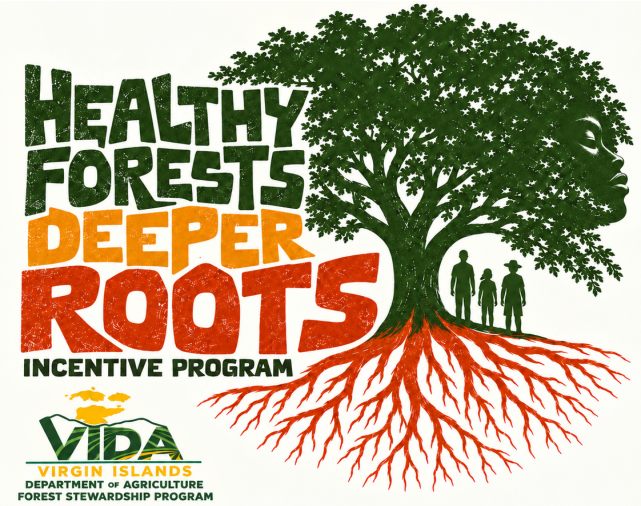


APPLICATION

The US Virgin Islands Forest Best Management Practices Incentive Program (USVI-FBMPIP)

Get $5,000 – $30,000 in payments for completing conservation practices on your land

PURPOSE

- **Help landowners and qualifying landholders improve forest health, control erosion, support wildlife, and reduce wildfire risk through approved stewardship practices.**

ELIGIBILITY

- **Landowners on 3+ undeveloped acres**
- **Qualifying leaseholders on 3+ undeveloped acres**
- **Work with us on Forest Stewardship Planning of your property and selected stewardship practices**
- **Carry out approved conservation work over 3 years**

Before you apply

Use **this application** for individuals, families, and eligible organizations to describe your property, the work you want to do, and the assistance you are requesting. We've used non-technical language as much as possible. Staff may contact you to clarify your project or arrange a site visit. **Questions with a red star (*) are required.**

Basic eligibility check

1. * Is the project property in the U.S. Virgin Islands? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. * Is the project property at least 3 acres? ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. * Do you own the land or hold a qualifying long-term lease? ☐ Own ☐ Lease

How the process works

1 Apply – Complete this application form and provide the basic property documents.

2 Review & Get Approved – VIDA checks eligibility and all applications go through an independent review process. VIDA may request more information or visit the property.

3 Plan & Sign – Eligible applicants work with the Forest Stewardship Program on planning appropriate activities, pricing, quantities and payment schedule for the three year timeline. Selected applicants sign a cooperative agreement including the Stewardship Plan before approved work on the property begins.

4 Get Paid – Receive funds up front for the first set of conservation practices at approximately 100% of your costs.

5 Complete and verify – Complete the approved work, keep records, and allow scheduled verification. Then move on to receiving the next funds payment and completing the next part of your Stewardship Plan.

USDA

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. The USVI Forest Best Management Practices Incentive Program (USVI-FBMPIP) is administered by the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture with financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service.

Application submission

You may submit a paper form or use the online application. Do not submit Social Security numbers or bank details with this initial application.

Application period
Applications available starting November 5th 2026. Applications must be received by 11:59pm on December 15th, 2026

Email / online submission
foreststewardship@doa.vi.gov
doa.vi.gov/forestry-2/

Return paper form to
VIDA main offices on St. Thomas, St. John or St. Croix: drop in person, or photograph and submit by email

Questions or help completing the form
Text or call the VIDA Forestry Office (340) 204-5168 / 8am - 5pm M-F. You can also email questions to foreststewardship@doa.vi.gov or visit VIDA Forestry online at doa.vi.gov/forestry-2

A | Applicant information

***Applicant type:** ☐ Individual / household ☐ Business / farm ☐ Nonprofit / other organization

***Applicant or organization name** [Full legal name]	**Contact person (if organization)** [Name and title]
***Phone number** [Mobile or other reliable number]	**Email address (if available)**
***Mailing address** [Street / P.O. Box]	***Island / town / ZIP**

Preferred way to contact you: ☐ Phone call ☐ Text message ☐ Email ☐ Mail

B | Project property (where the work would happen)

***Location or estate name and street address/access GPS**	***Island** ☐ **St. Croix** ☐ **St. Thomas** ☐ **St. John**
***Property / parcel identifier (if known)** [Tax parcel, plot]	***Years you have managed or occupied property**
***Approximate acres proposed for work**	***Total acres in the property**

***Your relationship to the property:** ☐ Owner ☐ Long-term leaseholder

If leased: Full name of landowner	***If leased: lease end date**

***Briefly describe what you have observed on the property now.** For example: forest or woodland, hillside, stream or drainage, pasture with trees, cultivated land, existing roads, or buildings. Answer as best you can with what you know.

☐ **Tree Count**
- ☐ Mature Established Trees (too wide to fit your hands around the trunk) #_____
- ☐ Young Trees (fit your hands around the trunk) #_____
- ☐ Impenetrable wild bush/ no estimate

☐ **Shade Trees**
- ☐ Mahogany
- ☐ White Manjack
- ☐ Saman
- ☐ Kapok
- ☐ Turpentine
- ☐ Orange Manjack
- ☐ Tibbet
- ☐ Other _____
- ☐ Other _____
- ☐ Other _____

☐ **Fruit/Crop Trees**
- ☐ Tamarind
- ☐ Local plum types (September, Golden Apple, Hog)
- ☐ Soursop
- ☐ Cherry (Acerola, Suriname, West Indian)
- ☐ Citrus
- ☐ Avocado
- ☐ Mango
- ☐ Locust (Stinking Toe)
- ☐ Coconut Palm
- ☐ Other _____
- ☐ Other _____

☐ **Common Spreading Trees & Shrubs**
- ☐ Tan-Tan ☐ Neem
- ☐ Sweet Lime
- ☐ Flamboyant
- ☐ African Tulip
- ☐ Sanseveria (Snake Plant)
- ☐ Other _____
- ☐ Other _____
- ☐ Other _____

☐ **Landscaping Trees & Shrubs**
- ☐ Palms
- ☐ Sweet Lime
- ☐ Bougainvillea

☐ **Invasive plants**
- ☐ Vines (Coralita, Dodder etc.)
- ☐ Physic Nut
- ☐ Acacia thorn

☐ **Birds & Wildlife**
- ☐ Nesting birds
- ☐ Nesting bats
- ☐ Bananaquit
- ☐ Hummingbirds
- ☐ Doves ☐ Pigeons
- ☐ Egrets or herons
- ☐ Hawks/Kestrels
- ☐ Mangrove Cuckoo
- ☐ Seasonal songbirds
- ☐ Frogs ☐ Toads
- ☐ Iguanas ☐ Anoles
- ☐ Deer ☐ Mongoose
- ☐ Boa snakes
- ☐ Monarch butterflies
- ☐ Praying mantis
- ☐ Spiders
- ☐ Feral chickens (pest)
- ☐ Other _____
- ☐ Other _____

☐ **Structures & Access**
- ☐ Home
- ☐ Drivable roadways
- ☐ Walkable trails
- ☐ Ruins
- ☐ Fencing/gates
- ☐ Sheds/outbuildings
- ☐ Pond or dam
- ☐ Gut #_____
  - ☐ Dry
  - ☐ Runs in heavy storms only
  - ☐ Runs in rainy conditions
- ☐ Other _____
- ☐ Other _____

☐ **Farming Activity**
- ☐ Fruit trees _____
- ☐ Row crops
- ☐ Small garden
- ☐ Livestock or horses
  - ☐ Pastures
  - ☐ Heavily grazed
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Greenhouse

☐ **Erosion issues**
- ☐ Steep slopes
- ☐ Bare soil areas

☐ **Wildfires (last 5 years)**

Additional features or comments about the property: *(for example, unique features, neighboring lands?)*

C | Forest Stewardship and project goals

1. ***Are you already working with the Forest Stewardship Program or willing to?**
   ☐ Current Client ☐ Willing ☐ No

2. **Do you have a forest stewardship / management plan?** ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ In progress
   If you have a plan, attach it or provide the date it was prepared: _____

3. **What kind of work are you interested in?**

Check any ideas you want to discuss with the program. All work must fit the final approved practice list, site assessment, and stewardship plan.

☐ Tree planting / reforestation ☐ Forest improvement / thinning

☐ Invasive plant control ☐ Erosion reduction / vegetation cover

☐ Wildlife habitat improvements ☐ Firebreaks or vegetation/fuel management

☐ Agroforestry / alley cropping ☐ Silvopasture (trees and grazing)

☐ Other: _____

4. **What results would you like to see – from what your property is now?**

For example: specific tasks, challenges, goals.

D | Demographics for USFS

The following questions help us identify and prioritize underserved landowners and individuals who may have limited financial resources. All questions are voluntary, and you may skip any you prefer not to answer. Your responses will not affect your eligibility for the program, but they may be considered when ranking eligible applications for financial assistance.

Underserved Landowner Status (Optional)

The USDA Forest Service recognizes several categories of underserved landowners. Please check all that apply to you.

□ **Beginning Forest Landowner** – You have never owned or operated private forest land, or you have owned or operated qualifying land for no more than 10 consecutive years. This may include land recently purchased or inherited. **If the property has multiple owners, every owner must individually meet the beginning forest landowner requirements.**

□ **Resident of a High-Poverty Area** – You live in an area where at least 20% of residents have incomes below the federal poverty threshold. **This box can be checked if you are a permanent resident of the USVI.**

□ **Limited Resource Producer** – You meet BOTH of the following USDA financial criteria:

- Gross farm or forest-product sales: No more than $264,400 annually.
- **Household income:** At or below $33,000 annually (the national poverty guideline for a family of four), OR below 50% of the applicable county/area median household income.

Both requirements apply to each of the two applicable tax years (2024 and 2025 for FY2027).

Current figures and location-specific income thresholds can be checked using the USDA Limited Resource Self-Determination Tool. https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/DeterminationTool.aspx?fyYear=2027

□ **Veteran** – You served in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the reserves, were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, and either have not owned land for more than 10 years or attained veteran status within the past 10 years.

□ **Unsure** – I am not sure whether I qualify for any of these categories.

Financial Resources for Property Maintenance (Optional)

We recognize that landowners have different financial circumstances, including retirement or fixed incomes, which may affect their ability to maintain their land.

Considering your household income, essential living expenses, and other financial responsibilities, which statement best describes your ability to pay for needed land and forest maintenance?

□ I have very limited financial resources and cannot afford needed maintenance without assistance.
□ I can afford some maintenance expenses, but significant work would create financial hardship.
□ I can generally afford routine maintenance, but larger projects would be financially difficult.
□ I have sufficient financial resources to cover most needed maintenance.
□ Prefer not to answer.

E | *Applicant acknowledgments

*Please review and check each statement.

□ *To the best of my knowledge, the information in this application is accurate.

□ *I own or have a qualifying legal right to use the property and will provide supporting documentation.

□ *I understand that funding is not guaranteed and that only activities approved in writing may receive cost-share support.

□ *If selected, I agree to develop or follow an approved Forest Stewardship Program plan and sign the required cooperative agreement before authorized work begins.

□ *If selected, I understand that scheduled site visits to my property by VIDA employees and contractors may be needed to plan, inspect, and verify the approved work.

□ *I agree to keep records of approved work and participate in reasonable scheduled monitoring or verification, as specified in the agreement.

***Applicant / authorized representative signature**	***Date [MM / DD / YYYY]**
***Printed name**	***Title, if signing for an organization**

For applicants using leased land

*Landowner acknowledgment (include only when required by VIDA): I am aware of the proposed application and grant permission for the applicant to pursue the described activities on my property, subject to final plans and any separate written agreement.

***Landowner signature**	***Date [MM / DD / YYYY]**

F | Applicant declarations and attachments

*Application checklist

□ Completed applicant and property information (Sections A–B)

□ Description of project goals and proposed work (Section C)

□ Optional Federal demographic information (Section D)

□ Acknowledge and sign the form (Section E)

□ Proof of property ownership or qualifying long-term lease

□ Landowner permission for proposed work, if applicable (VIDA will confirm acceptable documentation and lease terms.)

□ Property sketch, map, or photos, if available

□ Existing forest stewardship / management plan, if available