

Fact sheet:



STEWARDSHIP PLANNING GRANTS

Division of Forestry • October, 2006

The Forest Stewardship Program

The Forest Stewardship Program is a nationwide program which provides natural resource planning assistance to non-industrial private forest landowners. The goal is to help landowners develop a stewardship plan. Non-industrial forest landowners derive less than 50% of their income from milling forest products.

The program was established by Congress in 1990 and is administered in Alaska by the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry. The Division of Forestry, in consultation with the Alaska Stewardship Coordinating Committee, is offering grants for stewardship planning to large ownerships, especially Alaska Native Corporations.

The Stewardship Plan

A stewardship plan is a ten-year management plan which addresses all forest resources. Resources which must be described include the following:

- Wildlife habitat
- Fish habitat
- Water and wetlands
- Forests and timber
- Soils
- Recreation
- Cultural and archeological sites

The plan must contain general resource assessments and land-use allocations, including a map(s). However, a stewardship planning grant can NOT fund the following:

- Intensive resource inventories
- Oil, mineral, or marine resource assessments
- Economic analyses or appraisals
- Transportation planning
- Community development planning

The plan must be prepared by a natural resource professional, who may be on the staff or hired by the corporation, and the plan must follow the goals and objectives of the corporation. The plan does not impose any governmental goals, desires, or restrictions on the land or shareholders, and the plan does not affect property rights in any way.

Financial Assistance

Planning grants for stewardship plan development are based on total acreage, both interim conveyance and patent, using the following schedule:

Range of Acreage	Range of Grant (\$)
5,000 to 23,000	7,000 to 14,000
23,000 to 69,000	14,000 to 28,000
69,000 to 230,000	28,000 to 40,000
230,000 to 690,000	40,000 to 50,000
690,000 and up	50,000 to 58,000

The schedule allows flexibility to consider several aspects of a corporation's situation including forested acreage, staffing, and existing resource inventories. In-kind contributions from the corporation to the planning effort are strongly recommended. Where a large percentage of the land is non-forested, the grant may be reduced to reflect forested acreage. Where complex GIS products are included, a higher grant amount may be available. The grant allows one year to complete the plan.

Plan Acceptance

The corporation leadership should provide guidance during the planning efforts. The completed plan must be signed by a corporation official, preferably the president, who has the authority to commit the corporation. Accepting and signing a stewardship plan represents a good-faith but non-binding commitment to implement the plan. If circumstances change in the ten-year period, the plan may be updated to reflect new goals or conditions. A resolution of acceptance from the board of directors is encouraged but not required.

The plan must also be approved and signed by the State Forester. Final installment of the grant requires approval by the State Forester.

Further Information

For further information, contact the stewardship coordinator at the Division of Forestry in writing or by phone (907-761-6309). Details of a grant proposal and elements of a stewardship plan will be furnished.