

Vermont Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) INFORMATION & APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Vermont FLEP is...

The Vermont Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) is a State program funded by U.S. taxpayers. Through FLEP, Forest landowners may apply for and receive money to pay for a portion of certain forest management expenses.

Well-managed, privately owned forestland provides for environmental, economic and social values to the public. FLEP provides incentives to landowners who have Vermont Forest Stewardship Plans to help them manage their forests for a combination of personal and public values.

1. Landowners, or their resource managers, sign up for practices at their respective County Forester office. Forms include: **FLEP Eligibility Worksheet** (VT FLEP 1), **FLEP Application Form** (VT FLEP 2), and **W-9**. A **FLEP Practice Plan** must be submitted with the FLEP Application Form. If the practice is already part of a current plan on file, first check with the county forester, it may be good enough.
2. Requests will be reviewed and approved or denied by Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Approvals will be based on program priorities, availability of funds, land protection status of the property, and stewardship of resources of statewide significance.
3. The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation processes the approval forms.
4. County Foresters send the landowner written notification of practice approval or denial including information such as cost share amount and expiration date.
5. Landowner has one year to complete approved, cost-shared practice(s).
6. The landowner completes the practice and submits **FLEP Practice Completion and Approval Form** (VT FLEP 3), **copies of bills**, and a **map** (if appropriate) to the County Forester.
7. If the landowner cannot complete the practice by the expiration date, he/she may request (in writing) a 6-month extension.
8. The County Forester inspects for proper completion of the practice. The landowner or their agent is contacted if the practice hasn't been properly completed. After remediation, if the practice still isn't properly completed, County Forester sends the landowner a notice of denial.
9. For properly completed practices, the landowner receives payment from the State of Vermont. Landowner will receive a 1099 form for income tax reporting at the end of the year.