

# Fields & Forests

## Practice Overview



### Loblolly Pine Planting

The Fields & Forests practice is designed to provide the financial and technical assistance to successfully establish loblolly pine seedlings, and sustainably manage these growing pine stands, on your land. This practice increases carbon sequestration and storage, diversifies revenue streams for landowners, enhances wildlife habitat, and helps protect water quality.

### General Eligibility Requirements

- Property is located within the historical range of loblolly pine in Georgia and Alabama.
- Property is privately-owned and project area is at least 40 acres.
- Project areas less than 40 acres can be considered for enrollment if they are clustered and adjacent/ neighboring properties.
- Project area must be unforested (i.e., no trees) for at least the past 10 years.
- Project area cannot be subject to any existing legal encumbrance that restricts timber harvests.

### Planting Requirements

Once enrolled, we will provide you with an AFF contracted forester who will work with you (and your consulting forester, if you have one) to develop a planting and Forest Management Plan. This forester will also provide oversight for the site preparation and planting operations.

**We pay for all costs associated with site preparation, planting, and Forest Management Plan development for this practice on your project acres.**

### Payment Terms & Conditions

Contract Term: **30 years**

Practice Payments: **\$30 per acre, per year**

<b>Sample Payment Offer</b>	Project Acres: 50 Acres
	Per Acre Payment: \$30.00
	Annual Payment: \$1,500.00
	Total Payment: \$45,000.00

#### • Site Preparation Basics

- Mechanical or chemical site preparation (or some combination of the two treatments) in the late summer and fall months ahead of planting season. Your consulting forester is welcome onsite.
- Mechanical site preparation may include onsite chipping, mastication or piling.
- In some cases, a second round of herbicides is applied one year after planting to manage grasses that compete with tree seedlings.

#### • Planting Basics

- Loblolly seedlings provided in Year 1.
- Seedling varieties will be distributed according to your geographic region – Coastal or Piedmont.
- Planting density is 519 seedlings per acre.
- AFF-contracted planting crews will plant your tree seedlings in your project areas according to best management practices and under the supervision of your AFF-contracted forester. Your consulting forester is welcome onsite.



## Post-Planting Management Basics

The intent of this practice is to successfully establish pine stands and offer private landowners a low-maintenance entry into sustainable forest management. It is not required, but if you decide to thin or harvest your trees during the 30-year contract, certain requirements must be followed as per your agreement. You keep all profits from approved harvesting activities.



### • Thinning

Thinning is a treatment that reduces stand density to improve growth, enhance forest health or recover from mortality. It provides revenue for the landowner(s).

- When your stand reaches >120 ft<sup>2</sup>/acre, you can choose to thin your trees. Your consulting forester can help you make this decision. Pine stands typically meet this volume between 12-17 years of age, depending on growing conditions.
- Stand density must not fall below 60 ft<sup>2</sup>/acre.
- You must notify AFF about your recommended thinning treatment and provide any data requested.

### • Harvesting

Harvesting is an activity that removes live or dead trees in the project area(s) in excess of the thinning limits described previously, or removes all dead or living trees for purposes of barter, sale, or trade.

- You must submit a pre-harvest volume analysis prepared by a qualified forester, along with a written report that describes the goals of the harvest.
- If you decide to complete a harvest before the 30-year contract expires, you are required to replant the harvested area. AFF will pay to prepare and replant the harvested area within the project area(s).

### • Controlling Competing Vegetation

- You may choose to control competing vegetation in your project area(s) according to the recommendations in your Forest Management Plan, and when these treatments are completed to improve the health of your trees in the project area(s).
- You must notify AFF about your upcoming treatments.

If your trees are growing successfully, you can explore additional revenue stream besides harvesting timber, such as hunting leases or pine straw sales.

Contact us to learn more about getting started.

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