

Sewee Longleaf Conservation Cooperative

Landowner Cost-Share and Assistance Programs

Incentives are great tools for landowners to offset the long-term investment in timber. Incentives can include cost-share payments or annual payments for land management practices implemented on the land or can even be provided to the landowner through purchased conservation easements. There are many agencies that provide free forest management and cost-share assistance. Below you will find a brief overview of each program available to landowners interested in establishing and maintaining longleaf. Each agency or organization may have one or several staff contacts depending on the county where your land is located. On the last page, you will find the contact information these staff and the counties they service.

South Carolina Forestry Commission

Program Name: Forest Renewal Program

What it pays for: Establishing and managing non-industrial private forests. Site prep and tree planting on previous agricultural or forested land. Timber stand improvement.

How much: Up to 40% or statewide avg. cost.

What's the catch? Landowner cannot have the same acres of land under another program in given FY. Area must be between 10 -100 acres. Practice must be maintained for 10 years or until commercial harvest. Otherwise landowner must repay all cost-share received.

Deadline to apply: Early to mid May. Funds become available July 1.

Website: <https://www.scfc.gov/management/landowner-services/cost-share-programs/>

Program Name: Southern Pine Beetle Program

What it pays for: Mitigation from future loss from SPB through pre-commercial thinning (PCT) and planting. Planting practices allow loblolly to be planted at 484 tpa, or 9x10 spacing, longleaf at 545 tpa, or 8x10 spacing.

How much: Up to \$10,000. PCT 60% of cost up to \$94/acre. Planting 50% of state wide avg. cost.

What's the catch? Planting: minimum 300 stems/acre must be present after first growing season. Open land planting and hardwood stand conversion not allowed.

Deadline to apply: Early to mid May. Funds become available July 1

Website: <https://www.scfc.gov/management/landowner-services/cost-share-programs/>

Program Name: Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Program

What it pays for: Prescribed fire, mechanical fuel management, fire break installation.

How much: First-timers funded at 100% for firebreak installation and burning, second-timers funded at 50% for burning, and 100% for firebreak installation. Third-timers funded only for fire break installation, no coverage for prescribed fire.

What's the catch? Tract must be located near at-risk community that has completed a Wildfire Risk Assessment with a rating of moderate or higher and is comprised of at least 10 houses within sight of one another. Treated area must be within 1.5 miles of the assessed at-risk community.

Deadline to apply: None.

Website: <https://www.scfc.gov/protection/fire-prevention/wildland-urban-interface/>



USDA Farm Service Agency

Program name: Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

What it pays for: Pine and hardwood planting, thinning, prescribed burning, native grass planting, permanent wildlife habitat establishment, riparian buffers, field borders, filter strips and wildlife opening establishment.

How much: Up to a 50% flat rate cost share for eligible costs and annual/acre rental payments

What's the catch? Contract period is 10-15 years.

Deadline to apply: None.

Website: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/conservation/conservation-reserve-program>

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Program Name: Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

What it pays for: Available to all producers to promote practices that help conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. See handout and ask Kelli!

How much: Depends on practice, minimum annual payment of \$1,500.

What's the catch? Contract period is typically 5 years. Must be managed according to a written forest management plan/stewardship plan with one or more improvements being made to the forest in last 10 years

Website: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/conservation-stewardship-program>

Program Name: Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

What it pays for: Covers prescribed burning, site preparation & tree planting, pre-commercial & commercial thinning, road stabilization and wildlife management practices.

How much: Landowners receive a pay rate based on 75% of the cost of installing the practice.

What's the catch? 2-year contract.

Deadline to apply: Applications are received on a continuous basis with special signup periods for certain initiatives.

Website: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/environmental-quality-incentives-program/south-carolina/environmental-quality>

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Program Name: Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Funding

What it pays for: Upland, wetland, or riparian habitat restoration or enhancement project activities that benefit federally listed threatened, endangered, or at-risk species on private, tribal, or local government owned lands.

How much: This program typically pays 50% cost-share on statewide average rates. Any non-USFWS funding and in-kind match accepted. Exceptional projects to target species may qualify for > 50% cost-share.

What's the catch? Landowners must commit to maintain the habitat for 10 years.

Deadline to apply: November 15th, if selected notifications will be made in April and funding will become available in August-September.

Website: <https://www.fws.gov/program/partners-fish-and-wildlife>

Program Name: South Carolina Longleaf Pine Habitat Improvement Initiative.

What it pays for: Restoration and enhancement of habitat for certain at-risk wildlife species. Activities include: hardwood/mid-story control, invasive species control, prescribed burning, native ground cover establishment, site preparation, longleaf pine planting.

How much: This program typically pays 50% cost-share on statewide average rates up to \$25,000. Non-federal funding and in-kind match accepted. Projects determined to have exceptional benefits to target species may qualify for greater than 50% cost-share.

What's the catch? Landowners must commit to maintain the habitat for 10 years.

Deadline to apply: None



The Longleaf Alliance

Program Name: Planting fund

What it pays for: Cost of seedlings

How much: \$0.21 per seedling

What's the catch? Landowners must commit to maintain stand for 10 years

Deadline to apply: March 1 – June 1

Website: <https://longleafalliance.org/what-we-do/longleaf-assistance/>

Program Name: SLCC Cost-Share Program

What it pays for: prescribed fire, midstory control, Silvopasture/Forest Grazing: burning, fencing, collars

How much: \$20/ac for burning, \$75/ac for midstory control, Forest Grazing: \$15/ac burning, up to \$2.50/ft fencing, up to \$200 E-collars, 50% cost-share.

What's the catch? Landowners must commit to maintain stand for 5 years

Deadline to apply: No deadline, open enrollment

Website: <https://longleafalliance.org/what-we-do/longleaf-assistance/>

Sewee Longleaf Conservation Cooperative Program Contact Information:

South Carolina Forestry Commission:

Forest Renewal and Southern Pine Beetle Program:

Charleston and Berkeley Counties: Sam Muckenfuss, CMuckenfuss@scfc.gov, 843-701-0346

Georgetown County: Tonya Smith, tsmith@scfc.gov, 843-382-8761

Williamsburg County: Sean Whalen, Swhalen@scfc.gov, 843-382-8761

Wildland Urban Interface Program:

All Counties: Wade Truesdale, Wtruesdale@scfc.gov, 803-259-3373

USDA Farm Service Agency:

Charleston and Berkeley Counties: Keshia Smith, Keshia.Smith@usda.gov, 843-727-4160

Georgetown County: Sandra Beck, Sandra.Beck@usda.gov, 843-546-7616

Williamsburg County: James Dukes, James.Dukes@usda.gov, 843-354-9621

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Charleston and Berkeley Counties: Ashleigh James, Ashleigh.James@usda.gov, 843-727-4160 Ext. 108

Georgetown County: Rebecca Harper, Rebecca.Harper@usda.gov, 843-546-7808 Ext. 129

Williamsburg County: Jeremy Munn, Jeremy.Munn@usda.gov, 843-354-9622 Ext. 114

US Fish and Wildlife Service:

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Funding & South Carolina Longleaf Pine Habitat Improvement Initiative.

All Counties: Sudie Thomas, Sudie.Thomas@fws.gov, 843-996-0528

The Longleaf Alliance:

All Counties: Jennie Haskell, Jennie@longleafalliance.org, 864-710-8089

