

Florida's Forest Stewardship Program



The Stewardship Program encourages landowners to actively manage their renewable natural resources and offers incentives for the use of conservation practices.

What Do You Enjoy Most About Your Forest Land?

- Collecting additional income from timber sales.
- Pursuing leisure activities such as hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, and wildlife viewing.
- Contributing to long-term protection of the environment in your community.
- Cherishing the natural beauty of a green and scenic landscape.

If these activities interest you, and you want to do more to provide for them, then the Forest Stewardship Program is for you. The program is designed to help Floridians manage their forest land for multiple benefits. Forestland is one of Florida's most productive natural resources. The most valuable aspect of forest land is its renewability.



Your land can be managed to enhance timber, wildlife, recreation, soil, water and grazing resources

If cared for, forest land will yield economic benefits to the landowner indefinitely. Fortunately, long term forest productivity can be optimized without sacrificing the ecological diversity of woodlands. The key is forest stewardship.

How Does the Program Assist Landowners?

The Forest Stewardship Program builds a partnership between landowners and a team of natural resource agency professionals for multiple use management of the land by providing:

- **an opportunity to learn** about new strategies for forest resource management
- **personalized technical assistance** from five different agencies for developing a management plan to enhance your timber, wildlife, soil, water, recreational, aesthetic and forage resources
- **eligibility for financial assistance** for conservation practices listed in the Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP) cost-sharing options
- **recognition as a leader** in wise forest resource management with publicity, a certificate and sign for your land
- **increased economic opportunities** and diversification of the timberland investment portfolio
- **documentation of active management** which may reduce taxes.

What is the Forest Stewardship Program?

The Forest Stewardship Program was initiated by the National Association of State Foresters and funded by the USDA Forest Service. Each state operates its own tailor-made program to meet specific needs of landowners and their forests. In Florida, the goal for the Stewardship Program is to enroll at least 625 landowners owning 425,000 acres over a 5 year period. Five agencies and organizations work together to implement the program: