

Family Forest Carbon Program

Practice Overview

Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York & Vermont

The **Family Forest Carbon Program** provides America's family forest owners with resources and payments to manage their land with climate-friendly sustainable practices that help grow more resilient forests, conserve biodiversity, add value to timber stands, and mitigate climate impacts. Two practices are available to landowners in Maine, western and central Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont: *Grow Older Forests* and *Enhance Your Woodland*.

Premium Program Option Available:

Interested in receiving higher payments and access to federal assistance programs? If you have a Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm & Tract Number or are willing to get one, you can qualify for our premier practice option. Getting an FSA number increases the dollar amount you receive through the Family Forest Carbon Program, and we can help you find even more programs that may benefit you.

**For landowners in New England, the premium option is partially funded by the New England Forestry Foundation's USDA-funded Climate-Smart Commodities Program.*

General Eligibility Guidelines

- Landowners must enroll at least 30 acres of land in the project. Landowners can enroll all or part of their property and use a mix of practices on the same property as long as they are applied to the appropriate and eligible stands.
- The predominant forest type within the management stand must be comprised of northern hardwoods, such as maple, beech, birch, and ash.
- Forests must be naturally occurring (no plantations; areas subject to enrichment planting may be approved on a case-by-case basis).
- Forests must be able to be commercially harvested, which is determined by volume and stocking level data provided by a forester.
- The project area cannot be subject to any existing legal encumbrance that restricts timber harvest activity.
- The owner of all enrolled project areas must be the same individual or entity and be legally able to transfer carbon rights to the Family Forest Carbon Program.

Payment Terms & Conditions:

- **Contract Term:** 20 years
- **Practice Payments:**
 - Grow Older Forest: \$300/acre over the 20-year contract period
 - Enhance Your Woodland: \$200/acre over the 20-year contract period.

**For landowners with an FSA Farm & Tract Number, we can offer a 20% higher premium payment to help you reach your woodland goals. Our team can provide more details and advise you on the process when you schedule a call.*

Program Payment Schedule:

Project Year	% of Total
Payment 1 (issued within 60 days of signature)	20%
Annual Payment in Years 2-8	3%
Annual Payment in Years 9-14	4%
Annual Payment in Years 15-19	5%
Payment in Year 20	10%

- **Forest Management Plans:**
 - If you do not have an active management plan, the Family Forest Carbon Program will offer support by either:
 - Paying an FFCP forester, or partnering consulting forester, to develop an FFCP template forest management plan at no cost.
 - Providing payment to the landowner upfront, defraying the cost for their own consulting forester to develop a forest management plan.
 - If you already have a forest management plan, the Family Forest Carbon Program will support you in updating your plan when it is 10 years old.

**Disclaimer: This practice overview is not intended to address every aspect of enrollment in the Family Forest Carbon Program. Complete terms and conditions are detailed in the enrollment contract.*

Learn more and get started at
familyforestcarbon.org



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Enhance Your Woodland

The *Enhance Your Woodland* practice is for family forest owners who want to actively manage their woodland, such as through a thinning or gap harvest, within the next 20 years. Foresters can provide site-specific recommendations that best fit the forest management objectives of each stand, as long as landowners do not remove any dead wood or live trees resulting in:

- A reduction of more than 25% of the Basal Area per acre in any Harvest Area (in an individual Harvest or cumulatively over time) compared to the Basal Area per acre set forth in the Initial Timber Assessment; or
- A reduction of more than 15% of the Basal Area in the entire area enrolled in this practice; or
- A reduction of more than 10% in the aggregate (in an individual harvest or cumulatively over time) of the Quadratic Mean Diameter of the Harvest Area as set forth in the Initial Timber Assessment; or
- A reduction of more than 10% in the Quadratic Mean Diameter determined by the most recent forest inventory for the Harvest Area; or
- The creation of a gap in the forest canopy larger than 5 acres or 20% of the harvested unit if less; or
- Creation of gaps or patches between which there are less than 250 feet of unharvested buffer; or
- Retaining fewer than four large trees per acre within harvested areas to maintain or increase species diversity and AGS; or
- Felling of snags (except for safety) or removal of downed wood and tops; or
- Any reduction or removal that does not comply with applicable legal or program requirements related to habitat protection.

Grow Older Forests

The *Grow Older Forests* practice allows forest stands and trees to grow into larger size classes, which can then be managed sustainably for timber over the long term while retaining higher carbon stocks on-site than before the practice was implemented. The *Grow Older Forests* practice includes a commitment to defer harvests over a 20-year period.*

When landowners determine that the preferred long-term management strategy for their forest is a no-cut forest reserve beyond the life of the contract, the Family Forest Carbon Program can help connect landowners to local conservation partners to explore options for long-term or permanent protections.

During the contract period, The *Grow Older Forests* practice prohibits any forest harvest within the enrolled area with the following exceptions:

- Allows for salvage resulting from storm events or pest outbreak, with prior approval
- Allows for harvesting to control a pest or pathogen outbreak that is new to the area, with prior approval
- Requires leaving any downed wood on site unless a waiver is obtained related to a storm event, novel pest, or pathogen outbreak
- Allows for treatment of invasive plants and of native competing vegetation that limits the ability of new seedlings or saplings to grow
- Allows for the use of fencing or tree shelters to control deer and moose browse
- Allows for the harvest of firewood for personal use

**The Grow Older Forests practice is generally not compatible with state forestland property tax programs unless there are existing ecologically protected areas. Talk to us to learn more!*

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