



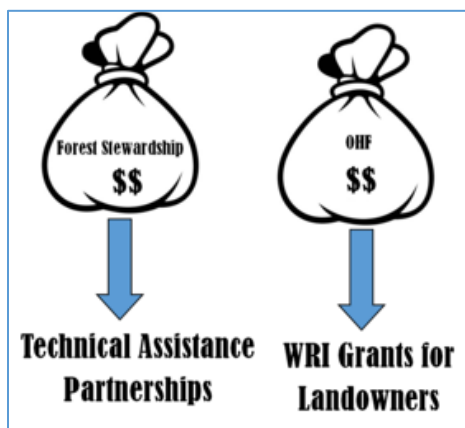
## WRI Technical Assistance Partnerships Overview for Soil Conservation Districts



Windbreak Renovation Initiative (WRI) Technical Assistance Partnerships formalize the relationship between North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) and Soil Conservation Districts (SCDs) to collaboratively support private forest landowners with education, one-on-one technical assistance, and cost-share to sustainably manage their windbreaks. **After the Technical Assistance Partnership contract is signed, the SCD becomes the primary contact for landowners within the SCD interested in WRI technical and/or financial assistance.**

### Program Components

- SCD will enter into a contract with NDFS and become a WRI-Technical Assistance Partner (WRI-TAP)
  - Contracts will be 1 or 2 years in length and renewable
  - WRI-TAPs will be paid directly by NDFS for the technical assistance they provide to landowners, based on a set pre-determined schedule
  - WRI-TAPs can bill NDFS monthly- there is no penalty for no activity
  - Initially, contracts will be capped at \$5,000 annually
  - SCDs can earn additional income by providing the windbreak renovation services (tree planting, thinning, etc.) that they recommend to landowners, however NDFS will not pay SCDs for these services through the WRI-TAP contract
- NDFS will provide WRI-TAPs with payment, training and support
  - SCD will be paid directly by NDFS based on a set pre-determined schedule, according to contract terms
  - Refer interested landowners to the WRI-TAP
  - Provide Windbreak Renovation webinars, videos, workshops, field trips and demonstrations
  - WRI-TAP Website
    - Templates, outlines, forms and resources
  - Personalized assistance
    - If requested, NDFS Staff will accompany WRI-TAPs on landowner site visits to conduct windbreak assessments and discuss management recommendations, provide second opinions, review reports and documents, and be available to answer questions



*Funding for WRI-TAP contracts with SCDs is currently provided through a grant from the USDA-Forest Service.*

*Funding for WRI Grants to landowners is currently provided through an award from the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund.*

*NDFS will continue to seek funding for both these programs.*

### Landowner Cost-Share

- WRI-TAPs will be paid to support landowners in their SCD with applying for cost share provided by NDFS through the WRI grant program. If a grant is awarded to the landowner, WRI-TAPs will be compensated for providing additional support and assistance to the landowner to complete their windbreak renovation project.
- SCDs can earn additional income by providing the windbreak renovation services (tree planting, thinning, etc.) included in the cost-shared project, however NDFS will not pay SCDs directly for these services through WRI-TAP.
- Funding for WRI Grants to landowners is currently provided through an award from the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund. NDFS will continue to seek funding for landowner cost-share, but funding is not guaranteed.

### WRI-TAP Billable Activities

- Conduct windbreak assessments at landowner request, provide a written summary of resource conditions and management recommendations.
  - This activity may be provided to any windbreak landowner and will likely make up the bulk of WRI-TAP activity
  - This activity need not result in a WRI Grant Application
- Assist landowner with applying for NDFS WRI grant.
- Provide additional technical assistance to the landowner one time during their renovation project (if requested) and provide a written summary of this assistance.
- Inspect the finished renovation and provide a written report.
- Assist landowner with requesting cost-share reimbursement.

### Additional Information

Financial support for WRI-TAPs comes from USDA-Forest Service through the Forest Stewardship Program. The goal of this program is to provide assistance to private forest landowners to encourage and enable active, long-term forest management to meet their individual goals and for the benefit of the forest resource.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/forest-stewardship>

The Mission of the NDSU-NDFS is to care for, protect and improve forest and natural resources to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations. <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/ndfs>

The North Dakota Forest Action Plan outlines priority forest resources, designates important issues, and identify strategies to address challenges and opportunities aligned with National priorities of conserving working forests, protecting forests from harm, and enhancing public benefits from trees and forests.

<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/ndfs/documents/2020-north-dakota-forest-action-plan-final.pdf>

NDFS Contacts:

Noah Schaeffer, Forest Stewardship Specialist, (701) 683-4323, [noah.schaeffer@ndsu.edu](mailto:noah.schaeffer@ndsu.edu)

Liz Smith, Forest Stewardship Manager, (701) 537-3584, [liz.smith@ndsu.edu](mailto:liz.smith@ndsu.edu)

This program is made possible through funding provided by the USDA Forest Service.  
USDA and NDSU are equal opportunity providers.