

**HEALTHY OAK FORESTS
TAKE TIME TO MATURE.
START ACTIVELY MANAGING
YOUR WOODS TODAY.**

Healthy oak forests are critical to supporting wildlife, providing places to enjoy nature and supplying valuable wood products for the nation. White oak is an especially important tree in the forest, both ecologically and commercially. While white oak trees are still abundant across the eastern half of the United States, the conditions are lacking in most forests to support the next generation of oak trees. Proper management of oak forests is needed to make sure there is enough space, light and time for the acorns to germinate and grow tall.

[NRCS.USDA.GOV/GETSTARTED](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getstarted)

UPLAND OAK SPECIES

Your oak woodland may include a number of important tree species including:

- White oak
- Black oak
- Chestnut oak
- Chinkapin oak
- Northern red oak
- Post oak
- Scarlet oak
- Southern red oak

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The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is an agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that works with forest landowners and agricultural producers on a voluntary basis to plan and implement conservation practices. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

The White Oak Initiative is a diverse coalition of partners committed to the long-term sustainability of America's white oak forests as well as the economic, social and environmental benefits they provide.

 **Natural Resources Conservation Service**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



CARING FOR YOUR WHITE OAK WOODS

**GET STARTED WITH THE
NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE**

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



STEP #1 PLAN

MEET WITH A PRO & DEVELOP YOUR PLAN



NRCS offers technical assistance to private landowners at no cost. This personalized scientific advice and information can help you make informed decisions and invest in the future of your woods. NRCS also has agreements with several state

forestry agencies and organizations that provide technical assistance. Meeting with a forestry professional (either through NRCS or on your own) is the first step to developing your plan.

Forest Management Plans

A Forest Management Plan (FMP) is unique to your woods. Required by NRCS to start work, it will include your goals and a personalized assessment of your woods. Discuss your options and choose activities aimed at treating your forest health concerns and achieving your objectives.

GET STARTED TODAY

To schedule an appointment at your local NRCS office or to learn more, visit the link below.

[NRCS.USDA.GOV/GETSTARTED](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getstarted)

STEP #2 APPLY

APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



Financial assistance programs from NRCS can help you offset the expense of implementing conservation practices. The amount of financial assistance available will depend upon different factors including the type of activities, current costs and location. Here are the two most popular programs.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

EQIP (nrcs.usda.gov/eqip) offers financial assistance through contractual agreements to implement conservation practices on forested land. EQIP also has the option of working with a certified third-party professional, called a Technical Service Provider (TSP), to write an FMP for you if you need one.

Conservation Stewardship Program

CSP (nrcs.usda.gov/csp) helps build upon existing conservation activities like maintaining a healthy forest and improving wildlife habitat. Contractual agreements include enhancements and payments to maintain existing activity and on-the-ground conservation.

STEP #3 IMPLEMENT

IMPLEMENT PRACTICES & RECEIVE PAYMENTS

White Oak Initiative Recommended Practices	NRCS Core Conservation Practices	NRCS Supporting Conservation Practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mid-Story Removal ■ Crop Tree Release ■ Shelterwood Establishment Harvest ■ Group Opening (Gap) Harvest ■ Two-Age Deferment Harvest ■ Site Preparation for Regeneration 	Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666)	Brush Management (Code 314) Herbaceous Weed Control (Code 315)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Afforestation ■ Enhancement Planting 	Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612)	Site Prep (Code 490)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Soil Scarification 	Site Prep (Code 490)	Herbaceous Weed Control (Code 315)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Prescribed Fire 	Prescribed Burning (Code 338)	Firebreak (Code 395)



The White Oak Initiative conservation plan (whiteoakinitiative.org/acp) identified 10 priority practices that support oak regeneration. By implementing one or more of these practices, you could receive contractual payments for regenerating, improving and maintaining the health of your woods. Similar practices can go by different names depending on the organization and your forestry professional (see table).