

Forest Service, USDA

§ 230.7

in no case shall the minimum contiguous acreage requirement be higher than 25 acres.

(d) To be eligible to receive cost-share funds under the Program, a landowner must agree to manage the following lands under a Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan prepared pursuant to § 230.6 of this subpart:

(1) All of their nonindustrial private forest land with existing tree cover within a contiguous tract; and

(2) Other nonindustrial private forest land within the same contiguous tract which is identified by the landowner and approved by the Service Representative as suitable for growing trees and scheduled for conversion to a Program practice.

(e) To be eligible to receive cost-share funds under the Program, a landowner must agree to maintain Program practices for 10 years, unless otherwise specified by the Chief.

§ 230.6 Landowner forest stewardship plan.

(a) Prior to receiving approval to implement any Program practice identified in § 230.7(a)(2)–(9) of this subpart, eligible landowners shall have an approved landowner forest stewardship plan. The landowner forest stewardship plan shall be prepared by a Resource Management Professional and approved by a Service Representative and shall identify and describe actions to be taken by the landowner to protect and manage soil, water, aesthetic qualities, recreation, timber, and fish and wildlife resources in a manner which is compatible with the objectives of the landowner.

(b) A landowner forest stewardship plan shall be effective for not less than 10 years, but shall be reviewed at least every five years and may be revised as needed, subject to approval of the Service Representative.

(c) To the extent deemed applicable by the Service Representative, where existing landowner management plans such as conservation plans, Tree Farm management plans, or similar plans meet or can be amended to meet Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan requirements, such plans shall satisfy the requirements of this section.

(d) If a landowner sells or otherwise conveys land covered by a landowner forest stewardship plan, such plan shall remain in effect if agreed to by the new owner. New landowner objectives shall be incorporated through plan revision as needed. Where the new landowner does not agree to adopt the Landowner Forest Stewardship plan, the new landowner cannot obtain approval of new Program practices without preparation and approval of a new Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan.

§ 230.7 Program practices.

(a) Practices for which cost sharing is available under the Stewardship Incentive Program and the reporting codes assigned to each are as follows:

(1) Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan Development (SIP1), which identifies landowner objectives and multiple resource management decisions.

(2) Reforestation and Afforestation (SIP2), which includes establishment or reestablishment of diverse stands of forest trees through natural regeneration, planting, or direct seeding for conservation purposes and sustainable timber production.

(3) Forest and Agroforest Improvement (SIP3), which includes the improvement of forest and agroforest stand productivity, vigor, and health, and the value and quality of wood products.

(4) Windbreak and Hedgerow Establishment, Maintenance and Renovation (SIP4), which includes the establishment, maintenance, and renovation of windbreaks and hedgerows to conserve energy, protect farmsteads, livestock, and crops, and reduce soil erosion.

(5) Soil and Water Protection and Improvement (SIP5), which includes the maintenance or improvement of water quality and soil productivity on forest land.

(6) Riparian and Wetland Protection and Improvement (SIP6), which includes the protection, restoration, and improvement of wetlands and riparian areas to maintain water quality and enhance habitat.

(7) Fisheries Habitat Enhancement (SIP7), which includes the protection and enhancement of habitat for native resident and anadromous fisheries.