

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)

Q: What is the Healthy Forests Reserve Program?

A: The HFRP is a voluntary program offering landowners financial and technical assistance to restore and protect healthy forests through 99-year easements, 30-year easements, and restoration agreements. The program was established for the purpose of restoring and enhancing forest ecosystems to: 1) promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species, 2) improve biodiversity, and 3) enhance carbon sequestration.

Q: What are the eligibility requirements?

A: To be eligible for enrollment, land must be private land or Tribal lands which will restore, enhance, or measurably increase the likelihood of recovery of a threatened or endangered species, must improve biological diversity, or increase carbon sequestration.

Q: Does the HFRP offer enrollment options?

A: The program offers three enrollment options:

- 1) A 10-year cost-share agreement; for which the landowner may receive 50 percent of the cost of the approved conservation practices;
- 2) A 30-year easement, for which the landowner may receive 75 percent of the easement value of the enrolled land plus 75 percent of the average cost of the approved conservation practices; or
- 3) An easement of not more than 99 years, for which landowners may receive 100 percent of the easement value of the enrolled land plus the cost of the approved conservation practices.

Easement payments may be provided, at the participant's request, in lump sum or annual payments.

Q: How many acres will be allowed into the program?

A: The HFRP is authorized to enroll up to two million acres through 2008.

Q: If I have historic forestland that has been converted to cropland, would it be eligible for HFRP?

A: Yes, if the cropland offered met the ranking criteria for: 1) promoting the recovery of threatened and endangered species, 2) improving biodiversity, or 3) enhancing carbon sequestration.