

Conservation Stewardship Program

for Forestland Managers

Have you ever
looked across
your land and
thought about
operational
management
goals you
would like to
take to the next
level? Maybe we
can help.

No one knows more about your land than you do, and no one knows more about conservation than we do. Together we can develop a plan tailored to your operation and your goals to help you increase productivity and protect the value of your land.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) offers an opportunity for forestland managers to enhance their agricultural operations while adopting conservation activities that can improve plant structure and composition,

plant pest pressure, and wildlife habitat. CSP can help you plan and implement conservation practices and enhancements that address natural resource concerns on your operation.

What's New?

Forestland managers continue to benefit from all the CSP has to offer. There are a number of enhancements for forest production. Examples of enhancement options available to forestland managers include forest stand improvement, brush management, and wildlife habitat management.

Is CSP for You?

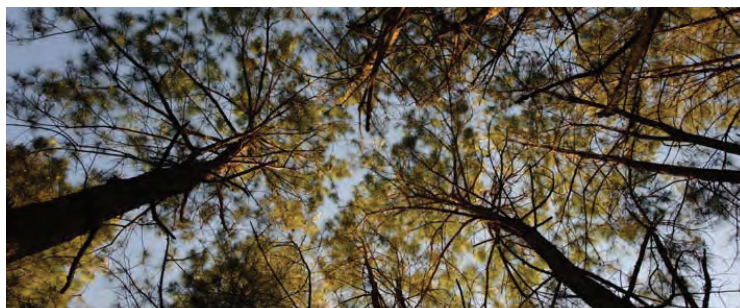
CSP helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation. Whether you are looking to improve tree stands, suppress weeds, or develop wildlife habitat, we can custom design a CSP plan to help you meet those goals. We can help you schedule timely planting of pollinator plants, implement forest management to improve wildlife or develop forest riparian areas. If you are already taking steps to improve the condition of the land, chances are CSP can help you find new ways to meet your goals. CSP contracts are for five years, with the option to renew for another five years.

Types of Assistance

NRCS provides free technical assistance to agricultural producers. To participate in CSP and receive financial assistance, producers must control or own the land and be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements, and have current farm records with USDA Farm Service Agency. Learn more at www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill.

The Next Step

To learn more about CSP opportunities, producers should contact their local USDA service center and set up an appointment with NRCS staff. A [Local Service Center Directory](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov) is available online at www.nrcs.usda.gov, then click "Contact Us." You can also visit our CSP page online at www.nrcs.usda.gov/CSP.



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CSP Enhancements to Assist Forestland Managers

(This is not an exhaustive list)



Brush Management to improve wildlife habitat **E314A**

Brush management is employed to create a desired plant community, consistent with related ecological site steady state, which will maintain or enhance the wildlife habitat desired for the identified wildlife species. It will be designed to provide plant structure, density and diversity needed to meet those habitat objectives.

Adding food producing trees and shrubs to existing plantings **E612D**

Plant food-producing trees and shrubs for wildlife or human consumption within windbreaks, alley cropping, multi-story cropping, silvopasture systems, and/or riparian forest buffers

Tree/shrub planting for wildlife food **E612G**

Tree or shrub planting to enhance habitat for native wildlife. A minimum of five tree or shrub species will be used; they will be species that provide food and/or cover for identified wildlife species

Crop tree management for mast production **E666I**

Forest stand improvement using crop tree management techniques to increase mast production.

Forest Stand Improvement to rehabilitate degraded hardwood stands **E666L**

Hardwood forestland has been subject to poor logging practices ("high-grading") for decades. Without professional forestry assistance the best species and individual trees are removed, often before maturity, leaving the poorest species and individual trees to regenerate the stand. Reversing this process requires cutting or killing poor quality trees while retaining any desirable species that might still be present. A combination of 3 silvicultural methods are applied: crop tree release, group selection (all trees removed from an area 0.25 to 1 acre in size) and small clear cuts (all trees removed from an area 1-3 acres in size)

Snags, den trees, and coarse woody debris for wildlife habitat **E666O**

Improve wildlife habitat through creation and retention of snags, den trees, forest stand structural diversity, and coarse woody debris on the forest floor, to provide cover/shelter for native wildlife species

FAQ

frequently asked questions

How can I find out if I am eligible? The best way to determine eligibility is to contact your local field office. You must meet Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirements and have a Farm Tract Number with FSA. Land already enrolled in some USDA Farm Bill programs, such as CRP and some easement programs, may not be eligible.

Is there a minimum number of acres needed to be enrolled? No, but entire operation must be enrolled.

Is there a minimum contract payment? Yes, \$1,500 annually

What are "bundles?" Bundles are suites of conservation enhancements designed to address multiple resource concerns. Bundle options are offered at a higher payment rate.

What are "enhancements?" Enhancements are management activities that go above and beyond the minimum practice requirements helping the producer achieve a higher level of conservation.

What are "resource concerns?" NRCS conservation specialists conduct resource inventories on agricultural land to evaluate natural resources including soil, water, air, plant, and animal resource bases to determine their condition. If there is a cause or threat to that resource, that can result in what we refer to as a resource concern. Examples of resource concerns are erosion, degraded water quality, and plant health.

Do I have options to pick the enhancements that are best suited for my operation? Yes. The variety of CSP practices that are offered give you a lot of freedom to select enhancements that help you meet your management goals.