Is Your Conservation Reserve Program Tree Planting Expiring?
Alternative Options Are Available to Private Landowners

There are several options available through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for private landowners that may interest former Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) tree planting participants.

The NRCS works with private landowners, offering technical and financial assistance to implement voluntary conservation practices on private lands across the country. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program are great options for private landowners to consider.

NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program
The EQIP provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners to implement conservation practices that address eligible resource concerns on their property. For former CRP tree planting participants, this could include writing a forest management plan; planting trees and shrubs; planting monarch, pollinator, and prairie habitat; forest stand improvement (thinning); crop tree management; trail erosion repair/stabilization and many other associated practices.

NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program
Through a competitive application process, the CSP provides forest landowners with an annual 2-part payment over a 5-year contract. The base payment offers landowners an annual unrestricted lump sum payment based on the number of eligible resource concerns ($1,500 minimum) their management is currently meeting. Common enhancements include tree and shrub planting, pollinator planting, snag and den tree management and crop tree management.

To find out more about EQIP and CSP visit [www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov). Then, contact your local USDA Service Center to get started with an application [www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator](http://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator). EQIP and CSP applications are accepted year-round.

WDNR Managed Forest Law Program
The Managed Forest Law Program (MFL) provides a significant tax incentive to manage your forested acres under a sustainable forest management plan. The program requirements include a minimum of 20 continuous acres, that are at least 80% forested and meet base stocking rates. This program may be very attractive if your property has been reassessed as recreational land after expiring from CRP. The DNR’s Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program (WFLGP) allows qualified landowners to be reimbursed up to 50% of approved costs. Practices include management plan development for MFL, tree planting, forest health and improvement and soil and water protection and improvement. To find out more information about MFL, find your local DNR Forester [www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestlandowners/locator/](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestlandowners/locator/).

WDNR Deer Management Assistance Program
The DMAP offers private landowners access to a local WDNR biologist and a suite of online resources to assist with the management of Wisconsin’s premier big game animal on private lands. Depending on the size of the acreage enrolled, this could include harvest tracking tools and reduced-price antlerless tags, or a walkthrough with a biologist and/or a forester and a customized management plan. More information can be obtained by visiting the DNR’s website [www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/DMAP](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/DMAP).