

## Forestry Initiative

This effort will provide up to \$756,000 in technical and financial assistance for interested forest landowners and farmers to help improve their forests' health, vigor, structure and composition. This is a state-wide effort for landowners who manage woodlots, woodlands and forests of any size or who want to convert their croplands, pastures, haylands and abandoned lands to forests or woodlots.

Small forests, often called woodlots or woodlands, around the farm are often neglected and unmanaged. Many landowners of smaller forests of less than 20 acres don't realize the full potential of their woodlots that can add both economic and ecologic diversity to a farm or homestead. Even the smallest woodland can greatly impact the migration of birds and butterflies, serve as a source of firewood, reduce snow loads on driveways and greatly reduce wind erosion and air borne particles.

Landowners who are interested in tree or shrub planting, woodland management or forest stand improvement, site preparation for establishment, clearing trunks and branches from a storm event, or needed to improve existing trails and landings due to erosion are invited to apply for this initiative. Other practices that are offered are prescribed burning, wildlife habitat improvement, invasive weed control of woody plant and windbreaks including living snow fences, field windbreaks and shelterbelts for farmsteads and livestock protection from blowing soil and snow. For those who qualify and are willing to install living snow fences, Mn/DOT has an additional payment incentive program if your lands border federal or state highways.

This is a **state-wide** effort available to forest landowners, farmers and tribes. Funding will be provided through the Environmental Quality Incentives program (EQIP) to promote conservation practices on private land forests and for croplands, pastures and hayland that will be converted through tree and/or shrub plantings that will result in a resilient forest that will support the purposes and objectives of the landowner.

### Program Contacts

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