

**Missouri Department of Conservation
Landowner Assistance Program Guidelines
February 2007**

Landowner Eligibility

Department of Conservation technical and financial assistance is available to any Missouri landowner, regardless of legal residence. No landowner shall receive more than \$15,000/year in MDC cost share funds without approval from the Regional Coordination Team (RCT).

Eligibility for Municipalities, Private Entities and Units of Government

Department of Conservation technical and financial assistance is available for city and county units of government and related non-governmental organizations interested in completing habitat restoration projects. Existing standards and specifications remain in effect as well as maintenance requirements.

Authorized MDC Planners

MDC field staff, NRCS/MDC Wildlife Conservationists, and MDC cooperatively supported, wildlife emphasis positions, may use MDC cost share funds to implement conservation practices on private land.

Landowner "in-kind" Contributions

Landowners may count in-kind contributions, such as machinery use, farm-raised seed or mulch and labor, toward their total required match. The rate credited for landowner labor will follow the general labor rate stated in Custom Rates for Farm Services in Missouri (MU #G302) or go to <http://extension.missouri.edu/explore/agguides/agecon/g00302.htm>.

MDC "in-kind" Contributions

MDC equipment and skilled labor may be used to install cost-shared projects on private land. In such cases, the value of MDC resources expended shall be deducted from MDC's maximum contribution to the project. The value of MDC in-kind contributions will be based on rates published in Custom Rates for Farm Services in Missouri (MU #G302). **(See Appendix – In Kind Payment Example).**

Statewide Cost-Share Rate

Cost-share practices are designated as either a flat rate or by percentage. Cost-share rates are 75 percent for all approved practices which do not have flat rate costs. Flat rates are adjusted annually and shall only be adjusted within designated annual review periods.

Partial Payment

Partial Payment for cost shared practices is authorized only if the completed work accomplishes MDC objectives. Partial payments should be minimized to encourage completion of projects within a fiscal year.

Appeal Process

Landowners who wish to appeal decisions made by an MDC planner or RCT will be referred to the UCT. UCT members may inspect the site, or assign staff not involved in the original decision, and will rule on the landowner appeal.

Demonstration Projects

RCTs may budget for private land demonstration projects based on Regional priorities. RCT's have the authority to set the percentage rate and are not restricted by the 75% upper limit for regular cost share although cost share shall not exceed 100 percent.

For a complete list of Landowner Assistance Program enrolment and eligibility criteria, please contact:

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