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## NEWS RELEASE

### **Sustainable Forestry and Land Retention Project Announces Financial Assistance for Forest Landowners for 2019**

*AHOSKIE, N.C., October 2, 2018*—Financial assistance for forest landowners in northeastern North Carolina is available through two separate programs, The Roanoke Center's Sustainable Forestry and Land Retention Project (SFLRP) has announced.

#### **National Resources Conservation Service funding**

An SFLRP partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has an application deadline of November 2. Partnership funding is available to forest landowners in the following project counties: Bertie, Chowan, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton and Perquimans. The cost-share program assists forest landowners with the implementation of forest management practices that include tree and shrub establishment, prescribed burning and a host of other forestry-related practices through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

NRCS programs are designed to assist landowners in addressing natural resource concerns as it relates to forestry and many other land uses. Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Landowner is a participant in the Sustainable Forestry and Land Retention Project
- Landowner owns woodland property in Bertie, Chowan, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton or Perquimans counties
- Must have established records with the local Farm Service Agency
- Landowner must meet NRCS eligibility guidelines
- Landowner must own one eight-acre woodland property
- Landowner must have or obtain a forest management plan

*-More-*

For more information contact SFLRP Program Manager Alton Perry at 252-539-4602 or your local USDA NRCS Service Center.

### **Sustainable Forestry and Land Retention Project funding**

To assist the region's many forest landowners who don't have current forest management plans, the SFLRP is offering up to \$1,000 per landowner to aid in plan development. Maintaining a detailed forest management plan is a requirement for landowners applying for financial assistance to implement forestland sustainability best practices. It provides recommendations of forest management that may address timber harvest schedules, forest health and water quality. State and federal natural resource agencies require these plans as documentation that forestry practices are in place to address resource concerns.

SFLRP is operated through Roanoke Electric Cooperative's nonprofit subsidiary, The Roanoke Center. The center offers a range of education, application and financial assistance to forest landowners throughout the co-op's seven-county service territory. SFLRP makes this funding available to local forest landowners through a \$45,000 grant from Enviva Holdings, LP. Enviva awarded the funds to the Forestry Project to assist its land retention and healthy forests conservation efforts. SFLRP will award landowners financial assistance to cover up to 90 percent of the cost of land management plan development, not to exceed \$1,000 per landowner. The funds will be awarded on a first-come-first-served basis until the allotted funds are depleted.

Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Own at least one contiguous, wooded eight-acre property located in Bertie, Chowan, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton or Perquimans counties
- Be or become a Sustainable Forestry and Land Retention Project participant
- Use awarded funds to pay the North Carolina Forest Service charge of \$5 per wooded acre to develop a forest management plan and the \$350 enrollment fee for forest certification or recertification into the NC Tree Farm Program

For information and application assistance contact SFLRP Program Manager Alton Perry at 252-539-4602 or [aperry@roanokeelectric.com](mailto:aperry@roanokeelectric.com)

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