



Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

**North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services**
N.C. Forest Service



Scott Bissette
Assistant Commissioner

January 25, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: All NCFS

From: Ron Myers – Forest Management Branch Head
Jaimee Cappelletti – FDP Program Administrator

CC: Sean Brogan – Asst. State Forester-Forest Management/Development

Subject: **Florence Reforestation Fund (FRF) Accepting Applications Beginning 2/11/19**

The North Carolina General Assembly ratified into law on October 2, 2018, the Hurricane Florence Emergency Response Act (Session Law 2018-134, House Bill 4). This provided funding to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) to help citizens and communities recover from Hurricane Florence.

The North Carolina Forest Service was authorized to administer **\$2.5 million in “time-limited” cost-share funding** to assist landowners with reforestation efforts in presidentially-declared counties impacted by Hurricane Florence (see attached eligibility map). Qualifying property in these counties will be eligible to apply for the program funding. We encourage you to proactively “reach out” to woodland owners impacted by this significant storm to assist them in requesting cost-share monies.

Through this authorization, the NCFS has created a dedicated forestry cost-share fund called the **Florence Reforestation Fund (FRF)**. This fund will be administered using similar (although not identical) program requirements and paperwork as our Forest Development Program. FRF funding requests should be prioritized toward projects and practices that are “shovel ready” and can be completed within short time periods.

The NCFS will be required to submit monthly FRF funding and expenditure reports, making the timely use of these funds a priority of NCDA&CS and NCFS leadership.

Below you will find a summary of key FRF programmatic details.

FLORENCE REFORESTATION FUND (FRF) - \$2,500,000

Funding Process

Funds will be administered similar to other NCFS cost-share programs such as the “Timber Restoration Fund” that was offered following Hurricane Matthew. FRF will utilize a new Forestry Cost-Share Funding application (Form 4910-3) and Forestry Cost-Share Addendum (Form 4910-4), along with the required State of North Carolina Substitute W-9 Form.

Requests for FRF funding must be submitted on the Forestry Cost-Share Funding Application. The full fund name **“Florence Reforestation Fund (FRF)”** must be written or typed in the **“Program Name”** box or line on both application forms.

Eligible Practices

Attached are the FRF Prevailing Rates for eligible sub-practices (FY 2019-2020)

- Approved practices include Site Preparation and Tree Planting sub-practices only
- Afforestation of open fields or pastureland is eligible
- Funding for Forest Stand Improvement (FSI) practices is **not** available

Funding Timelines

FRF applications may be accepted and reviewed by local NCFS offices prior to 2/11/2019.

The NCFS Central Office will begin funding FRF applications on 2/11/2019. Completed FRF applications must be mailed to our NCFS Central Office with a **postmark date no earlier than 2/7/19**. Applications for this fund will be approved on a “first come, first serve” basis using the date & time the completed application is received at our NCFS Central Office.

Application requests will be funded until available funds have been allocated. All applications received after the funding limit has been reached will be returned to NCFS District Offices unfunded to notify landowners or their agent.

Emphasis should be placed on “signing-up” projects that have a high probability of completion within a timely manner (1 year). These cost-share monies are not recommended for landowners who are uncertain about implementing practices recommended in their management plans.

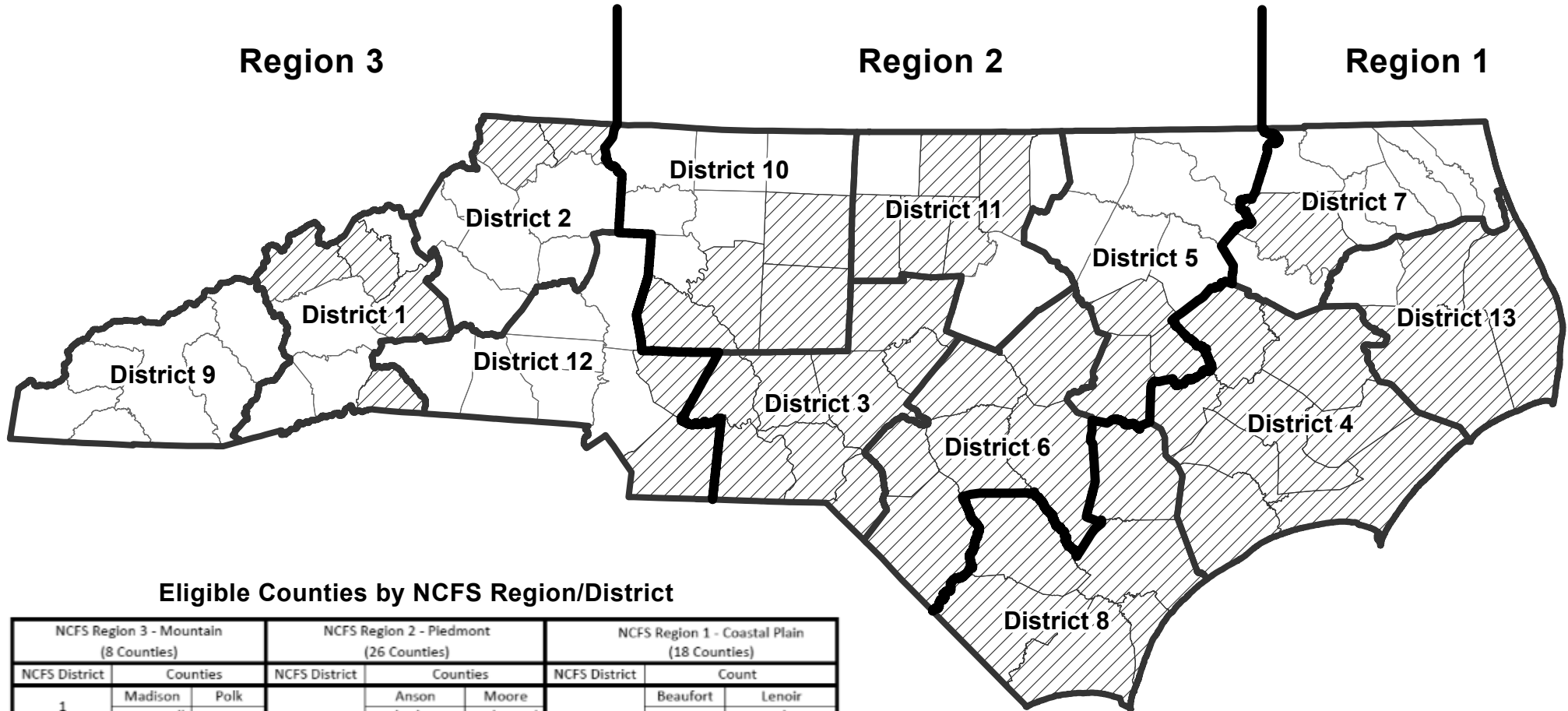
All projects should be completed by May 1st, 2020. Extensions will be limited for FRF projects with very few exceptions.

Funding Eligibility

In order to receive FRF reimbursement, at least 4.5 acres of completed work must be documented. The maximum FRF funding allocation will be 100 acres per landowner per state fiscal year. No maximum annual dollar reimbursement cap will apply to this fund.



North Carolina County Eligibility for Hurricane Florence Reforestation Funding



Eligible Counties by NCFS Region/District

NCFS Region 3 - Mountain (8 Counties)			NCFS Region 2 - Piedmont (26 Counties)			NCFS Region 1 - Coastal Plain (18 Counties)		
NCFS District	Counties		NCFS District	Counties		NCFS District	Count	
1	Madison	Polk	3*	Anson	Moore	4*	Beaufort	Lenoir
	McDowell	Yancey		Chatham	Richmond		Carteret	Onslow
2	Alleghany	Ashe		Lee	Scotland		Craven	Pamlico
12	Cabarrus	Union		Montgomery	Stanly		Jones	Pitt
			5	Greene	Wilson	7	Bertie	
				Wayne		8*	Bladen	Duplin
			6*	Cumberland	Johnston		Brunswick	New Hanover
				Harnett	Robeson		Columbus	Pender
				Hoke	Sampson	13	Dare	Tyrell
			10	Davidson	Randolph		Hyde	
				Guilford	Rowan			
			11	Alamance	Orange			
				Durham	Person			
				Granville				

*All Counties in NCFS District

