

Program – Agency:

Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Landowner Requirements:

Landowners must follow the restoration plan developed by the landowner and NRCS to be eligible for HFRP. Private landowners with property that will restore, enhance, or otherwise improve the well-being of species listed under the Endangered Species Act or species that are candidates for listing can apply for this program.

Lands Eligible:

Any lands that will restore, enhance, or otherwise improve the well-being of species listed under the Endangered Species Act or species that are candidates for listing are eligible for this program.

Agreement Length:

10, 30, or 99 years.

Benefits:

For 99 year easements, the NRCS pays 75–100% of the approved conservation practices carried out during the easement and offers a payment that equals 75–100% of the fair market value of the enrolled land during the easement, less the fair market value of land encumbered by the easement.

For 30 year easements, NRCS pays 75% of the approved conservation practice costs and offers a payment that is 75% of the amount offered for 99 year easements.

For 10 year agreements, the NRCS pays 50% of the approved conservation practice costs.

When enrolled lands provide net conservation benefits for listed or candidate species, a Safe Harbor or similar protective agreement under the Endangered Species Act will be made available to the landowner.

Acceptable Practices:

At the time of this publication, HFRP had not disclosed specific acceptable practices. It is anticipated, however, that the landowner may use the contract area in any ways that are compatible with protecting and enhancing the wildlife resource values for which the contract was established.

Prohibited Practices:

Landowners must follow all restoration plan guidelines associated with HFRP contract. Plans are site-specific for each property and are developed by the landowner and NRCS.