North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

N.C. Forest Service

Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

Scott Bissette
Assistant Commissioner

December 21, 2020

MEMORANDUM

To: NCFS County Rangers, Foresters, County Personnel, and FM Clerks

From: Ron Myers – Forest Management Branch Head
Jaimee Cappelletti – FDP Program Administrator
CC: Sean Brogan – Asst. State Forester-Forest Management/Development

Subject: NCFS State Headquarters accepting Florence Reforestation Fund (FRF) applications beginning 1/19/2021

The North Carolina Forest Service was recently authorized by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to administer an additional **$2.5 million in "time-limited" cost-share funding** to assist landowners with reforestation and forest stand improvement efforts in emergency-declared counties impacted by Hurricane Florence (see attached FRF eligibility map).

Two separate funding sources will be available for new FRF projects:

(1) $2,000,000 for FRF Base Funding – This includes "Plant Only" projects, as well as those with site preparation and tree planting. These practices will be reimbursed 40% of the practice costs up to a prevailing rate, whichever is lower.

(2) $500,000 for Forest Stand Improvement (FSI) Funding – This funding source is for three sub-practices that include precommercial thinning (PCT); in-stand prescribe burning for silvicultural objectives; and chemical control – release treatments to ensure natural or planted stand development from undesirable species and forest health benefits from mitigation of Southern Pine Beetle risk. The FSI treatments will be reimbursed 60% of the practice cost up to a prevailing rate, whichever is lower.

Attached are the FRF Prevailing Rates for eligible sub-practices (CY - 2021). The FRF Prevailing Rates will remain the same as the FY 2019-20 rates except for new rates for the FSI practices.

We encourage you to proactively "reach out" to woodland owners still impacted by Hurricane Florence to assist them in applying for these cost-share monies. The Florence Reforestation Fund (FRF) will continue to be administered using very similar processes associated with the Forest Development Program. FRF funding requests should be prioritized toward projects and practices that are "shovel ready" and can be completed prior to May 1, 2022.

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.

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

Funding Process

Funds will be administered similarly to the initial FRF enrollment that began in January 2019. The FRF program will utilize the Forestry Cost-Share Funding application (Form 4910-3), along with the required State of North Carolina Substitute W-9 Form **(due at time of payment request only).**

The full fund name **"Florence Reforestation Fund (FRF)"** must be written or typed in the **"Program Name"** box or line on both application forms.

Funding Timelines

The NCFS State Headquarters will begin funding FRF applications on 1/19/2021. Completed FRF applications must be mailed to our NCFS Central Office with a postmark date no earlier than 1/19/2021. 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 State Headquarters.

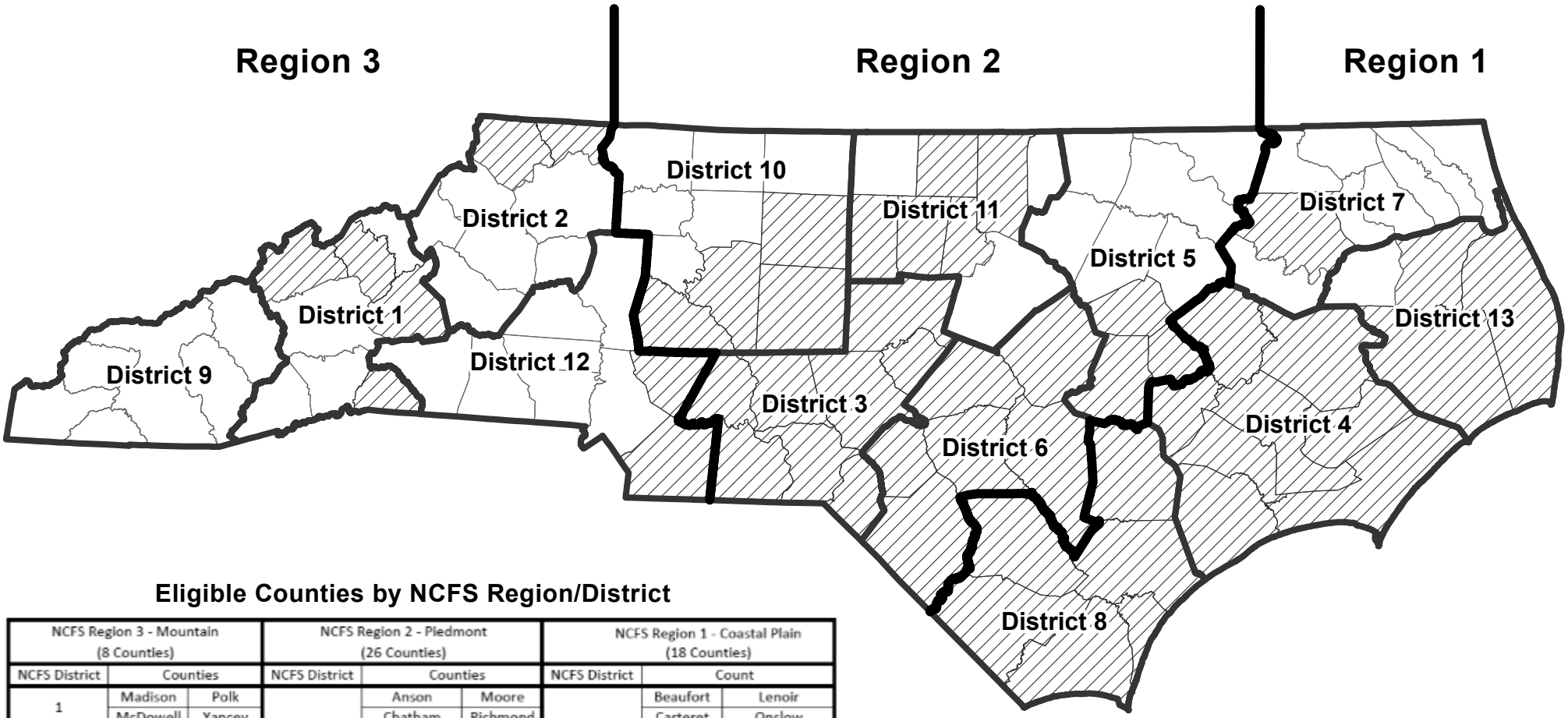
Application requests will be funded until available funds have been fully allocated. All applications received after the funding allocation has been reached will be returned to NCFS District Offices unfunded so District staff can notify landowners or their agent of the application's unfunded status.

All funded FRF projects will need to be completed by May 1st, 2022. Extensions will not be available for this round of funding for FRF Projects.

Funding Eligibility

In order to receive FRF reimbursement, at least 4.5 measured acres of completed work must be documented. The maximum FRF funding allocation will be 100 acres per landowner per calendar year. No maximum annual dollar reimbursement cap will apply to these new FRF funds.

North Carolina County Eligibility for Hurricane Florence Reforestation Funding



Eligible Counties by NCFS Region/District

NCFS Region 3 - Mountain (8 Counties)		
NCFS District	Counties	
1	Madison	Polk
	McDowell	Yancey
2	Alleghany	Ashe
12	Cabarrus	Union

NCFS Region 2 - Piedmont (26 Counties)		
NCFS District	Counties	
3*	Anson	Moore
	Chatham	Richmond
	Lee	Scotland
	Montgomery	Stanly
5	Greene	Wilson
	Wayne	
6*	Cumberland	Johnston
	Harnett	Robeson
	Hoke	Sampson
10	Davidson	Randolph
	Guilford	Rowan
11	Alamance	Orange
	Durham	Person
	Granville	

NCFS Region 1 - Coastal Plain (18 Counties)		
NCFS District	Count	
4*	Beaufort	Lenoir
	Carteret	Onslow
	Craven	Pamlico
	Jones	Pitt
7	Bertie	
8*	Bladen	Duplin
	Brunswick	New Hanover
	Columbus	Pender
13	Dare	Tyrell
	Hyde	

*All Counties in NCFS District

Presidential Declaration

0 25 50 100 150 Miles

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Map author: Kimberly Jacobus 01/18/2019