



# FORESTRY

## Notes



## MAINE DISTRICTS EMPOWER LANDOWNERS THROUGH CERTIFICATION

Dec 28, 2023



Building upon the foundation of innovative conservation practices, [Knox-Lincoln SWCD](#) and [Waldo County SWCD](#) in Maine introduced a [Conservation Landscape Certification Program](#) designed to empower landowners in being the best land stewards possible. This initiative aligns with the broader efforts of conservation districts in promoting best management practices and fostering sustainable landscapes. The certification program is designed to assist landowners and producers in [cultivating wildlife habitats](#), [practicing soil and water conservation](#), [controlling invasive species](#), [planting for ecosystem support](#), and [implementing organic practices](#).



Recognizing the significance of personal support and community building, Knox-Lincoln SWCD have pioneered a model for conservation districts to offer a comprehensive certification program. The stepwise process ensures accessibility, allowing landowners to work towards certification goals without the fear of pass or fail. The program goes beyond wildlife habitat, encouraging a holistic approach to sustainability, covering a host of best management practices.

The program distills the certification process into five core criteria applicable to any property type. This simplicity ensures that the certification is both user-friendly and adaptable to various landscapes. The approach, unique in its personal support and interaction, fosters connections and community as landowners collaborate with district staff to create healthier landscapes.

### Forestry News & Resources

[Soil and Water Conservation Districts celebrate Arbor Day in South Carolina](#)

[Ohio Forestry Association Foundation awards nearly \\$15K for scholarships and grants in 2023](#)

[Purdue workshop to offer advice about woodlands management](#)

[Forest restoration in light of oak decline](#)

[\\$1B Will Bring More City Trees. But It'll Take More Than Seedlings To Grow Urban Forests.](#)

[Bringing Intentional Fire Back to Communities, For Good](#)

[The Nature Conservancy's North America Fire Burn Crew Program: A Human-Centered Approach to Supporting the Fire Workforce](#)

### Northeast Silviculture Institute Online Training

The Northeast Silviculture Institute presents a valuable opportunity for landowners, foresters, and loggers to delve into the principles of silviculture. Initially designed as in-person field training, with five 2-day



Certificates tailored for small residential properties, schools, forests, and farms cater to the diverse needs of landowners.

The program recognizes the specific challenges faced by small woodland owners and offers insights into ecological forest management and environmentally sound harvest practices. Similarly, small farmers benefit from steps to farm ecologically, supporting wildlife, native plants, beneficial insects, and soil and water conservation.

A key feature of the program is the [Conservation Land Certification Woodland Owner Checklist](#) which provides specific criteria, and thereby clear direction for forest landowners, many of whom report a lack of understanding or are unsure of where to start in their land management journey. The program is voluntary and self-guided. Landowners may also request a site visit by district staff. This places the landowner in the driver seat as they determine the appropriate pace and focus of their management goals.

“Knowledge is power. There is nothing better than empowering landowners with more specific knowledge of their property. Educated and engaged landowners are better stewards of their land”, said **Rebecca Jacobs**, Knox-Lincoln SWCD Program Manager.



[The Conservation Landscape Certification program](#) is appropriate for adaptation by other conservation districts and the founders of the program

have made a full toolkit of resources and materials available for use which can be found [here](#).

In Maine, more districts are bringing the land certification program on board as an offering within their own communities. [The Conservation Landscape Toolkit](#), [Conservation Landscape Certification Resource Guide](#), [Conservation Land Certification Woodland Owner Checklist](#) are ready made tools for districts seeking new ways to engage landowners or for those interested in expanding their programmatic offerings.

For more information on this program and the host of other great work being led by the Knox-Lincoln SWCD, visit [www.knox-lincoln.org](http://www.knox-lincoln.org).

## FOREST THINNING FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE IN

sessions in 2017 and 2018, the entire 10-day program is now available online [here](#).

Karen Bennett, a Cooperative Extension Forester at University of New Hampshire, and Tony D'Amato, a forestry professor at the University of Vermont, co-directed the institute with assistance from Charlie Levesque of the North East State Foresters Association (NEFA).

The online offerings include over 100 videos, agendas, readings and other materials covering every lecture and field training site from the six Northeast Silviculture Institute training workshops. Recent additions include the 2023 Climate Adaptation and Forest Carbon sessions.

All sessions and materials can be found [here](#).

### National Agroforestry Center Resource Library

The USDA National Agroforestry Center has a wide range of general, technical, and research publications. All publications are available for download free of charge. Print copies of selected publications are also [available upon request](#).

The USDA National Agroforestry Center regularly adds and updates publications and lets quantities of others deplete based on their timeliness. The number of hard copies available for request may be limited for certain publications.

Resources available cover a range of agroforestry practices, presentations, and other resources.

These free resources and materials can be accessed [here](#).

### US Forest Service: Urban Forest Connections Webinar Series

The Forest Service is offering a webinar series to share the latest science, practice, and policy on urban and community

# SOUTH DAKOTA

[Custer County Conservation District](#) in South Dakota is positively impacting the environment with their forest thinning program.

This successful program is funded by cost-share grants awarded by the [South Dakota Conservation Commission](#) and is one of the [Conservation Implementation Strategy \(CIS\)](#) projects in South Dakota.

Through their collaborative efforts with local stakeholders and partners, the district has been able to work with landowners to enhance the resiliency of their forests and protect their properties from wildfires and insects. By adopting a landscape approach to forest management and resiliency, the district is promoting a healthier and more resilient ecosystem.

The district's newly released video, "[Forest Thinning For a Resilient Future](#)", highlights the forest thinning program of the Custer County Conservation District and showcases the collaborative efforts of local stakeholders and partners to improve forest resiliency, thinning, and fuels treatment in the region.

The video can be viewed [here](#). To learn more about Custer County Conservation District and their work please visit [here](#).



forestry. Topics include issues affecting the health of people and the health of the trees and forests that communities depend on to moderate local climate extremes, provide food, shelter, water, wildlife habitat, environmental justice, artistic expression, and spiritual healing.

While focused primarily on the needs of local advocates and practitioners, participants range from state and federal government to nonprofit, municipal, university, private industry, and public health leaders.

The webinars are hosted every other month on second Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

A number of other webinars can be accessed on topics ranging from [oak forests in cities](#) to [growing the next generations of scientists and advocates](#).

For more information or to register please visit [here](#).

## FORESTRY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### **U.S. Endowment Impact Investment Program**

The U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities has announced an RFP for their new **Impact Investing Program**. The program seeks to deploy up to **\$5 million in 2024 through impact investments** in companies, funds, or projects that advance systemic, transformative, and sustainable benefits for the health and vitality of **working forests and forest-reliant communities in the United States**.

**Deadline: February 13, 2024 by 5 p.m. PT / 8 p.m. ET**

Email your completed RFP submission form plus financial projections to: [usendowmentRFP@gordianknotstrategies.com](mailto:usendowmentRFP@gordianknotstrategies.com)

The full RFP can be found [here](#).

### **2024 National Urban & Community Forestry Challenge Cost Share Grant Program**

The Forest Service recently released a notice of funding opportunity under the [Urban and Community Forestry Program \(U&CF\)](#). This is the only program dedicated to the urban forest program in the federal government. The program works in partnership with State and local forestry agencies, non-profit and tribal organizations, and institutions of higher education to restore, sustain, and manage more than 140 million acres of urban and community forest lands for the benefit of communities across the United States.

The Forest Service is seeking proposals to address the [National Ten Year Urban and Community Forestry Action Plan \(2016-2026\)](#) Goals 4 and 5. Goal 4 is to increase the biodiversity, health, and resilience of trees in urban and community forests.

### CALENDAR

**Jan 31, 2024** [NCAT Heirs Property Summit](#) | Guildford County, NC

**Feb 6-8, 2023** [SAF Rising Professionals Conference](#) | Baton Rouge, LA

**Feb 10-14, 2024** [NACD Annual Meeting](#) | San Diego, CA

**Feb 20-22, 2024** [18th North American Agroforestry Conference \(NAAC\)](#) | Turrialba, Costa Rica

**Feb 28, 2024** [Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition Annual Meeting](#) | Arlington, VA

**March 22-24, 2024** [2024 Forest Farming Conference](#) | Roanoke, VA

Goal 5 is to support the use of more locally grown, regionally adapted, insect and pest-resistant, and diverse native or sire-appropriate species.

**Proposals are to be received by 5:00 p.m. ET on February 29, 2024.** The Action Plan can be accessed [here](#). The full notice of funding opportunity and application can be found [here](#).

## **2024 Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund RFP**

[The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#) has announced the release of the 2024 request for proposals (RFP) under the Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund.

This RFP expects to award approximately **\$30 million** in federal and private sector funding in support of on-the-ground projects that help accelerate longleaf pine restoration on private and public lands to support wildlife, sequester carbon, safeguard water quality, and increase forest resilience. Limited funding also is available to support bottomland hardwood restoration and enhancement activities as outlined within the RFP.

In pursuit of habitat and species restoration goals, applicants are encouraged to prioritize projects that also address co-benefits of proposed restoration activities (carbon sequestration, water quality/quantity, etc.) and engage local communities and historically underserved landowners.

All proposals must specifically address how projects will directly and measurably contribute to the longleaf pine and associated species goals outlined in the [Longleaf Forest and Rivers Business Plan](#).

**Full proposals are due Thursday, February 15, 2024, by 11:59 p.m. ET.**

< > The Month June 2023 -

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

[The National Association of Conservation Districts 79th Annual Conference](#)

**Submit an Event**

Add your conservation district's tree sale, state association meeting, field day or celebration to NACD's calendar!

Click the button above to submit an event. Events will be reviewed by the website administrator and published to [NACD's online calendar](#) when approved.

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