

# Conservation Stewardship Program

## for Longleaf Pine Owners



**Have you ever looked across your land and thought about some operational management goals you would like to take to the next level? Maybe we can help.**

No one knows more about your land than you do, and no one knows more about conservation than we do. Together we can develop a plan tailored to your operation and your goals to help you increase productivity and protect the forest product value on your land.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) offers an opportunity for landowners with longleaf pine forests to enhance the product quality, as well as environmental quality and wildlife habitat of their forest

by adopting conservation activities. CSP can help you plan and implement conservation practices and enhancements that address natural resource concerns on your operation.

### What's New?

Landowners with forests or woods on their property continue to benefit from all that CSP has to offer. There are a number of enhancements for forest conservation and sustainable management. Examples of enhancement options available for longleaf forests include ecosystem restoration, prescribed burning, and wildlife habitat management.

The new CSP provides adaptive management options to better respond to conditions in different geographic locations, allowing participants to choose enhancements, or bundles of enhancements, that best fit their unique circumstances.

### Is CSP for You?

CSP helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation. Whether you are looking to improve tree stands, suppress undesirable plants, or develop wildlife habitat, we can custom design a CSP plan to help you meet those goals. We can help you implement grazing management to improve wildlife or develop forest riparian areas. If you are already taking steps to improve the condition of the land, chances are CSP can help you find new ways to meet your goals. CSP contracts are for five years, with the option to renew for an additional five years.

### Types of Assistance

NRCS provides free technical assistance to non-industrial private forest landowners. To participate in CSP and receive financial assistance, landowners must control or own the land and be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements, and have current farm records with USDA Farm Service Agency. Learn more at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill).

### The Next Step

To learn more about CSP opportunities, landowners should contact their local USDA service center and set up an appointment with NRCS staff. A [Local Service Center Directory](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov) is available online at [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov), then click "Contact Us." You can also visit our CSP page online at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/CSP](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/CSP).



**Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service**

[nrcs.usda.gov](http://nrcs.usda.gov)



CSP Enhancements to assist Longleaf Pine Owners

(This is not an exhaustive list.)

Agroforestry Crops

- Sequential patch burning
- Short-interval burn
- Short-interval prescribed burning to promote a healthy herbaceous plant community.
- Grazing-maintained fuel break to reduce the risk of fire.
- Biochar production from woody residue
- Establishing tree/shrub species to restore native plant communities.

Water Management

- Converting loblolly and slash pine plantations to longleaf pine to retain soil moisture
- Enhance development of the forest understory to improve site moisture.
- Enhance development of the forest understory to capture nutrients in surface water.
- Enhance development of the forest understory to capture nutrients and limit their movement into ground water.

Wildlife

- Converting loblolly and slash pine plantations to longleaf pine to enhance wildlife habitat
- Implementing sustainable practices for pine straw raking to enhance wildlife habitat
- Create patch openings to enhance wildlife cover and shelter.
- Enhance development of the forest understory to provide wildlife cover and shelter.
- Reduce forest stand density to improve wildlife food sources.

Soil Health

- Maintaining and improving forest soil quality
- Maintaining and improving forest soil quality by limiting compaction
- Increase on-site carbon storage
- Reduce forest stand density to improve a degraded plant community.
- Establishing tree/shrub species to restore native plant communities.

FAQ

frequently asked questions

How can I find out if I am eligible?

The best way to determine eligibility is to contact your [local field office](#). You must meet Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirements and have a Farm Tract Number with FSA. Land already enrolled in some USDA Farm Bill programs, such as CRP and some easement programs, may not be eligible.

Is there a minimum number of acres needed to be enrolled?

No, but entire operation must be enrolled.

Is there a minimum contract payment?

Yes, \$1,500 annually.

What are “resource concerns?”

NRCS conservation specialists conduct resource inventories on agricultural land to evaluate natural resources including soil, water, air, plant, and animal resource bases to determine their condition. If there

is a cause or threat to that resource, that can result in what we refer to as a resource concern. Examples of resource concerns are erosion, degraded water quality, and plant health.

What are “enhancements?”

Enhancements are management activities that go above and beyond the minimum practice requirements helping the producer achieve a higher level of conservation.

What are “bundles?”

Bundles are suites of conservation enhancements designed to address

multiple resource concerns. Bundle options are offered at a higher payment rate.

Do I have options to pick the enhancements that are best suited for my operation?

Yes. The variety of CSP practices that are offered give you a lot of freedom to select enhancements that help you meet your management goals.

