

SOUTH BRANCH ROOT RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT

Financial Assistance Programs

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLANS

The purpose of this program is to develop Woodland Stewardship Plans for woodland owners. Stewardship Plans give landowners management options to achieve the goals that they have for their wooded acres. Common goals and benefits from woodlands include income from forest products, improved water quality, wildlife habitat, and landscape beauty. Grant funds cover the cost of developing the Forest Stewardship Plan with the MN Department of Natural Resources.



- **Over 9% of the 74,000-acre South Branch Root River Watershed Project area is in forest, most of which is in the eastern, steeper part of the project area. Most of the forest lands in the watershed are privately owned and managed.**
- **The forested areas of the watershed have some of the greatest biodiversity of any area in the state of Minnesota.**
- **Besides being a long-term source of income for a landowner, forests provide soil erosion protection, wildlife habitat, air quality benefits, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity.**

- Landowners are eligible to receive a Woodland Stewardship Plan at no charge written by a qualified contractor. Plans consist of general woodland management information and property-specific management recommendations.
- Woodlots of 20 acres or more are eligible for the funds. Exceptions for smaller areas are made on an individual basis.
- Woodland Stewardship Plans can be developed for non-pastured forest or grassland. Cropland or pasture may be included if the landowner plans to remove those acres from production. Cropland of over 14% slope which was once forest land is a high priority for this program. Soils formed under forests tend to be more highly erodible.
- The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) may provide additional financial assistance for implementing a forest stewardship plan.

Project Sponsors:

Fillmore County

Mower County

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