

# **The Forest Resource Development Program**

## **Financial Assistance Program for Mississippi Forest Landowners**

### **What is FRDP?**

The Forest Resource Development Program (FRDP) provides financial assistance to eligible landowners for establishing and improving a crop of trees. This program helps offset a landowner's expenses by sharing the cost of implementing specific forestry practices designed to produce timber and enhance wildlife development

Cost-share payments cover up to 75 percent (depending on the practice) of the total cost of implementing one or more forestry practices, at the flat rate established for each individual practice. Eligible landowners can receive up to \$7,000 of FRDP assistance each year. In turn, the landowner agrees to protect the area receiving FRDP assistance from fire and grazing, and to properly manage the area for a minimum of ten years.

Created in 1974 when state legislature passed the Mississippi Forest Resource Development Act, FRDP has played a significant role in providing landowners the financial support needed to turn idle and unproductive land into well-stocked, responsibly-managed forestland, teeming with game and non-game species of wildlife. FRDP is funded by the Timber Severance Tax - a state tax collected when timber is harvested. The Mississippi Forestry Commission administers the program and provides technical assistance to FRDP participants.

### **How Does FRDP Work?**

A landowner applies for FRDP assistance at a local Mississippi Forestry Commission office. The landowner works with the Area Forester to prepare a management prescription for each area where FRDP assistance will be applied, being sure of the forestry practices needed to establish or improve a crop of trees. The landowner may choose to work with private forestry consultant or other registered forester.

The Area Forester works with the landowner to ensure the prescription meets the landowner's and program's objectives. Once approved, the landowner is responsible for making the necessary arrangements to implement each practice (e.g., contract with vendor, order seedlings, etc.). As each practice is applied, the landowner makes periodic inspections to ensure that the work meets quality standards required by FRDP. The Area Forester will explain what to look for when making an

inspection. As each practice is completed, the landowner notifies the Area Forester, who then makes a final inspection of the work to ensure that the practice has been applied in compliance with FRDP standards. The cost-share payment is made to the landowner after all recommended practices have been completed according to specifications and the landowner has paid all costs related to each practice.

### **Forestry Practices Eligible for FRDP Assistance**

Cost-share rates and practices are subject to change. Contact local your local Area Forester to confirm current rates and practices. Eligible practices include:

- Tree Planting – Pine
- Tree Planting – Hardwood
- Tree Planting – Free Seedlings
- Light Site Preparation – Chemical
- Light Site Preparation – Mechanical
- Heavy Site Preparation – Chemical
- Heavy Site Preparation – Mechanical
- Post Planting Site Preparation
- Release
- Combination Woody/Herbaceous Treatment
- Site Preparation Burning
- Silvicultural Burning
- Tree Planting – Containerized Longleaf
- Tree Planting – Bareroot Longleaf
- Tree Planting – Containerized Loblolly
- Site Preparation for Natural Regeneration
- Firebreaks
- Mixed Stand Regeneration
- Supplemental Hardwood Planting
- Pre-Commercial Thinning
- Post Planting Herbaceous – Banded
- Subsoiling - Open Field
- Post Planting Herbaceous – Broadcast
- Fertilization – Stand Health
- Mid Rotation Management in Plant Plantation
- BOE Management Plans for FRDP

### **Who is Eligible for Assistance?**

FRDP assistance is available to landowners in all Mississippi counties who own at least 10 acres of manageable land. Landowners eligible for assistance include:

- Private nonindustrial landowners, groups, or associations
- Landowning state agencies

- Political subdivision of Mississippi

Applications for FRDP assistance are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Landowners failing to receive immediate cost-share assistance will be notified as soon as funds become available.

## **Landowner Responsibilities**

Landowners receiving FRDP assistance are responsible for meeting these requirements:

- Provide a forest management prescription for each area where cost-share assistance will be applied.
- Implement all practices approved in the forest management prescription.
- Carry out each practice as soon as possible following approval. (All forestry practices must be completed during the fiscal year for which they are approved - a period from July 1 of one year to June 30 of the next.)
- Pay the total cost of implementing each approved practice. (FRDP payment will be forwarded to landowner only after costs have been paid.)
- Protect trees established with FRDP assistance from destructive fire and grazing.
- Use the area improved for the long-term purpose of growing timber.
- Ensure that property lines are correct and clearly marked.

FRDP assistance will not be repeated for any practice except when failure is caused by natural disaster and cannot be applied on any acreage already receiving federally-funded assistance.

## **Five Easy Steps to FRDP**

1. Apply and be approved for FRDP assistance at the Area Forester's office.
2. Work with the Area Forester to prepare a forest management prescription.
3. Make necessary arrangements for accomplishing each practice approved by the Area Forester.
4. Make periodic inspections of each practice as it is applied.
5. Notify Area Forester as soon as each practice is completed.

## **Other Forestry Assistance is Available**

Private forestry consultants and the Mississippi Forestry Commission offer a variety of forest management services to private, nonindustrial forestland owners. Also, other financial assistance programs and forestry tax incentives may be available to eligible landowners. Contact your Area Forester for details.