

2026-2027 SC Landowner Financial Assistance Programs

Program	Agency	Main Purpose	Practices Covered	Assistance / Payment	Key Eligibility
<u>EQIP: Environmental Quality Incentives Program</u>	USDA: NRCS	Improve environmental quality and address resource concerns	Prescribed burning, firebreaks, site prep, tree planting, thinning, wildlife habitat, pollinator habitat, road stabilization	75%-90% of practice cost	Non-industrial private landowners, forest management plan, FSA Farm Number required
<u>CSP: Conservation Stewardship Program</u>	USDA: NRCS	Reward and expand existing conservation practices	Pollinator habitat, buffers, understory management, prescribed burning, stream buffers	Annual stewardship payments	Existing conservation practices in place, 5-year contract, forest management plan, FSA Farm Number required
<u>HFRP: Healthy Forests Reserve Program</u>	USDA: NRCS	Restore habitat for threatened/endangered species and improve biodiversity	Habitat restoration, biodiversity improvements, carbon storage	50% cost-share (10-year agreement), 75% (30-year easement), 100% (permanent easement)	Private or tribal lands with measurable conservation benefits
<u>CRP: Conservation Reserve Program</u>	USDA: FSA	Convert sensitive agriculture land to conservation uses	Tree planting, native grasses, buffers, wildlife openings, prescribed burning	Up to 50% establishment cost + annual rental payments	Cropland with qualifying planting history, 10-15 year contracts, FSA Farm Number required
<u>FMI: Forest Management Incentives Program</u>	USDA: FSA	Help current CRP participants improve forest management	Burning, pruning, weed control, brush management, thinning	Lower of actual cost or 75% of NRCS rate	Must already be enrolled in CRP
<u>FRP: Forest Renewal Program</u>	SC Forestry Commission	Encourage reforestation and timber productivity	Site prep, tree planting, timber stand improvement	40% of statewide average cost	Non-industrial landowners, 10-100 acres, manage for 10 years
<u>SPB Program: Southern Pine Beetle Program</u>	SC Forestry Commission	Prevent or restore damage from Southern Pine Beetle	Tree planting, site prep, pre-commercial thinning	50% planting costs, 60% thinning costs	Pine stands meeting stocking requirements, 10-100 acres
<u>Conservation Easements</u>	Land Trusts	Protect land from development while retaining ownership	Easement agreements tailored to property goals	Tax/financial incentives vary	Voluntary agreement with land trust; land remains privately owned
<u>Longleaf Pine Planting Fund</u>	Longleaf Alliance	Helps landowners with the cost of establishing longleaf pine by providing support for seedlings and planting-related expenses through partner funding	Longleaf pine seedlings, planting costs, site preparation cost, Rx burning, firebreaks, ground cover restoration, site prep	Competitive reimbursement / rebate program, award amounts vary based on funding, project size, location, and costs	Available for private landowners within the longleaf range, establishing or restoring longleaf pine