



WoodsWISE:

Woods Wise Incentives to Stewardship Enhancement

Kennebec Woodland Partnership

Priority Forest Management Plan Eligibility and Application Requirements

*WoodsWISE implements portions of the
Forest Stewardship Program
funded by the USDA Forest Service.*



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Maine Forest Service
Forest Policy and Management Division
Maine Department of Conservation
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Maine Forest Service's **Kennebec Woodland Partnership** Project is funded in part by a grant from the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry.

As part of the project, MFS is making funds available to cost-share priority WoodsWISE Forest Management Plans (WW-FMPs) for landowners in Kennebec County. All plans funded by the Kennebec Woodland Partnership Project must meet the WoodsWISE criteria for Forest Management Plans, described in Section III of the WoodsWISE Manual: www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/fpm/wwi/DOCS/pdf_v/wwi_manual/wwi_manual_section3.pdf. The following outlines criteria for participation.

Type of ownership: Participating landowners must be private individuals, persons, companies, or other entities that hold title to land, including joint owners or tenants in common, groups, associations, corporations, Indian tribes or other native groups, or other private legal entities. A husband and wife are considered one owner. Corporations whose stocks are publicly traded, owners principally engaged in the processing of wood products from their ownership, and properties where the ownership of the timber is different from the fee ownership of the land are excluded. Quasi-municipal entities such as water, sewer and utility districts are not eligible for WoodsWISE assistance; rather, they are encouraged to apply for a Project Canopy Urban & Community Forestry grant.

(See www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/projectcanopy/pages/resource.htm#grants for more information.)

Limited Liability Corporations, 501(c) 3 corporations, family partnerships, and similar entities that otherwise meet program requirements will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Such applicants may be asked to provide further documentation supporting their application.

1. Acreage limitations:
 - a. Applicants must own at least 10 contiguous forested acres, but not more than 1000 forested acres statewide.
 - b. Applicants must include all owned forestland, in contiguous acres or parcels, in a Forest Management Plan.
 - c. Landowners must pledge to manage all owned forest lands in Maine according to sound forest management and stewardship principles.
 - d. Landowners must indicate on the application if other forested acres in the state are excluded, and/or have previously received cost-sharing for a Forest Management Plan. Landowners approved for cost-sharing may apply concurrently or otherwise for separate Forest Management Plans on separate parcels. Such applications may be approved at the discretion of the MFS Landowner Outreach Forester, if in his/her estimation the parcels are sufficiently separated by distance, market area, forest type/region, landowner objectives, or other factors to warrant separate management.
 - e. Applicants may not receive cost-sharing for more than 200 acres of treatments (excluding Forest Management Plan acres), annually.
2. Landowner commitment: Landowners must agree to maintain plans and practices for a minimum of ten years from the time of establishment. Additional cost-sharing for the same plan/practice type for the same acres will not be approved by MFS until the last year of the 10-year practice period. Landowners who fail to maintain the practice for ten years will be required to repay the Maine Forest Stewardship Program the cost-share amount received, with interest at the statutory rate.
3. Legal standing: Landowners who have violated federal, state, or local laws, regulations, rules, or ordinances regarding land use may be ruled ineligible by the State Forester. In any case, cost-share funds may not be used to mitigate an existing violation or to satisfy any settlement agreement, consent decree, judgment, or other legal requirement or order resulting from a violation.

4. Employees of the Maine Forest Service and their spouses are ineligible to participate in cost-sharing as landowners or as Stewardship Foresters providing services to clients. Projects on land belonging to other Department of Conservation employees will be approved or disapproved by the State Forester. Employees of the Maine Forest Service will recuse themselves from approval, evaluation, inspection, and other official action on projects submitted by landowners to whom their relationship is that of a parent, child, sibling, aunt/uncle, in-law, grandparent or grandchild, to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Additional Kennebec Woodland Partnership criteria:

MFS seeks nominations from KWP Partners of landowners who would benefit from funding to obtain a Forest Management Plan.

Additional criteria for this project are:

- Willingness to manage according to Stewardship Guidelines (see above Pledge: “Landowners must pledge to manage all owned forest lands in Maine according to sound forest management and stewardship principles.”)
- Willingness to promote Stewardship to others. Examples include:
 - hosting 1or more woodland tours,
 - being recognized on the KWP website,
 - becoming a peer resource for other woodland owners (i.e. included on a referral list for phone or written inquiries from interested landowners)
 - Note: FMPs funded through this project will **not** become public information.
- Woodlands have been selected by a KWP Partner as being important (i.e. meets Partner’s criteria for strategic value as a sustainably managed parcel)
 - Examples:
 - Parcel is part of large unfragmented block of woodlands
 - Landowner wants to be certified Tree Farmer, but needs financial incentive for management plan
 - Owner of a key piece of shoreland property needs guidance to manage forests sustainably while protecting water quality.
- Nominations for public and quasi-public (such as utility districts) lands will be accepted for a different funding pool, to be administered through Project Canopy, Maine Forest Service’s Urban and Community Forestry Program.

FMPs must be prepared by an eligible Stewardship Forester. All other WoodsWISE Program criteria and procedures must be met.

Nominations should include a completed WW FMP Application and a written statement of support from a KWP partner.

Selection of successful applicants will be made by MFS, in consultation with KWP Partners.