

## § 230.5

(3) State plans shall become effective upon approval by the Chief.

(e) The State Forester shall administer the Program within the State and monitor the Programs to ensure that it is achieving desired results and shall ensure landowner compliance with practice installation specifications and maintenance of the practice.

(f) Not more than 10 percent of a State allocation of funds may be used to finance State Program development and administration. The State Forester must obtain approval from the Regional Forester of the amount of the State's Program allocation to be used for State Program development and administration.

(g) The percent of the State's Program allocation of funds that may be used to cost-share the development of Landowner Forest Stewardship plans will be determined pursuant to § 230.3(e) of this subpart. The State Forester must obtain approval from the Regional Forester of the amount of the State's Program allocation to be used for Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan development (§ 230.7(a)(1) of this subpart).

(h) The State Forester shall document and make available for public inspection all determinations made in consultation with the Committee.

### § 230.5 Eligibility requirements.

(a) All nonindustrial private forest landowners as defined in § 230.2 of this subpart, including those who produce forest products on a part-time or intermittent basis, who meet the requirements of this section, are eligible to apply for and receive assistance under the Program without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status, or handicap.

(b) To be eligible to receive cost-share funds under the Program, a landowner shall own not more than a total of 1,000 acres of nonindustrial private forest land, except where the State Forester, with the concurrence of the Regional Forester, determines that significant public benefits would accrue from approval of a landowner owning not more than 5,000 acres. In making a determination of significant public benefits, the State Forester and the Regional Forester shall consider, at a

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minimum, whether the installation of practices by landowners who own more than 1,000 acres but less than 5,000 acres are necessary to achieve cost-effective resource management objectives without unduly affecting Program participation of other eligible landowners.

(c) To be eligible to receive cost-share funds under the Program, a landowner shall not own less than the minimum contiguous acreage as established by the State Forester. However, 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.

(8) Wildlife Habitat Enhancement (SIP8), which includes the establishment and enhancement of permanent habitat for game and nongame wildlife species.

(9) Forest Recreation Enhancement (SIP9), which includes the enhancement of outdoor recreation activities and aesthetics.

(b) In the application and use of pesticides, including biological, chemical, and behavioral substances, practice performance shall meet all label requirements, State and Federal regulations, and local ordinances.

(c) Anyone who carries out practices under this Program shall be responsible for obtaining the authorities, rights, easements, or other approvals necessary to the performance and maintenance of the practices in keeping with applicable laws and regulations.

#### § 230.8 Application and approval.

(a) A landowner wishing to participate in the Program shall contact the local office of the State Forester who shall provide information necessary to make application.

(b) The State Forester, or such official as the State Forester may designate, shall make basic eligibility determinations, including whether the applicant meets nonindustrial private forest land ownership criteria and minimum and maximum acreage criteria in accordance with § 230.5 of this subpart, and approve Program practices. The landowner shall be notified of such determination in writing by mail.

(c) The State Forester, or such official as the State Forester may designate, shall approve Program practices based on the following: