



Michigan Association of Conservation Districts

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“Your Land, Your Water, Your Michigan”

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Forest Management Assistance Available to Private Landowners

EAST LANSING – June 30, 2009 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has financial assistance available for private landowners to have an individualized forest management plan developed. Local Conservation Districts are available to assist the landowners to apply for financial assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Financial assistance will come from the NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The forest management plan must be developed by a professional forester who is approved through the USDA to provide these services. The financial assistance will enable owners of private forestland to have a professional forester develop a forest management plan.

The plan will help the landowner better manage the forestland for timber production, wildlife habitat, recreation or other uses. Some basic components of a Forest Management Plan include:

- A description of the land included in the plan,
- Common trees species and size,
- Soil types and conditions,
- Wood products potential,
- Noxious and invasive species present,
- Known fish and wildlife species present,
- Existing conservation practices, and
- Recommended conservation practices that address resource concerns and meet the landowners objectives.

Landowners are not required to take any action or incur further expenses as a result of having a forest management plan prepared. However, they will be eligible to apply to NRCS for additional financial assistance to implement conservation measures and practices recommended in the plan.

Landowners selected to participate in the program will receive a fixed payment based on the number of acres included in the plan. Participants will receive the payment after the forest management plan is developed and reviewed by NRCS.

For more information, contact your local Conservation District or NRCS office. Contact information for Conservation Districts in Michigan can be found at www.macd.org, and for NRCS offices at www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/.

Michigan's 79 Conservation Districts are the local providers of natural resource management services that help our citizens conserve their lands and our environment for a cleaner, healthier, economically stronger Michigan. **Michigan Association of Conservation Districts** (MACD) is a non-profit organization that represents the interests of Michigan Conservation Districts and works to strengthen Districts through leadership, information and representation at the state level.

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