

Other Opportunities for Forest Landowners – Key Websites and Contacts

Cost share programs

EQIP

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a federal program administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). It is funded by Congress through the Farm Bill. A variety of forest improvement practices qualify for funding.

- National overview: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/eqip-environmental-quality-incentives>
- Washington State information: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/eqip-environmental-quality-incentives/washington/washington-environmental>
- Find your local NRCS service center: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/washington>

Financial Assistance for Wildfire Resilience and Forest Health

The Financial Assistance for Wildfire Resilience and Forest Health program is a state-level program administered by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). It is funded by the Legislature. A variety of forest improvement practices qualify for funding. Program information and contacts: <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/cost-share>

FFFPP

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) is a cost share program that will cover all or most of the cost of replacing a fish barrier on a forest road. Enrolling in this program puts the liability for the fish barrier on the state instead of the landowner. Program information and contacts: <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/fffpp>

Conservation easements

Conservation easements prohibit the land from ever being developed regardless of changes in ownership. The easement is permanent for a property. Conservation easements are set up through a local land trust, who administers and enforces the easement in perpetuity. Find your local land trust: <https://walandtrusts.org/about-us/our-land-trusts/>

Social networks

Washington Farm Forestry Association

The Washington Farm Forestry Association (WFFA) is a landowner association with local chapters throughout the state. They offer a variety of educational and social activities. WFFA information: <https://www.wafarmforestry.com/>

Women Owning Woodlands (WOW) Network

Women Owning Woodlands is a peer-learning network of women forest owners. WOW hosts various educational and social events throughout the year. WOW information:

<https://forestry.wsu.edu/wownet/>

Certified habitat

Habitat at Home

Habitat at Home is a free program administered by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). You can identify key habitat features on your property and apply for a Habitat at Home sign. Everything from a balcony or patio scale habitat to larger acreages qualify.

Habitat at home information: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living/habitat-at-home>

Certified Wildlife Habitat

Certified Wildlife Habitat is a program offered by the National Wildlife Federation, a non-profit organization. For a nominal fee you can apply for a Certified Wildlife Habitat sign for a wildlife-friendly yard or garden. Certified Wildlife Habitat information:

<https://certifiedwildlifehabitat.nwf.org/>

Certified sustainable forests

American Tree Farm System

The American Tree Farm System (ATFS) is a program of the American Forest Foundation. Landowners who have a minimum of 10 acres of forest, a written forest management plan, and adhere to all the ATFS certification standards qualify to be certified as a sustainable forest.

There is no cost to the landowner, and you do not have to be managing for timber production to qualify. The program is administered at the state level by the Washington Tree Farm

Program: <https://www.watreefarm.org/>

Forest Stewardship Council

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is another certification system recognizing sustainably managed forests. There are fees associated with becoming FSC certified. In Washington, you can become FSC certified through a group certificate through the Northwest Natural

Resources Group (NNRG): <https://www.nnrg.org/our-services/get-certified/>



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Extension Forestry