind services, such as labor to prepare seed beds and seed disturbed areas. Landowners are required to sign an agreement to leave the project in place on their property a minimum of 10 years. Landowners are responsible for project maintenance.

For more information, visit: [www.fws.gov/midwest/partners](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/partners) or call the Michigan Private Lands Office at 517-351-6236.

	Eligibility	Location	Enrollment Period	Contract Length	Cost Share Percent	Habitat Types
Wildlife Ponds	Agriculture & Non-Agriculture	Lower Michigan	Continual	10 year(s)	50%-100% cost share based on project type and size.	Wetlands
Grassland Planting	Agriculture & Non-Agriculture	Lower Michigan	Continual	10 year(s)	50%-100% cost share based on project type and size.	Grasslands
Fish Habitat/Fish Passage	Non-Agriculture	Lower Michigan	Continual	10 year(s)	50%-100% cost share based on project type and size.	Mostly cold water streams
Young Forest	Non-Agriculture	Lower Michigan	Continual	10 year(s)	50%-100% cost share based on project type and size.	Mostly aspen and alder
T&E Species Rare Habitats	Agriculture & Non-Agriculture	Lower Michigan	Continual	10 year(s)	50%-100% cost share based on project type and size.	Varies based on species

### Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

#### Qualified Forest Program

The purpose of the Qualified Forest Program is to encourage private forestland owners to manage their land in an economically viable and environmentally sustainable manner. Landowners receive an exemption from local school operating taxes and/or exemptions from the uncapping of the taxable value of the property in the event of a change in ownership. Visit [www.michigan.gov/QFP](http://www.michigan.gov/QFP) for information.

Program	Eligible Land	Length of Agreement	Annual Payments	Participation Fee	Producer Responsibilities
Qualified Forest Program	Private and tribal lands from 20-640 acres in size. Subject to productivity requirements.	Perpetuity	Up to 16 mill net reduction on annual taxes	2-mill equivalent participation fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and follow a Conservation Plan that describes the landowner and environmental objectives, and best management practices.</li> <li>Incur installation, and operation and maintenance costs.</li> </ul>