

Family Forest Carbon Program

Practice Overview

Maryland, Pennsylvania & West Virginia

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 practice available to landowners in Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia is called *Growing Mature Forests*.

Benefits of Enrollment:

- Expert guidance from a professional forester to help you achieve your goals for your woodland.
- A forest management plan, or updates to your existing plan.
- 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.
- A community of likeminded landowners committed to caring for their forests and the planet.

Payment Terms & Calculations:

- **Contract Term:** 20 years
- The current payment range for this practice is \$160-\$295/acre over the contract period.
- We use factors such as the likelihood of harvest, as well as the potential for carbon impact on your land, to calculate your exact payment rate. For more information on how your payment rate is calculated please speak with a member of our team.
- **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 your plan when it is 10 years old.
- **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 and begin crafting your management plan!

Learn more and get started at familyforestcarbon.org



American
Forest
Foundation

The Nature
Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

Growing Mature Forests:

The **Growing Mature Forests** practice is designed to allow your forest to grow older and larger trees than average forests in your local area. 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.

General Eligibility Requirements:

- Enroll at least 30 acres of eligible forest land in the project. You may enroll all or part of your property.
- Hardwood forests must be naturally occurring (i.e., no plantations).
- 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.

Management Requirements:

- Harvesting is not required. If you choose to conduct a timber harvest, it must not remove more than 25% of the basal area per acre. Basal area is measured by your forester and is the cross-sectional area of trees at breast height. If multiple harvests occur, the cumulative percentage of basal area removed shall not exceed 25% of the initial basal area per acre.
- High-grading is prohibited during the contract period. High-grading is defined as a reduction in quadratic mean tree diameter of more than 10% from the pre-harvest condition.
- In a year in which a commercial timber harvest has taken place, you will provide the Family Forest Carbon Program with pre- and post-harvest basal area stocking and quadratic mean diameter. Your forester can help you submit this report.

Basic Contract Terms

- Every five years you will submit a form attesting to your compliance with practice requirements, and let us know about any material changes in the forest.
- To reduce damages to the program caused by non-compliance, failure to adhere to the practice specifications will result in the termination of your agreement. You will be required to pay back all payments to date, plus interest, plus 15% of the sum of the payments to date.
- Throughout the contract term you may not sell or give the carbon stored in the Family Forest Carbon Program project area to another organization, nor can you enroll in another forest carbon program. You will still hold the timber, mineral, and other forest ecosystem benefit rights.
- A representative from the Family Forest Carbon Program may need to visit your land to conduct additional monitoring over the 20 year contract period. A random sample of enrolled landowners will be selected for monitoring at the time of enrollment. If you are selected, visits to your property will be coordinated with you in advance.

Firewood Allowance:

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