



Healthy Forests Reserve Program For Private & Tribal Landowners – Mississippi

Overview

The Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) is a voluntary program established for the purpose of restoring and enhancing forest ecosystems to: 1) promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species, 2) improve biodiversity; and 3) enhance carbon sequestration.

The HFRP was signed into law as part of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. The program was reauthorized to be carried out in the 2008 Farm Bill.

The federally listed threatened or endangered species targeted for habitat and population recovery activities in Mississippi are the gopher frog, gopher tortoise, and the black pine snake, a candidate for listing. The program will be offered in 14 counties including Covington, Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Jones, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, Perry, Stone and Wayne.



Randy Browning

Benefits

Restoring and protecting forests contributes positively to the economy of our nation, provides biodiversity of plant and animal populations, and improves environmental quality.

Landowner Protections will be made available to landowners enrolled in the HFRP who agree, for a specified period, to restore or improve their land for threatened or endangered species habitat. In exchange, they avoid future regulatory restrictions on the use of that land protected under the Endangered Species Act.



Randy Browning

Enrollment Options

The Program offers three enrollment options:

- 1) A 10-year cost-share agreement, for which the landowner may receive 50 percent of the average cost of the approved conservation practices,
- 2) A 30-year easement, for which the landowner may receive 75 percent of the easement value of the enrolled land plus 75 percent of the average cost of the approved conservation practices, or
- 3) A permanent easement, for which landowners may receive 100 percent of the easement value of the enrolled land plus 100 percent of the average cost of the approved conservation practices.

Eligibility

To be eligible for enrollment, land must be private land or Tribal lands which will restore, enhance, or measurably increase the likelihood of recovery of a threatened or endangered species, must improve biological diversity, or increase carbon sequestration.



R. Seigel

For More Information

If you need more information about HFRP, please contact your local USDA-NRCS Service Center listed in the telephone book under U.S. Department of Agriculture or your local conservation district. Information is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs> or <http://www.ms.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>



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