**APPLICATION FOR NEFF’S GROH FORESTS PROGRAM**

*Grow Resilient Oak-Hickory (GROH) Forests,* funded bya USDA Climate-Smart Commodities grant

Dear Landowners and Foresters,

Please fill out the following form to the best of your knowledge. If you have questions, reach out to Hayden Stebbins at hstebbins@newenglandforestry.org.

NEFF’s GROH program applicants should meet the following criteria:

1. Property should be more than 25 acres of forestland for Connecticut and Massachusetts, and more than 10 acres of forestland for Rhode Island.
2. Properties should have a forest management plan. Those without a plan will be referred to a forester to create one in order to help ensure long-term forest stewardship.
3. Landowners in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden counties in MA are encouraged to check their eligibility for the [Family Forest Carbon Program](https://familyforestcarbon.org/) before applying for NEFF’s GROH program.

Once complete, please email this form to Hayden Stebbins at hstebbins@newenglandforestry.org, or mail a physical copy to:

Hayden Stebbins

39 Grove St.

Turners Falls, MA

01376

We look forward to assisting you with next steps and helping you set your forest on a path of health and resilience for the decades to come,

Hayden Stebbins, Southern New England Program Forester, New England Forestry Foundation

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| **GROH Forests Application** |
| *Landowner or operator:* |
| *Phone:* | *Email:* |
| *Property Address:* |
| *Primary Contact and mailing address / contact information if different from above:* |
| *Are you currently working with a forester for this property? Y\_\_N\_\_* | *Does the Project Area have any legal language that will restrict or prohibit timber harvesting? Y\_\_N\_\_* |
| *Property acres:* | *Forested Acres:* |
| *Proposed treatment acreage:* | *Does this property have a Forest Management Plan? Y\_\_ N\_\_* |
| *Enrolled in MA’s Ch. 61, CT’s PA 490, or RI’s Chapter 44-27? Y\_\_\_\_ N\_\_\_\_* | *Farm Service Agency (FSA) number:* |
| *Proposed forestry treatment:* |
| *Do you qualify as an underserved landowner? Answer ‘Yes’ if any of the following apply:*1. *Limited resources: income under a certain level as determined by the following self-reporting tool:* [*https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/DeterminationTool.aspx?fyYear=2025*](https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/DeterminationTool.aspx?fyYear=2025)*.*
2. *Owned the property for fewer than 10 years.*
3. *Socially disadvantaged groups consist of the following:*
	* *American Indians or Alaskan Natives*
	* *Asians*
	* *Blacks or African Americans*
	* *Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders*
	* *Hispanics.*

 *(For an entity, at least 50 percent ownership in the farm business must be* *held by socially disadvantaged individuals.)* *D) "Veteran Farmer or Rancher" meaning a producer who:**Served in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard, including the reserve component thereof; was released from service under conditions other than dishonorable; and:** + *Has not operated a farm or ranch, or has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years; or*
	+ *Who first obtained status as a veteran during the most recent 10-year period.*

 *Y\_\_N\_\_**Identification: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* |
| **The following questions are optional (recommended to be filled out by a forester or landowner who is very familiar with the property and current forest conditions)** |
| *Stand conditions, which you consider eligible/appropriate for this practice (i.e. species composition, age, stems per acre, quality of growing stock, health condition, etc.):* |
| *Stand history: Briefly describe the conditions and practices that lead to the current stand condition.* |
| *Proposed specifications for this practice (for example: post-treatment spacing, number of residual trees per acre, post-treatment basal area, post-treatment species composition, etc.)* |
| *Please describe the climate benefits or climate adaptation aspects of this practice as specifically as possible.* |
| *Please describe additional environmental benefits of this practice specific to the proposed parameters, including improved wildlife habitat, improved water quality, reduced erosion, avoided land conversion, etc. Are you currently tracking (monitoring and reporting) and measuring these benefits in the field? If so, how?* |
| *Is the proposed treatment commercially viable? Y\_\_ N\_\_* |
| *Will there be commercial timber sold from this treatment? Y\_\_N\_\_* |
| *What impact will the practice have on the development of merchantable wood products in the treated stand? How many years will it take for this to occur? We understand this won’t be known for all stands, but please provide specifics if you can.* |
| *What additional treatments (including final harvest for even-aged systems) do you envision in the treated stands after implementation of the climate-smart silvicultural practice? Please specify projected time until implementation of additional treatments, including age at final harvest (for even-aged systems). Take us through the future progression of this stand until regeneration cut (or other intended goals).* |