



# News Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Help Available to Forest Landowners in Ice Ravaged Counties

**LITTLE ROCK, ARK.** – Landowners in the northern third of Arkansas suffered extensive damage from the January ice storm. Private forest landowners throughout the area have been left wondering what to do to restore damaged timberlands.

The Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) has received a grant to pay professional foresters to write stewardship plans and conduct other work in the ice damaged counties in northern Arkansas that have been declared Federal Disaster Areas (FEMA-3301-EM). These 30 counties are: Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Clay, Cleburne, Conway, Craighead, Crawford, Cross, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Johnson, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Mississippi, Newton, Poinsett, Pope, Randolph, Searcy, Sharp, Stone, Van Buren and Washington.

“A written plan by a professional forester will help a landowner know what steps to take to improve damaged forest land,” said Mike Cagle, AFC staff forester.

The AFC will pay professional foresters to work on a landowner’s property by writing a Forest Stewardship plan, establishing a casualty loss for tax purposes for the landowner’s timber damaged areas, and helping market the landowner’s damaged timber.

Cost-share programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention and Restoration Program (SPBPRP) may also be available to help landowners restore their forestland. However, a plan must be written for the property to be eligible.

For a list of consultants available, contact your local AFC County Forester. Contact information is also available online at [www.arkansasforestry.org/districts/district\\_map.html](http://www.arkansasforestry.org/districts/district_map.html), or by calling the Arkansas Forestry Commission at (501) 296-1940.

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*The Arkansas Forestry Commission offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*