

# Family Forest Carbon Program

# Practice Overview

Michigan, Minnesota, & Wisconsin

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. The two management practices available to landowners in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin are *Growing Mature Forests* and *Promoting Diverse Forests*.

## Benefits of Enrollment:

- Expert guidance from a professional forester to help you achieve your goals for your woodland.
- Financial assistance to develop a forest management plan, or update your existing plan to comply with the program.
- Annual payments that can help cover the cost of owning and maintaining your land throughout the 20-year contract term.
- Management flexibility to harvest sustainably, including a firewood allowance based on acreage.
- Continued privacy and ownership of your land, without restrictions on recreational activities such as hunting and fishing.
- The opportunity to join a community of likeminded landowners committed to caring for their forests and the planet.

## Payment Terms & Calculations:

- **Contract Term:** 20 years
- Growing Mature Forests: \$200/acre over the 20-year contract period
- Promoting Diverse Forests: \$150/acre over the 20-year contract period
- **Forest Management Plans:**
  - If you do not have a plan, the Family Forest Carbon Program will provide you with financial support to develop a plan that is consistent with the program.
  - If you already have a forest management plan, the Family Forest Carbon Program will support you in updating it.
- **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%

*\*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.*

1

### Confirm Eligibility

Use our secure online mapping tool to find your property and learn whether you are likely to qualify.

2

### Meet Our Team

Schedule a call with our team to discuss your goals, answer any questions you have, and determine next steps for enrollment.

3

### Offer and Enrollment

You'll receive payment terms and a complete contract to review before enrollment. Then, we'll send you your first payment!

Learn more and get started at [familyforestcarbon.org](https://familyforestcarbon.org)



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## Growing Mature Forests:

This practice is designed to allow your forest to grow older and larger trees than average forests in your local landscape. This practice promotes long-term forest health, improves habitat for the numerous wildlife species that rely on mature forests, and increases the commercial and environmental value of the woodland while allowing you to maintain a working forest.

- Enroll at least 30 acres of forested land, with northern hardwoods such as Maple, Beech and Birch species making up at least 50% of the basal area, and a minimum stocking of 100 sq.ft/acre.
- During the enrollment period, harvesting is only permitted in stands containing at least 130 sq. ft/acre.
- Harvests may not remove more than 25% of the basal area at the time of the harvest.
- Harvests may not reduce the average stand diameter by more than 10%.

## General Eligibility Requirements:

- Enroll at least 30 acres of eligible land in the project. You can enroll all or part of your property and use a mix of practices on the same property as long as they are applied to the appropriate and eligible stands.
- Forests must be naturally occurring (i.e., no plantations).
- The project area cannot be subject to any existing legal encumbrance that restricts timber harvest activity.
- Agree to submit a form attesting to your compliance with practice requirements once every five years.

## Promoting Diverse Forests

This practice is designed to improve forest carbon storage by increasing the number of living trees left uncut during coppice or clearcut harvests. This practice allows you to balance the financial and ecological benefits of harvesting, while enhancing wildlife habitat, biodiversity, and resiliency in the face of a changing climate.

- Enroll at least 30 acres of forested land, with a minimum stocking of 10 cords/acre, and Quaking Aspen, Bigtooth Aspen and Paper Birch making up at least 50% of the basal area per acre.
- During the agreement term, harvesting is only permitted if one of the following conditions is met:
  - 10% of the basal area/acre in the project area reserves is non-aspen/birch tree species.
  - 100 saplings per acre of non-aspen/birch tree species are present in the project area reserves.
- For any harvest within the FFCP project area, no more than 60% of the harvest unit area can be removed. The remaining 40% must be left uncut in a combination of clumps, islands/patches, or fingers.
- Unharvested "reserve" areas must be a minimum of 1 acre in size, where no living or dead biomass can be removed.
- Areas that are left uncut to meet standard Best Management Practices cannot make up more than 50% of the required reserved area.

## General Management Allowances:

### Personal Firewood

Project Area Size (Acres):	30-199	200-299	300-399	400-499	500+
Max Cords Per Year:	5	10	15	20	25

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