

Reforestation practice manual

DRAFT 4/26/2020

I. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

- a. The property is within the eligible geography (see map below).
- b. Eligible land tenure and ownership type: Land in private ownership of greater than or equal to 30 acres and less than or equal to 2,400 acres.
- c. Land must not be forest (must have less than 25% tree cover) and must not have been forest for at least 10 years.
- d. Eligible condition status at the time of contract signing:
 - i. Land in the most highly productive agricultural soils is not eligible for this practice; land must be in soil capability classes 5-8 (<https://casoilresource.lawr.ucdavis.edu/gmap/>).
 - ii. Landowners within 100 feet (or in the 1-year flood zone) of any nearby rivers or water bodies are especially encouraged to apply.

II. PRACTICE DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS

- a. General description -- This practice produces carbon benefits through the reforestation of lands that are not currently forest, but were historically forested and have the potential to be forest in the future. Multiple techniques including stopping mowing or other clearing practices, seeding, and planting may be successful in creating new forests. Successful reforestation is measured using the performance standard below.
- b. Specifications
 - i. The participating family forest owner will define the area that will be enrolled in this practice, and will work with a licensed forester to determine whether the area for reforestation has the potential to become a forest, meets the eligibility criteria, and to decide what reforestation technique (stopping mowing/clearing, seeding, or planting) is most likely to be successful.
 - ii. The landowner will commit to a 10-year contract period for the reforestation practice and verification, and assign carbon rights to the FFCP for an additional 20 years.
 - iii. During the course of the contract period, this practice:
 1. limits any forest harvest within the enrolled area;
 2. allows for treatment of invasive plants, and of native competing vegetation such as hayscented fern that limits the ability of new seedlings or saplings to grow;
 3. requires the retention of any downed wood on site;
 4. allows for the use of fencing, tree shelters, or other techniques to control deer and moose browse.
 - iv. Payments are based on a performance standard of 350 stems per acre, well-distributed across the stand (taken from VT Use Value Appraisal Program), after 5 years.
 - v. A final payment will be paid in year 10 if the site has at least 350 stems per acre of native tree species greater than 6 feet in height. This performance standard

may not be met in all cases, and landowners should consider this final payment as a possibility, not as a given.

III. CONTRACT PERIOD AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- a. Timeline to implement practice and commitment period to maintain practice: 10 years.
- b. Total per acre payment rates based on timber volumes (International ¼ inch) at time of contract based on the most recent forest inventory:

Payment per acre
TBD

- c. Incentive/cost-sharing payment amount and schedule:

Project Year	Payment
1	25% of implementation agreement value
2	
3	
4	
5	35% of implementation agreement value, if meet performance standard
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	40% of implementation agreement value, if meet performance standard

IV. MONITORING AND VERIFICATION

- a. Landowner will ensure specific monitoring actions:
 - i. Initial (prior to contract signing) attestation that all eligibility criteria are met
 - ii. Receipts for any tree seeds or seedlings purchased.
 - iii. Year-5 submission of attestation that all practice requirements were met, including 350 living stems of appropriate species (native, commercially viable tree species found in the surrounding forest type) per acre.
 - iv. Year-10 submission of attestation that all practice requirements were met, including presence of 350 stems per acre of appropriate species at least 6-8 feet in height.
 - v. Potential site-level verification by FFCP representatives (at any time during the contract period)
- b. Monitoring actions that shall be undertaken by program staff or representatives:

- i. Initial (prior to contract signing) verification that all eligibility criteria are met.
 - ii. Year 5 and year 10: Review of performance criteria
 - iii. Potential periodic remote sensing and site-level verification of compliance with approved management plan in effect
- c. Commitment to ongoing program level validation: The landowner will reserve to FFCP staff and representatives the right to access the property to carry out the site level monitoring actions specified above, and to establish long-term monitoring plots on enrolled stands to directly measure and monitor the impacts of the practice to improve FFCP program-level reporting.

V. Eligible Project Areas

