



IDNR Forest and Conservation Program Benefits for Private Landowners

FOREST DEVELOPMENT ACT (FDA)

- 10 acre minimum; forested ac primarily (does include tree plantings and up to 10% related, integrated, associated, non-forest conservation use).
- Management plan required. Must meet IL Forest Management Plan standards.
- Conduct management as outlined in plan.
- Cost share may be available through FDA and NRCS programs.
- Taxes based on farmland assessment, soil type and productivity. FDA acres are assessed at 1/6th farmland tax assessment*.
- FDA certification must be approved by management plan preparer, landowner, and district forester.
- Plans are re-written every ten years. Certifications can be renewed under existing plan number.
- Plans can be transferred to the purchaser of the land. The new landowner must contact district forester and meet eligibility.
- Legal access is preferred, but not mandatory.
- For more information, please visit: <https://www2.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/forestry>

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)

- 5 acre minimum; undeveloped forestland, grassland, or wetland area.
- Management plan can be written by landowner. Plan must have a majority of the components of the IL Forest Management Plan.
- Conduct management as outlined in the plan.
- Cost share is not available, however funds may be on availability basis through IL Recreational Access Program (IRAP).
- Taxes based on Fair Market Value (FMV) of the property. Residential and recreational property is assessed at 33.33% FMV. Approved enrollees can benefit from a reduced assessment to 5% FMV*.
- Certifications must be signed by landowner.
- Enrollment is for ten years. A new application and plan must be submitted at that time.
- Plans and enrollments cannot be transferred at time of sale, however new landowner is able to apply upon taking possession of the property.
- Legal access is required.
- For more information, please visit: <https://www2.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/CSP>

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

- Available for land enrolled in a Federal CREP contract within the 100-year floodplain of the Illinois and Kaskaskia River watersheds.
- Landowners must follow the guidelines of the CREP easement document and any Federal and/or State-side management plan they have in place.
- Cost share is available on the Federal CREP acreage.
- Preferential tax assessment may be available. The P-TAX-337-R form can certify a permanent CREP easement for a county assessor*.
- CREP is offered as either a 15-year extension of a Federal CREP contract or as a permanent easement. Each easement term can include additional non-cropped acres in the easement.
- CREP easements run with the land. Release from the program is not authorized.
- Legal access is required, no public access required.
- For more information, please visit: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/conservation/CREP>



*Tax information included in this document is for informational purposes only and should not be considered tax advice. Please consult a tax attorney for more information.