

Fact sheet:

Forest Landowner Assistance



Division of Forestry, February 2011

Forest Stewardship Program

The Forest Stewardship Program assists private landowners with forest concerns. Typical issues Alaska property owners have questions about include:

- Insect and disease pests
- Wildfire protection for homes and buildings
- Firewood assessment and planning
- Tree planting and care
- Wildlife habitat

In Alaska landowners with 7 or more acres of land capable of growing trees are eligible for services. Homeowners with wildfire hazard and 2 or more acres are also eligible.

Forest Stewardship Plans

Upon a request for assistance, first the owner's land use goals are sought. Then site visits will be made and forest conditions assessed. Forest types and dominant plants species are determined. Forest measurements can be made to determine tree sizes, density, and other forest attributes. Conditions of damaging forest insects and diseases and overall forest health will be determined. Potential hazards in the event of wildfire will be evaluated. Observations about wildlife habitat and usage will be made.

Information collected from site visits is then incorporated into a written plan. The plan must state and follow the landowner's goals. There are no land-use expectations, and logging, road building, and public access are not required. Wildfire hazard and home site defense from wildfire are covered. Destructive forest insect conditions and treatment options are covered. Recommendations for tree planting and tree care are provided. Suggestions for wildlife habitat improvements are provided.

There is no cost, fee, or obligations for Forest Stewardship plans, but landowners are asked to sign the plan stating their intention to follow the plan.

Plans contain approximately 15 pages, depending on ownership complexity and acreage. Plans contain recent aerial imagery with forest types identified. Additional published materials about damaging insects, tree planting and pruning, protection from wildfire, and wildlife habitat can be provided in the form of an appendix.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance in the form of cost-share may be available for some activities recommended in the plan. Cost-share is typically 50% of total project cost. Cost-share payments are reimbursements after work has been completed and inspected. Following are possible cost-share practices:

- Dead tree and spruce removal around homes to lower wildfire hazard.
- Soil preparation for tree seedling and browse establishment.
- Tree seedling purchase & planting for forestry or wildlife.

Cost share assistance for agriculture and wildlife may be available through various state and federal programs.

Further Information

Palmer 761-6309
Fairbanks 451-2668
Homer 235-7841
<http://forestry.alaska.gov/stewardship>