



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://www.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://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/CSP>



CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

- 20 acre minimum for permanent easement or an entire farm field currently enrolled in federal CREP and within the 100 year floodplain of the Illinois and Kaskaskia River watersheds.
- Management plan is recommended but not required. Landowner should follow guidelines of the Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO).
- Landowners should follow the guidelines of the CREP easement and any management plan they have in place.
- Cost share is available on cropped acres.
- Preferential tax assessment may be available by completing the P-TAX-337-R and sending to IDNR for approval. Property tax can be reduced to 8.33% FMV in counties with population less than 200,000, 25% FMV in counties over 200,000.
- CREP is offered as either a 15 or 35 year extension of a federal CREP contract, or as a permanent easement which can include additional non-cropped acres.
- CREP extensions and permanent easements run with the land. Release from the program is not authorized.
- Legal access is required, no public access allowed.
- For more information, please visit: <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/crep>

