

# Fact sheet:

## Forest Landowner Assistance



Division of Forestry, November 2006

### Forest Stewardship Program

The Forest Stewardship Program is a cooperative federal and state service that assists private landowners with forestry. The intent is to assist the active management of forest resources, to keep lands productive for present and future owners, and increase economic and environmental benefits. In Alaska landowners with 7 or more acres of land capable of growing trees are eligible. Some homeowners with wildfire hazard and 2 or more acres may also be eligible.

### Landowner Forestry Plans

Upon a request for assistance, first the owner's land use goals are sought. Then site visits will be made and forest conditions assessed. Forest measurements can be made to determine tree sizes, density, and other forest attributes. Conditions of damaging forest insects and diseases will be determined. Potential hazards in the event of wildfire will be evaluated. Observations about wildlife habitat and usage will be made.

Information collected from site visits is then incorporated into a written plan. The plan must state and follow the landowner's goals. There are no land-use expectations, and logging, road building, and public access are not required. Wildfire hazard and home site defense from wildfire are covered. Destructive forest insect conditions and treatment options are covered. Recommendations for tree planting and tree care are provided. Suggestions for wildlife habitat improvements are provided. Information about compliance with Alaska's Forest Resources and Practices Act is furnished. There is no fee or obligations for Forest Stewardship Plans, but landowners are asked to sign the plan stating their intention that activities will be consistent with the plan.

Forestry plans contain approximately 10 typewritten pages, depending on ownership complexity and acreage, and usually contain aerial imagery. Additional materials are provided in the form of an appendix.

### Financial Assistance

Financial assistance in the form of cost-share is possible for landowners with approved forest stewardship plans. Cost-share is typically 50% to 75% of total project cost. Cost-share is normally based on average competitive rates for comparable practices. Cost-share payments are reimbursements after work has been completed and inspected. Landowners must provide receipts for supplies, labor, and contractors. Cost-share practices are to remain for 10 years, otherwise re-payment is expected. Following are possible cost-share practices:

- Dead tree removal around homes to lower wildfire hazard.
- Thinning and pruning around homes to lower wildfire hazard.
- Soil preparation for tree seedling and browse establishment.
- Tree seedling purchase & planting for forestry or wildlife.

Cost share assistance for agriculture and wildlife may be available through various state and federal programs.

### Further Information

Contact the Forest Stewardship Program in Soldotna at 260-4214, Palmer at 761-6268, or Fairbanks at 451-2668.