

Florida's Future Forests Program 2026

Request for Applications



**Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Florida Forest Service**



**WILTON SIMPSON
COMMISSIONER**

**RICK DOLAN
DIRECTOR**



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Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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Wilton Simpson
COMMISSIONER

Florida's Future Forests Program
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE

2026

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Florida Forest Service (FFS) hereby provides notice of the Florida's Future Forest Program (FFFP) 2026 funding opportunity. Eligible applicants must submit an application response as specified herein.

Total funding available for distribution is up to \$4,000,000. All awarded projects must be completed by April 30, 2027. Failure to complete all projects by the deadline may result in loss of eligibility for reimbursement. Contract extensions may be considered and evaluated based on availability of funds.

PART I – General Information

- **For questions about this program and how to apply, please contact Gregory Marshall at (850) 545-6194** . Completed applications must be submitted to the CRM Portal by a FFS County Forester or FDACS designee no later than **3:00 PM Eastern Time (ET) on March 27, 2026**. **Applications will not be accepted by mail or e-mail.**
- Practices conducted prior to contract execution will **NOT** be eligible for reimbursement.
- To initiate the application process, the landowner, or an authorized representative of the landowner (e.g. a forestry consultant or someone with Power of Attorney), **must** contact the FFS County Forester assigned to the county where the property is located <https://www.fdacs.gov/CountyForester>.
- An entity/landowner may only submit one (1) application. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in non-award of any application.
- Applicants must follow this Request for Applications (RFA) outline and complete all items in their entirety. Failure to follow this outline or not include all requested information or supporting documentation will result in the applicant's proposal considered incomplete and ineligible for funding consideration.
- If an applicant is selected for funding but part or all the project acreage is found to be enrolled in another state or federally funded cost-share program, the application will be considered ineligible, and the award will be rescinded.
- Non-Industrial Private Landowners are defined as any private individual, group, association, or corporation that does not operate a mill (wood-using entity), has publicly traded stock, or other private legal entity that has definitive decision-making authority. over land which is not a wood-using entity.
- **Landowners who are private citizens and are unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization are required to register a substitute W-9 with the State of Florida, Department of Financial Services prior to receiving a contract or payment through the Florida's Future Forests Program (FFFP).**Landowners who anticipate multiple payments through the FFFP Landowner Incentive Program; or is an incorporated group, association, corporation, county or local government; or a legally organized and registered non-profit organization, entity, or institution are required, in addition to registering a substitute W-9 with the State of Florida, Department of Financial Services to have: registration with the State of Florida, Department of Management Services, MyFloridaMarketPlace To register with the MyFloridaMarketPlace visit <https://vendor.myfloridamarketplace.com/>, if applicable.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION:

The application process is comprised of the following general steps in order:

1. The landowner, or an authorized representative of the landowner, will contact the appropriate FFS County Forester to express their intention to apply for the program and to provide all required applicant information as defined below.
2. The FFS County Forester or a FDACS designee will schedule and conduct a site visit to determine the eligibility of the property according to the rules of the program and to verify which practices, if any, are appropriate for the site.
3. Following the site visit, the FFS County Forester or a FDACS designee will confirm with the landowner (or the landowner's authorized representative) the acreage and practices the landowner is applying for through the program.
4. The FFS County Forester or a FDACS designee will use the required applicant information supplied by the landowner (or the landowner's authorized representative) and information collected during their site visit to create a new application record and to generate ATTACHMENT A using the FFS Customer Relationship Management (CRM) online portal.
5. The FFS County Forester or a FDACS designee will sign the completed ATTACHMENT A document and send it to the landowner (or the landowner's authorized representative). Once reviewed and signed by the landowner (or the landowner's authorized representative), a copy of the fully signed ATTACHMENT A document will be submitted to the FFS County Forester or the FDACS designee who signed ATTACHMENT A.
6. The FFS County Forester or a FDACS designee will upload the fully signed ATTACHMENT A document, stand map, and certification of substitute W9 into the FFS CRM online portal, completing the application process. Once all required applicant information and a fully signed ATTACHMENT A is uploaded into the FFS CRM online portal, the application is considered complete and submitted.

REQUIRED APPLICATION ELEMENTS:

The FFS County Forester or FDACS designee will submit the completed application before the established **March 27, 2026, 3:00 PM Eastern Time (ET) deadline**. Only applications received by the FFS County Forester or FDACS designee prior to this deadline will be considered complete and eligible for review.

A complete application is comprised of five (5) components. Required Applicant Information, the Budget Worksheet (ATTACHMENT A), Stand Map and Certification of the Substitute W9. All components must be complete and entered into the FFS CRM online portal by the FFS County Forester or FDACS designee prior to the established application deadline. Only applications entered into the FFS CRM prior to the deadline will be considered complete and eligible. Failure to provide the information below will result in the application being considered incomplete and ineligible:

- 1) **Required: Applicant Information** – the following information about the applicant is required and must be submitted to the FFS County Forester or FDACS designee by the landowner or their authorized representative:
 - a. Applicant Name
 - b. Name and Title of Contact Person
 - c. Applicant Mailing (IRS) Address

- d. Preferred Phone Number
- e. Applicant Social Security Number (SSN) or FEID Number
- f. Notification of whether Applicant is a not-for-profit corporation pursuant to Chapter 617, Florida Statutes
- g. Property Location – (County, Latitude, and Longitude)
- h. Applicant Email Address – if a landowner does not have an email address all correspondence will be through phone and mail.

2) Required: [Budget Worksheet \(ATTACHMENT A\)](#) – this form must be completed by the FFS County Forester or a FDACS designee. Completed budget worksheets must be signed (typed or written) by both the applicant and FFS Forester or FDACS designee. If awarded, the project budget requires strict adherence. Deviation from the approved project budget requires FDACS' prior written approval at least 60 days before the end of the contract period. The ATTACHMENT A form must have the following components to be considered complete:

- a. Landowner Information: name, address, phone number, and email address (if applicable).
- b. Property Information: county, latitude, and longitude
- c. Practice Information: practice type, acres to be treated, maximum cost-share payment rate, and payment initially requested. If requesting payment for pine seedlings, species, and seedling type (Part III, Section Fe), the number of seedlings and trees per acre are also required fields.
- d. FFS County Forester or FDACS designee signature: the completed form must be signed by the FFS County Forester or FDACS designee in the "INITIAL PROJECT APPROVAL" section.
- e. Landowner Signature: the completed form must be signed by the landowner (or authorized landowner representative).

3) Required: Stand Map which meets all requirements established in [ATTACHMENT C](#).

4) Certification of a Florida Substitute W-9 form.

Verification of submission of a Florida Substitute W-9 is required for successful applicants prior to receiving a contract. The information included on the Florida Substitute W-9 must match the information submitted on Attachment A. Directions for submitting a Florida Substitute W-9 are as follows:

To process your application and reimburse you under this agreement, the State of Florida – Department of Financial Services requires a completed Substitute W-9 be submitted. An online version can be completed securely at: <https://flvendor.myfloridacfo.com>.

At that website, follow the below procedure:

- Click where it says, "Not Registered? Click Here to Register"
- Enter your name and contact information, enter a password of your choice, and click "Register."
- An email will be sent to you along with a User ID and instructions on how to enter the W-9 information.
- Return again to the website at <https://flvendor.myfloridacfo.com>, and click where it says, "Click Here to Sign On."
- Enter your User ID from the email and the password that you chose and click "Sign-On."
- Click where it says, "Form W-9 Main Menu", and follow the directions to enter your W-9 information. A second email will be sent to you, confirming that you have successfully completed the form.

In the event assistance is needed, a brief tutorial on how to use the website can be found at myfloridacfo.com/Video/AandA/W9OnlineTraining.mp4

A sample Florida Substitute W-9 verification e-mail is included as ATTACHMENT F. Instructions for filing this information are referenced above.

For questions regarding W-9 requirements or if you are unable to submit this information online, please contact the Vendor Management Section at (850) 413-5519 or via email at: FLW9@myfloridacfo.com.

Note: in order to ensure that all future correspondence and/or payment information is accurately mailed , please be sure that the name and address listed on your Substitute W-9 form entered online at <https://flvendor.myfloridacfo.com> match your application form AND your information on file with the IRS.

- 5) **Required, if applicable: MyFloridaMarketPlace vendor registration.** Applicants who are non-private citizen entities must register with the State of Florida, MyFloridaMarketPlace e-Procurement system Vendor Information Portal (VIP). Information on registering with the MyFloridaMarketPlace VIP is available at https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/myfloridamarketplace/mfmp_vendors/requirements_for_vendor_registration

THE RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IN RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS DOES NOT IMPLY OR GUARANTEE THAT ANY ONE OR ALL QUALIFIED APPLICANTS WILL BE AWARDED OR RESULT IN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES.

NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER

GRANT AWARDS HEREUNDER ARE NOT PURCHASES OF SERVICES OR COMMODITIES GOVERNED BY CHAPTER 287, FLORIDA STATUTES. GRANT AWARDS, IF ANY, WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT AS DESCRIBED IN THIS NOTICE. THE DEPARTMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO OFFER GRANT AWARDS FOR LESS THAN THE AMOUNT REQUESTED BY APPLICANTS AS IT DEEMS NECESSARY AND IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND THE DEPARTMENT. THE RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IN

RESPONSE TO THIS NOTICE OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DOES NOT IMPLY OR GUARANTEE THAT ANY ONE OR ALL QUALIFIED APPLICANTS WILL BE AWARDED OR RESULT IN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES.

THIS IS NOT A COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION SUBJECT TO THE NOTICE OR CHALLENGE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 120.57(1) AND 120.57(3), FLORIDA STATUTES.

For questions on how to apply, please contact Greg Marshall by phone at (850) 545-6194.

Applicant Checklist

Applicant Checklist	
1.	The Request for Applications (RFA) has been read in its entirety.
2.	<p>Required Applicant Information</p> <p>Applicant name</p> <p>Contact person name and title</p> <p>Applicant's complete IRS mailing address, including street address, city, state, zip code; telephone number; email address</p> <p>Applicant's SSN or FEID</p> <p>Applicant's property location including, county, latitude, longitude.</p> <p>Note: (The FFS County Forester or a FDACS designee will submit the required applicant information.)</p> <p><i>All future correspondence will be sent to the contact person listed in the application.</i></p>
3.	The Applicant and General Agreement Instructions have been thoroughly reviewed (PART III).
4.	Project Budget Worksheet (ATTACHMENT A) – Applicants must notify the FFS County Forester or FDACS designee of the program practices they wish to include in their application. The FFS Forester or FDACS designee will submit a signed copy of Attachment A. The ATTACHMENT A form must be completed in its entirety, unaltered in format or content, and signed by both the applicant or representative and FFS County Forester or FDACS designee in the Initial Project Approval section.
5.	Applicants should begin reviewing the attached draft agreement (ATTACHMENT B. STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT AGREEMENT) through their agent or entity to expedite the contractual requirements. The final agreement for successful projects will be emailed to the applicant via DocuSign following final approval by FDACS. If an email address is not provided the agreement will be mailed to the address listed in the application.
6.	Map Preparation Guidelines (ATTACHMENT C) for practice mapping have been reviewed. These are required mapping standards for successful applicants.
7.	Stand Map – Indicating all practices to be completed in accordance with the Map Preparation Guidelines. The FFS County Forester or FDACS designee will submit completed map(s).
8.	Verification that Florida Substitute W-9 has been submitted electronically. The W-9 address must match the ATTACHMENT A mailing (IRS) address.

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Wilton Simpson
COMMISSIONER

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION

Florida's Future Forests Program

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE

PART III – Instructions to Applicants and General Agreement Instructions

A. INTRODUCTION

The Florida Future Forests Program aims to provide targeted pine seedling planting on appropriate lands within the state to enhance the capacity of Florida's forests to provide a multitude of ecosystem services and future raw materials for the forest industry.

The program is intended to target lands that once had forests or are capable of growing forests but are not currently forested. This includes areas that might have been converted to farm or pastureland, burned by forest fires, cut-over, harvested, or damaged by hurricanes.

B. PURPOSE

The primary objective of the Florida Future Forests Program is to promote tree planting and site preparation practices to ensure the long-term viability of Florida's forest lands and their associated ecological and economic value. To achieve this goal, qualified applicants can receive cost share reimbursement payments for conducting certain approved forest management practices that establish new forest stands and increase the state's forested acreage. The program will seek to provide intangible social, cultural, civic, and work force benefits generated by forests and forest industry.

The program's public outreach will seek to engage agricultural, silvicultural, and environmental stakeholders as well as local governments, non-profit, and community organizations.

C. SCOPE

The FFS will use these program funds by providing cost share reimbursement payments to qualified applicants to encourage implementation of approved tree establishment practices including site preparation, seedling purchase, and planting. This program is administered by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Florida Forest Service (FFS) and is funded by the State of Florida.

Project deliverables (practices) must be completed by April 30, 2027. Failure to complete deliverables by the deadline may result in loss of eligibility for reimbursement of those deliverables.

D. FUNDING SOURCE

Awards are solely funded through this program and are made available through the State of Florida. Payment will not exceed the lesser of the actual practice costs or the maximum reimbursement payment limits established for each practice or \$125,065.00 per agreement.

E. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicants

- a) To Qualify, applications are limited to non-industrial private landowners (any non-industrial private individual, group, association, corporation that is not a wood-using entity or has publicly traded stock or other private legal entity that has definitive decision-making authority over the land); a county or local government; or a legally organized and registered non-profit organization, entity, or institution submitting an application for state funds under this funding opportunity.
- b) Acreages enrolled in any other State or Federally funded cost-share program **ARE NOT** eligible for reimbursement under the Florida's Future Forests Program. Examples of other State or Federal cost-share programs include but are not limited to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Southern Pine Beetle Assistance and Prevention Program (SPB), Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP), Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), previous offerings of the Florida's Future Forests Program, or the Hurricane Idalia Silviculture Recovery Program. Any programs that prohibit receipt of cost-share funding from more than one source for the same acreage, are not eligible for treatment under this program. Same acreage enrolled in an executed and active contract under the Florida's Future Forests Program or the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program is ineligible for this application cycle.
- c) The number of applications for the Florida's Future Forest Program is limited to one (1) per applicant/entity per funding cycle. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in non-award of any applicant.
- d) Applicants may request funding for site preparation and tree establishment practices on a minimum of 10 acres up to a maximum of 250 acres.
- e) The Social Security Number (SSN) or Federal Employer Identification number (FEID) will be used to identify applicants.
- f) At least one telephone number must be given on the application form.
- g) If applicable, at a minimum, proposals must provide documented approval/support for the location of the reforestation area obtained from applicable permitting/approval entities such as county or city commission, local zoning/land use board, local environmental protection agency and/or conservation agency, and other stakeholders as required for the parcel.
- h) All non-profit organizations applying for funding must have practices performed on privately owned lands.
- i) Applicants who owe the FDACS money pursuant to a Final Order, fire suppression bill, or other bill or debt are not eligible to receive funding.

2. Sites

Private, non-profit entity, and local government lands are eligible applicant sites. State and Federal lands are ineligible.

3. Practices and Cost Share Reimbursement Rates

Florida applicants who meet all eligibility and program requirements may apply to receive a cost share reimbursement payment for successful completion of certain approved practices on up to a total of 250 acres. Payment will be made at a standard, specified rate for each practice, or at cost if below the standard rate. Submission of written documentation (e.g., receipts, invoices) of costs incurred is required for all practices.

Florida's Future Forests Program 2026

Cost share reimbursement rates for this program are as follows:

- a) Prescribed Burning Site Preparation - \$30/acre.
- b) Mechanical Site Preparation (all combined) - \$150/acre.
- c) Chemical Site Preparation - \$115/acre.
- d) Planting (machine or hand methods) - \$60/acre.
- e) Containerized Pine Seedlings - \$180/1,000 seedlings.
- f) Bareroot Pine Seedlings - \$60/1,000 seedlings.

4. Other Special Requirements

- a) Forester Preparation and Certification - the applicant should contact their FFS County Forester or a natural resource professional of his/her choice to prepare practice recommendations and/or receive assistance with creating a tract map. See [ATTACHMENT C for Map Preparation Guidelines](#) regarding requirements for tract maps. Maps of poor quality or that do not conform to all required map standards outlined in ATTACHMENT C may not be accepted. The applicant must request a tract visit from their FFS County Forester to verify that the stand conditions meet the specific requirements for the proposed treatment, and that the treatment proposed is necessary and feasible. Both the FFS County Forester or FDACS designee and the applicant sign ATTACHMENT A under the section labeled "Initial Project Approval." The FFS County Forester or FDACS designee will generate Attachment A and upload the provided information through the FFS CRM to complete the application.
- b) Successful applicants will be required to sign an agreement (**ATTACHMENT B, STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT AGREEMENT**). Funding under this program will not be awarded until an agreement has been fully executed between FDACS and the applicant. The agreement will specify the responsibilities of the applicant, a schedule, and the terms of payment for the project. **DO NOT BEGIN ANY ON THE GROUND PRACTICES UNTIL AFTER ALL PARTIES HAVE SIGNED THE AGREEMENT.**
- c) Acreages enrolled in any other State or Federally funded cost-share program ARE NOT eligible for reimbursement under the RESTORE Landowner Incentive Program. Examples of other State or Federal cost-share programs include but are not limited to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Southern Pine Beetle Assistance and Prevention Program (SPB), Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP), Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), previous offerings of the Florida's Future Forests Program, or the Hurricane Idalia Silviculture Recovery Program. Any programs that prohibit receipt of cost-share funding from more than one source for the same acreage are not eligible for treatment under this program. Same acreage enrolled in an executed and active contract under the Florida's Future Forests Program or the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program is ineligible for this application cycle.

F. PRACTICE CATEGORIES

There are three practice categories:

1. Site Preparation
 - (a) Prescribed Burning – Can be used to clear logging debris from the planting site or as a control method of grasses and woody vegetation that competes with the pine seedlings.
 - (b) Mechanical – Any mechanical treatment to remove woody debris, vegetative competition, or preparing the soil for pine seedling establishment. Examples would be

- root raking, subsoiling, bedding, scalping, shearing, or any other activity approved by the FFS County forester.
- (c) Chemical – Herbicide treatment to control the competition of grasses and woody shrubs and bushes from the pine seedlings.
2. Planting
- (a) Machine – Planting method used with a wheeled tractor or crawler.
 - (b) Hand – Planting method used by an individual with a dibble, hoedad, or shovel.
3. Seedlings (425–807 trees per acre) - **longleaf pine, loblolly pine, slash pine and/or sand pine.**
- (a) Containerized – Pine seedlings that are grown in soil plugs and shipped with soil formed around the roots.
 - (b) Bareroot – Pine seedlings that contain no soil around their roots when shipped.

Category 1: Site Preparation, including prescribed burning, mechanical, and chemical:

Site preparation **must** be deemed necessary by the FFS County Forester or FDACS designee to improve the survival and growth of planted seedlings. Site preparation practices eligible for reimbursement include prescribed burning, mechanical, and chemical control of competing vegetation. Applicants may apply for multiple practices on the same acreage.

- (a) Prescribed burning can be used to clear logging debris from the planting site or as a control method for grasses and woody vegetation when deemed appropriate and approved by a FFS Forester or designee. Where possible, debris piles should be used instead of windrows. Prescribed burning must be done in accordance with Chapter 590, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 5I-2, Florida Administrative Code, local laws, regulations, and burning restrictions. A burning authorization must be received from the FFS before any burn may be conducted.
- (b) Mechanical site preparation includes root raking, bedding, shearing, or any other activity approved by the FFS County Forester or designee to remove large woody debris that causes restrictions on the other site preparation practices or prepare the soil for pine seedling establishment. This can also be used for the removal of competitive species that are not affected by other site preparation methods.
- (c) Chemical site preparation is herbicide treatment prior to pine seedling planting to reduce competition of grasses and woody vegetation to improve pine seedling growth and survival. This is recommended where prescribed burning is a more restrictive option. To ensure effectiveness, the following conditions should be met:
 - i) The landowner should contact an herbicide applicator to determine the appropriate herbicide, application rate, and timing of application to use for the site. The FFS can provide a list of herbicide applicators in the area.
 - ii) The applicator must apply the treatment consistently with all label requirements. Consideration should be given to maintaining soil productivity, preventing erosion, and minimizing costs and following Best Management Practices (BMPs):
<https://www.fdacs.gov/Forest-Wildfire/Silviculture-Best-Management-Practices/Florida-Forestry-Wildlife-Best-Management-Practices-for-State-Imperiled-Species>.

Category 2: Planting, both hand and mechanical methods:

- (a) Machine-planting method is used with a wheeled or tracked machine. This category includes any mechanical planting method, such as v-blade planting.

- (b) Hand-planting method used by an individual with a dibble or other hand tool.
- (c) Seedlings must be planted to the following standards to encourage good survival and growth:
 - i) Furrow or planting bar depth must be appropriate for the seedlings.
 - ii) The seedlings must be planted upright.
 - iii) The roots must be vertical with no "U" or "J" rooting.
 - iv) Seedlings must be packed tightly in the soil so they cannot be moved by pulling upward on the top needles or leaves.
 - v) Planting density must be between 425 and 807 trees per acre to receive a cost share reimbursement payment.
 - vi) The applicant must notify the FFS County Forester or designee when planting begins and is completed. The FFS will coordinate a planting check within three weeks after planting has begun.

Category 3: Seedling types, including species selection:

- (a) The only species allowed to be planted through this program will be Longleaf Pine, Loblolly Pine, Slash Pine, and Sand Pine.
 - Containerized Pine Seedlings are grown in soil plugs and shipped with soil formed around the roots.
 - Bareroot Pine Seedlings contain no soil around their roots when shipped.

G. SELECTION CRITERIA

The following criteria must be met before the application may be determined eligible for selection:

1. Required Applicant Information
2. Project Budget Worksheet (ATTACHMENT A)
3. Stand Map
4. Substitute W9

Completed applications must have been submitted by an FFS Forester to the FFS CRM no later than 3:00 PM E.T. on March 27, 2026. For questions on how to apply contact Gregory Marshall at (850) 545-6194.

Practices conducted prior to contract execution will NOT be eligible for reimbursement. Service dates of practices must be included on invoices submitted for reimbursement.

All applications received that have all required documents uploaded in the CRM, during the sign-up period will be evaluated to determine which applications (those meeting the practice criteria listed in Section F, Practice Categories) can be approved with the available funds. Applications will be prioritized for funding based upon the species to plant, practices to be funded, planting acreage, and prior participation in the Florida's Future Forests program. The Program is supported by limited funding and such funding will be allocated based on the scoring system below.

Project ranking will be as follows:

1) Species

- (a) Longleaf Pine & Slash Pine (10)
- (b) Loblolly Pine (8)
- (c) Sand Pine (4)

2) Practices to be Funded

- (a) Burning Site Prep, Seedlings and Planting (17)
- (b) Seedlings and Planting (15)
- (c) Chemical Site Prep, Burning Site Prep, Seedlings and Planting (12)
- (d) Chemical Site Prep, Seedlings and Planting (10)
- (e) Mechanical Site Prep, Chemical Site Prep, Burning Site Prep, Seedlings and Planting (7)
- (f) Mechanical Site Prep, Burning Site Prep, Seedlings and Planting (7)
- (g) Mechanical Site Prep, Chemical Site Prep, Seedlings and Planting (5)
- (h) Mechanical Site Prep, Seedlings and Planting (5)

3) Planting Acreage

- (a) 10-100 (3)
- (b) 101-200 (2)
- (c) 201-250 (1)

4) Prior Participation in Florida's Future Forests Program

- (a) The Applicant has never participated or received payment through the program before (10)
- (b) The Applicant had an executed contract through the program under a RFA dated September 3, 2021, or July 15, 2022 (6)
- (c) The Applicant had an executed contract through the program under a RFA dated January 23, 2023, or July 20, 2023 (4)
- (d) The Applicant had an executed contract through the program under a RFA dated July 24, 2024 (1)
- (e) The Applicants have an active executed contract through the program under a RFA dated February 4, 2025 (0)

The FFS will utilize a calculated point system to score each eligible application. Available points for each of the evaluation criteria are specified above in parentheses. The maximum number of points available is 40. **Applications will be ranked by their total calculated score.** Available funds will be awarded to the eligible applicant(s) receiving the highest score and will not exceed the maximum incentive payment limits established for each practice or \$125,065.00, whichever is less, per agreement. If funding is still available after being allocated to the highest scoring applicant(s), then the balance of any available funds will be allocated to the eligible applicant(s) receiving the next-highest score and will not exceed the maximum incentive payment limits established for each practice or \$125,065.00, whichever is less, per agreement. This process will continue until all available funds are

distributed.

In the event of a tie score among two or more eligible applicants, then the award will be determined by random order, as determined by the sequence generator provided at www.random.org, or a

substantially similar program. The eligible applicants with tied scores will be input into the sequence generator which will assign each of the eligible applicants a random number. The applicants assigned the highest number by the sequence generator will be ranked the highest among the applicants with tied scores.

H. REJECTION OF APPLICATION

The FFS will notify the applicant in writing explaining reason if the application is rejected, deemed ineligible for award, or if a submitted application cannot be approved due to insufficient funds.

FDACS reserves the right to recommend partial funding of applications, reject any or all applications, or waive minor irregularities when doing so would be in the best interest of the State of Florida. The FDACS may reject any application of an applicant whom FDACS determines is not able to meet the requirements of this RFA or the State Financial Assistance Recipient Agreement.

I. COST OF PREPARATION

FDACS is not liable for any costs incurred by an applicant in response to this RFA.

J. PROGRAM AGREEMENT

Funding under this program will not be awarded until a State Financial Assistance Recipient Agreement (ATTACHMENT B) has been fully executed between the FDACS and the applicant. Practices conducted prior to contract execution by both parties will NOT be eligible for reimbursement.

K. EXECUTION OF AGREEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS

Upon notification of an award, the following shall take place:

1. It will be the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the FDACS State Financial Assistance Recipient Agreement (ATTACHMENT B) is fully executed within a period of thirty (30) days upon receipt. Failure to comply with this schedule may result in the offer being withdrawn.
2. In the State Financial Assistance Recipient Agreement prepared between FDACS and the applicant, FDACS will set forth the following:
 - (a) Deliverable expectation of the practices to be conducted.
 - (b) The schedule and payment terms.
 - (c) The schedule and content of progress reports.
 - (d) Any penalties or actions that FDACS will take in the event of noncompliance. The methods to be used by FDACS to determine compliance with the terms of the agreement.

L. REVIEW OF PROJECTS IN PROGRESS AND UPON COMPLETION

After receiving written approval from FDACS, the applicant is responsible for seeing that the approved practice(s) are carried out according to all treatment and program requirements. Practices must be completed by April 30, 2027, and reimbursement paperwork received by the FFS State Office by May 14, 2027.

When practices are completed, the applicant must contact their FFS County Forester or designee to revisit the property (bringing the application form and maps) to verify that the practices were achieved

according to program requirements. The applicant must provide the FFS County Forester or FDACS

designee documentation **(original paid receipts and invoices signed & dated by applicant)** of all practice costs incurred, and service date of practices occurred with total costs clearly indicated. **The final reimbursement claim must be submitted by May 14, 2027.**

An FFS County Forester or a FDACS designee will continue to visit the property on a periodic basis until June 30, 2032. During this inspection, if the trees are cut down, harvested or otherwise intentionally destroyed within five years of planting, the applicant will be responsible for repaying the cost they were originally reimbursed.

M. OTHER SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Upon notification of an award and full execution and delivery of the State Financial Assistance Recipient Agreement, the following will take place:

1. Terms and conditions within the agreement and associated attachments will apply.
2. FDACS will have the right to access any books, documents, papers, and records of the recipients, which are directly pertinent to the agreement, for the purpose of making audit examinations, excerpts, and transcriptions.
3. The applicant will maintain books, records, and documents directly pertinent to the performance under this agreement in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles consistently applied. The State of Florida, FDACS or their authorized representatives will have access to such records for audit purposes during the term of the agreement and for five (5) years following the agreement termination date or date of final payment, whichever is later. If an audit, litigation, or other action involving the records is started before the end of the five-year period, the records must be retained until all issues arising out of the action are resolved, or until the end of the five-year period, whichever is later.

N. METHOD OF REIMBURSEMENT

Payment will be made upon satisfactory completion of services, by state government warrant. If payment was received or will be received from another State or Federal cost share program in violation of the Eligibility Requirements set forth in Part III, Section E.1.(b), the contract payment will be voided.

Invoices must be submitted in sufficient detail, to allow for a proper pre-audit and post-audit thereof, to the FFS contract manager. Payments will be made upon satisfactory delivery of items and receipt of paid invoices. Service dates of practices must be included on invoices submitted for reimbursement. Payment will be made, based on the award amount and successfully delivered items. For non-private citizen entities, up to two reimbursement payments may be requested by the applicant during the specified contract period, however, each approved practice may only be included on one (1) reimbursement payment request.

Payment shall be made in accordance with Section 215.422, Florida Statutes. Invoices shall be submitted as outlined in the resulting contract. Third party invoices should have all required elements as shown in [Attachment F- Example 3rd Party Invoice](#).

Recipients may choose to conduct a practice (in whole or in part) using their own resources, labor, and/or equipment, and thus may not receive a receipt or invoice from a contractor. In such cases, recipients are required to generate their own invoice and submit it at the time of project completion and may be required to provide additional substantiating evidence of such use of their own resources, labor, and/or equipment in connection with the project. See the example in [Attachment D- Template Invoice](#), which shall be used as a template.

O. KEY DATES

EVENT	DATE/TIME (ET)	LOCATION
Release of RFA	January 13, 2026	FDACS Grant Opportunities https://grants.fdacs.gov/
Last day for Inquiries to be received by FDACS	March 27, 2026 3:00 PM	Contact Gregory Marshall (850) 545-6194
Sealed Applications Submission Deadline	March 27, 2026 3:00 PM	Entered by Florida Forest Service County Forester or FDACS designee into FFS CRM online portal.
Award Notice	Anticipated April 13, 2026	Official Letters of Award or Non-award on official FDACS letterhead via U.S. mail.

P. SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Program Agreement And Conditions

Stand Maintenance Requirement: Forest stands established with funds from this program must be maintained for at least five (5) years following completion of the treatment. **If the trees are cut down, harvested, or otherwise intentionally destroyed within 5 years of planting, the applicant will be responsible for repaying the program the original cost which they were reimbursed.** A stand may not be cleared or intentionally destroyed within five years from the date of the funded treatment. The only exceptions to this requirement are for stands (or sections thereof) that are destroyed to suppress a spreading insect infestation, disease infection, wildfire, or other natural disaster that destroys the stand. This provision also applies to tree plantings that contained a sufficient number of live seedlings at the time of the first-year planting inspection check but were destroyed between the inspection check and the end of year five due to a pest infestation, fire or natural disaster. In such cases the applicant must acquire an on-site confirmation and authorization from a FFS County Forester or designee prior to harvest or stand conversion. Failure to abide by this requirement will result in the recapture of any cost share reimbursement payment.

Best Management Practices: The applicant and their contractors shall adhere to and implement all the best applicable management practices for silvicultural operations as outlined in the current Florida Silviculture Best Management Practices Manual.

Contracted Work: The applicant will be required to notify FFS of any subcontractors completing practices on their behalf as part of this agreement.

ATTACHMENT A – FFFP Project Budget Worksheet

Example ATTACHMENT A



WILTON SIMPSON
COMMISSIONER

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Florida Forest Service



Florida's Future Forests Program
Budget Worksheet 2025

LANDOWNER INFORMATION: (please print)

Name: Flint Fred
Last (or IRS name of entity) First MI.

Address: 1234 NW 5th Lane City: Bedrock State: Florida Zip: 31111

Property Name or LLC/Inc. Name: Flint Forest, LLC

Preferred Phone: (229) 555-5555 Applicant Email: flintrock@gmail.net

PROPERTY LOCATION: County: Baker Lat: 30.556 Long: -32.2741

PROJECT BUDGET:

Check Below	Practice	Trees Per Acre	Acres to be Treated	No. of seedlings to purchase	Maximum Cost-Share Payment Rate	Payment initially requested	CF Fill in this section after practice is completed			
							Total Acres Treated	No. of seedlings purchased	Total cost incurred	Final payment requested
	Burning Site Prep		10		\$30.00	\$300.00			\$0.00	\$0.00
	Mechanical Site Prep		10		\$150.00	\$1500.00			\$0.00	\$0.00
	Chemical Site Prep		10		\$112.50	\$1125.00			\$0.00	\$0.00
	Seedlings: <u>Oakland</u>	605	10	6050	\$150.00	\$907.50			\$0.00	\$0.00
	Planting Method: <u>Hand</u>		10		\$60.00	\$600.00			\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTALS: (Payment requested not to exceed \$118,375.00)							Planted acres 10 Total Payment: \$4432.50		Total Acres: _____ Total Cost Incurred: \$0.00 Total Final Payment: \$0.00	

Species to be planted: Longleaf Pine Planned time of treatment (month/yr): _____

Other Specifications: _____

*Attach to this application: (1) a tract map that meets ALL specifications and requirements listed in the Florida's Future Forests Program Map Preparation Guidelines booklet, Attachment C.

INITIAL PROJECT APPROVAL:

By signing this document, I certify that I have read and agree to all program requirements and covenants listed in the Request for Application for this program.

Participating Landowner: Signed: _____ Date: _____

FFS Forester Approval: Signed: _____ Date: _____

FFS Program Manager Approval: Signed: _____ Date: _____

CERTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE:

I hereby submit to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services my attached documentation of expenses incurred to complete the reforestation practice(s) on my property in accordance with program requirements and the completion summary table above.

Participating Landowner: Signed: _____ Date: _____

FFS Forester Approval: Signed: _____ Date: _____

*I certify that the practice has been completed according to program requirements, and that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge.

FFS Program Manager Approval: Signed: _____ Date: _____

PLACE HOLDER

ATTACHMENT C - Map Preparation Guidelines

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) administers a variety of forestry financial assistance programs for the benefit of private landowners in the state. To apply for a program, applicants must submit an application and other supporting documentation, including a map or maps of the property and/or practice area.

Applications without maps or with maps that do not sufficiently meet the requirements stated on the application risk being disqualified or delayed during the application approval process. Such a delay can result in a lack of funding for the applicant. Maps of poor quality or that do not conform to all required map standards outlined will not be accepted. If sub-standard maps are received, the FFS Forester or applicant will be notified and required to submit an acceptable map before the end of the sign-up period in order to be considered for the program.

To avoid disqualifications and delays, FFS Foresters are required to use a standardized map template that provides all the information required by the programs. This document has been developed to assist in the mapping component of the application and provide specific instructions, template, and tips and tricks during the mapping process. These mapping requirements apply to all maps for Florida Forest Service cost-share and incentive programs. These instructions assume the use of ESRI ArcMap version 10.4.

Cost-share and incentive program application maps will consist of an aerial image of the property, property boundary, practice area boundary, and a legend or labels that indicate the acreage and activity(ies) to be conducted. Maps prepared by non- FFS individuals (e.g., consulting foresters, landowners, etc.) must also conform to the guidelines stated below to ensure a smooth application process.

If a single map is used, it must include an aerial image of the property, property boundary, practice area boundary(s) and a legend or labels that indicate the acreage and activity(s) to be conducted. When using an aerial image, no fill patterns may be used for the property, stands, or practice area polygons. The symbology for the polygon outlines must be adjusted to plainly differentiate between the interior and exterior of each polygon. All stands and practice areas should be clearly labeled with an ID number and acreage, either on the map or in the legend.

If using two maps, they should consist of a Location/Overview map of the property and a Stand/Practice Area map. The Overview uses an aerial image to provide directions and access to the property and provides an unobstructed aerial view of the property. The Practice Area map shows the stands and practice areas pertinent to the cost-share or incentive program application, with NO AERIAL IMAGE. Fill patterns may be used to differentiate stands and practice areas. All stands and practice areas should be clearly labeled with an ID number and acreage, either on the map or in the legend.

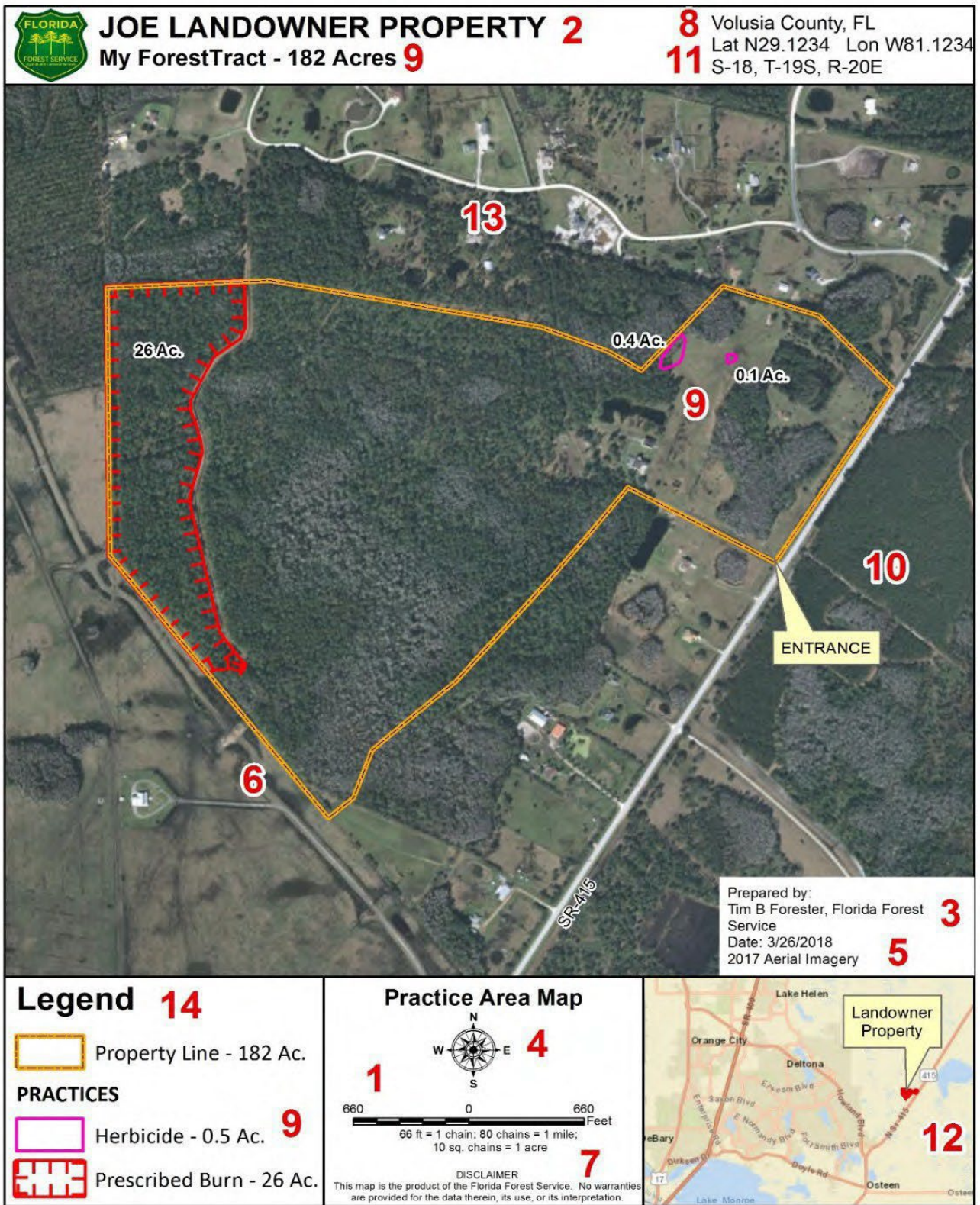
Required Mapping Elements

Sample maps are shown below with the required components numbered. Each component is discussed in more detail in a corresponding numbered paragraph. Although it is not necessary for a map to use the exact same format or “look” as the ones below, it must contain all of the following components:

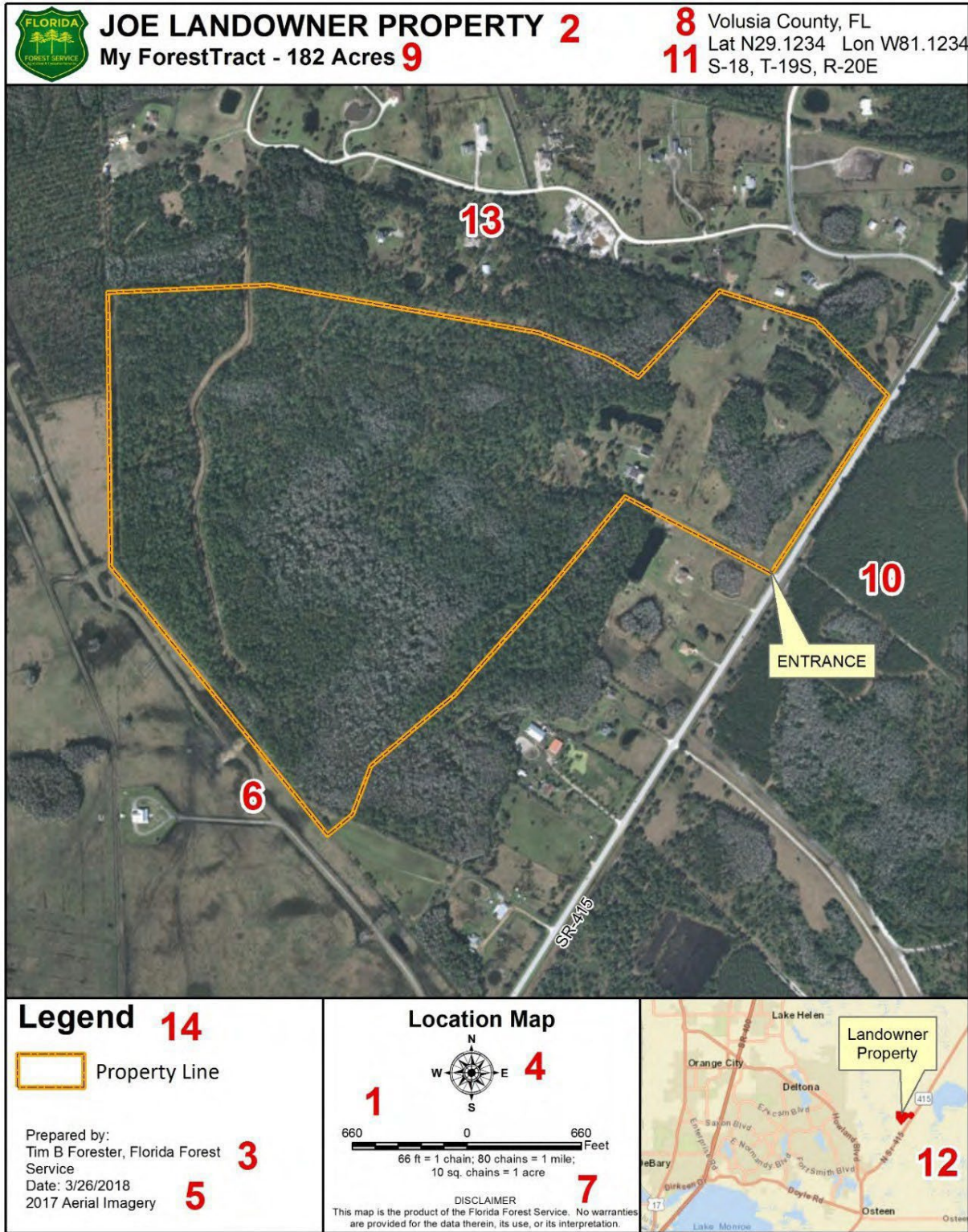
1. Scale - A map scale can be provided either as a graphic scale bar (as shown on the sample map) or as a ratio (e.g., 1:24,000). Most FFS programs do not require use of a specific scale provided that the scale is sufficient to show the property, practice area, and other important features clearly. *Note: When a ratio scale is used, any resizing of the map by fax or reproduction will nullify the ratio. It is therefore recommended to use the graphic scale bar which will be resized along with the map and remain relatively accurate.*
2. Title - Each map should have a title consisting of the applicant's name and tract name, if applicable.
3. Author - The identity of the map preparer must be included on the map. FFS Foresters should be identified by name. Initials may be used if the map is from a private source. This is important if questions arise about the map or if edits or additional information are required.
4. North Arrow - Most maps are oriented north-up. However, it is sometimes necessary for the map image to be rotated to fit it on the page. Because of this possibility, it is very important that each map contains a text or graphic symbol to indicate the direction of north.
5. Dates – All maps must include the date they were created. If digital imagery is used, the map should also include the source and year of the imagery (if known). Active management or natural disturbance can dramatically change the appearance of the landscape. This will provide valuable historical information about the management that has taken place on the property over time.
6. Property boundary - The property boundary need **not** be survey accurately. Property lines based on parcel data, ground reconnaissance or other credible sources are sufficient.
7. Disclaimer - Given the probability of property line error, all Florida Forest Service produced maps are required to have an approved disclaimer included on it. A basic disclaimer is included as part of the map templates provided by the CFA Section. Alternate versions may be found on the FFS GIS intranet site. Disclaimers are recommended but not required for maps produced by private sources.
8. County – Each map shall state the county in which the property is located. The county should be listed in the top right corner of the title bar along with the Lat/Lon and STR.
9. Acreage - Pertinent acreages should be included for property ownerships, stands, and / or practice areas shown on the map. Total property acreage shall be indicated in the title bar. Practice area and stand acreage should be listed in a Legend table and on the map. Acreages must match the acreage on the cost-share application form.
10. Access - Your map should show local roads used to gain access to the property and practice area. *Note: A person unfamiliar with that area of the state should be able to use the map to locate the property.*

11. Geographic location – Maps should include the Section(s), Township, and Range (STR) and the latitude and longitude (in decimal degrees) of the property. These will provide additional location information and will also be required to obtain any prescribed burn authorizations that may be needed for the property.
12. Location Map – All FFS programs require a location map, either as an inset map (as shown) or as a separate map, to aid in identifying the property location. The scale of the location map should be as large (zoomed in) as possible while still showing nearby landmarks such as cities or major highway intersections. Someone unfamiliar with that area of the state should be able to navigate to the practice area using the two maps. *Note: When using the two-map format, an inset map is not necessary on the Stand/Practice Area map.*
13. Aerial Imagery (Overview / Location Map only) – All FFS cost-share applications must include one map with an aerial image as a background. This image may be lightened or made semi-transparent to improve the visibility of other graphics and symbology but should still be clear enough to show the details of the landscape.
14. Stands or Practice Areas - Clearly delineate and label the stands or areas where proposed practices will be implemented. Practice areas should be delineated by their boundary only with no fill color or pattern. This will prevent the aerial image beneath from being obscured. Maps are often reproduced or copied in black and white so it is important to use colors and line patterns that will remain apparent after reproduction.
15. Legend – Clearly symbolize and label the stands or practice areas. Make sure stand and practice area acreages are clearly stated and correspond with the cost share application. If you create a map showing the stands, map all of them. The sum of all stands should equal the property acreage.

Sample Cost-share Application Map Single-Map Format

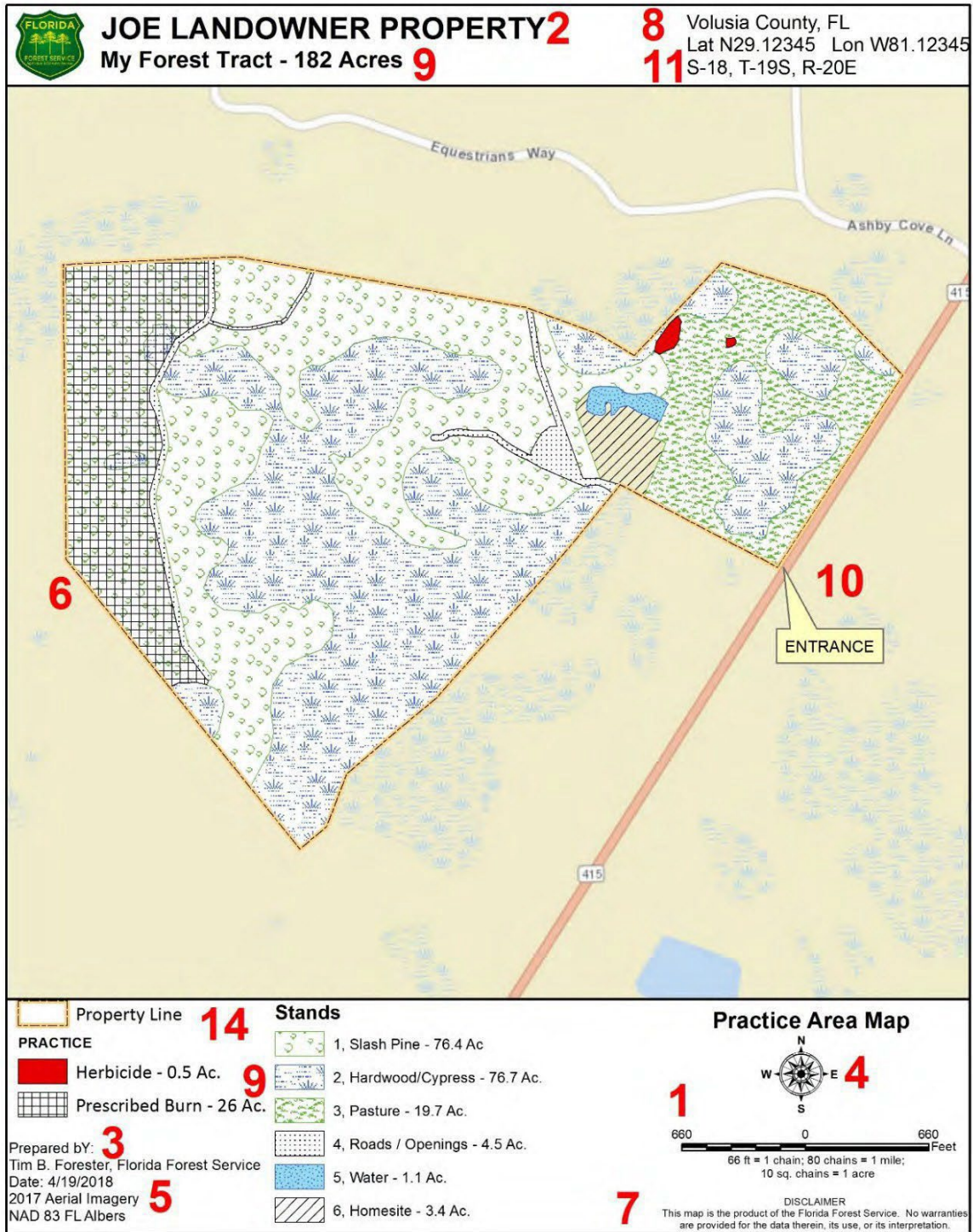


Sample Cost-share Application Map Two-Map Format



Sample Map #3 (Stand/Practice Map)

This map is an example of a Stand Map that also shows practice areas. The scale of your map will determine how small a polygon can be before it is better represented as a point. Each location should be labeled with its size. Total treatment acreage must match the acreage on the application.



ATTACHMENT D – Invoice Template for Practices Completed by Landowner

TEMPLATE INVOICE



Template invoice for documenting expenses when applicant conducts practice using own labor and/or equipment

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

Florida's Future Forests Program Contract Number: _____

Management practice(s) associated with this invoice: _____

Equipment Use

Date	Type of Equipment	Time		HR : MIN	Rate	Amount
		Start	End			

SUBTOTAL: \$ _____

Labor

Date	Name of Laborer	Time		HR : MIN	Rate	Amount
		Start	End			

SUBTOTAL: \$ _____

Fuel and Oil

Date	Type of fuel, oil, fluid, etc.	Gallons or quarts used	Rate	Amount

SUBTOTAL: \$ _____

Other Expenses

Date	Item	Units	Rate	Amount

SUBTOTAL: \$ _____

TOTAL ACRES TREATED: _____ **TOTAL EXPENSES: \$** _____

This invoice accurately represents the expenses I incurred during the implementation of the management practice(s) indicated above. I understand that invoices for additional work performed by contractors, the Florida Forest Service, or other entities, should also be submitted, if applicable.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

ATTACHMENT E – Sample Substitute W-9 Verification Document

Sample Florida Substitute W-9 Verification E-mail

--- Original message ---

Subject: State of FL Substitute Form W-9 for JOHN C. SMITH

From: FLW9@myfloridacfo.com

Date: Monday, June 21, 2024, 8:02

AM To:

johnsmith@emailprovider.com

Thank you for registering with the Florida Department of Financial Services (DFS). We received your completed Florida Substitute Form W-9. Information from this form was submitted to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) matching.

The results from the IRS Tin Matching show your IRS Name/TIN combination matches their records. Based on this match we have activated your Florida Substitute Form W-9. There are no further actions required at this time.

If you need to update your Florida Substitute Form W-9 for any of the following reasons, please return to the Florida Vendor Website:

- * You have a change in business designation (i.e., you incorporate your sole proprietorship).
- * You change your address, telephone number or e-mail address.
- * You are notified by the IRS that you are subject to backup withholding.
- * You add a Doing Business As (DBA) Name.

NOTE: If you change your TIN or sell or close your business, please contact the Vendor Management Section at (850) 413-5519 or FLW9@myfloridacfo.com. Please do not include Social Security Numbers in any emails sent to the Vendor Management Section.

Thank You

Vendor Management Section
Florida Department Of Financial Services
Phone: (850) 413-5519
Fax: (850) 413-5550
Email: FLW9@myfloridacfo.com

ATTACHMENT F - Example 3rd Party Invoice

INVOICE

DATE:
01/30/2024

TO: John Pinetree
89 Gulf Ave
Tallahassee, FL 55555
123-456-7890

INVOICE #
100

CUSTOMER ID:
ABC12345

COMPANY	JOB	PAYMENT TERMS	DUE DATE
Reforestation Experts	Reforestation 20 ac	Due on receipt	1/30/2024

QTY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	LINE TOTAL
20ac	Chopping – service dates 12/20/2023 – 12/23/2023	90	1800.00
20ac	Rake (convert hourly rate to per acre) – service dates 12/23/2023 – 12/25/2023	125	2500.00
	Mechanical Site Prep	Total	4300.00
20ac	Chemical site prep – service date 12/27/2023 Chm used / oz per acre	120	2400.00
20ac	Prescribed Burning – service date 12/30/2023	50	1000.00
14,520	Cont. Longleaf Pine (price per thousand) – service dates 1/25/2024 – 1/29/2024	Per 1,000 - 225	
		TOTAL	10,967.00
		PAYMENT	10,967.00
		BALANCE	0.00

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO REFORESTATION EXPERTS
Thank you for your business!