Mel Noland Woodland Incentive Fund

FY23 and FY 24

Natural Resources Article, Section 5-307

Prepared by the Department of Natural Resources

December 2025

December 30, 2025

The Honorable Brian Feldman
Chair, Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairs:

I am pleased to provide you with this report on the status of the Woodland Incentive Fund for FY23 and FY24.

The Woodland Incentive Fund (Natural Resources Article, Section 5-307) may be used toward private landowner cost-share assistance and administrative costs for preparing forest stewardship plans; annual grants to the Forest Conservancy District Boards' outreach efforts; supporting activities pursuant to the Forest Health Emergency Contingency Program; financial assistance for the administration of an Urban and Community Forestry Program; funding forest products marketing and utilization programming in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and helping DNR, in cooperation with other public and private entities, develop and expand forest mitigation banking, carbon crediting, clean water credit trading and environmental services credit training programs; and offsetting the administrative costs for providing staff assistance to the Sustainable Forestry Council.

Funding sources include revenues from forestry practices on designated lands owned and managed by the Department subject to approval by the Secretary and the Board of Public Works, as well as the woodland transfer tax and surcharge and various fees for landowner services.

Revenue derived from forestry practices on designated lands owned and managed by the Department consist of timber sale revenues from State Forests and the Chesapeake Forest Lands and are deposited in the Forest and Park Reserve Fund (FPRF). We had no need during the reporting period to transfer any of these funds to the Woodland Incentive Fund (WIF).

The Honorable Brian Feldman
The Honorable Marc Korman
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The following is a summary of revenue and expenditures for the Woodland Incentive Fund during FY23 and FY24. FY19 through FY24 reports are included for context.

Revenue Source	**FY2019**	**FY2020**	**FY2021**	**FY2022**	**FY2023**	**FY2024**
General Fund transfer						1,000,000
Woodland Transfer Tax	158,865	61,336	37,431	41,481	80,231	194,205
Ag Transfer Tax-woodland surcharg	41,135	15,081	9,301	10,620	21,009	48,551
Forest Cons. & Mgt Agreement		5,675	-			650
Forest Stewardship Plans	111,316	104,080	111,623	88,714	100,164	90,279
Timber Stand Improvement Service	1,427	1,358	1,847	486	408	511
Planting Site Exams	150		40			
Management Plan Inspections	53,265	66,495	70,463	70,933	79,720	81,886
Forestry Services Coordination	474	1,378	1,028	1,541	1,867	220
Land rent						11,353
Forestry Equipment Rental		30	100	25	3,957	-
Fees- prescribed burns						
Misc fees, fines & forfeitures						
Misc administrative charges						119
Total Revenues	**366,632**	**255,433**	**231,833**	**213,801**	**287,356**	**1,427,774**

Expenditure /Purpose	**FY2019**	**FY2020**	**FY2021**	**FY2022**	**FY2023**	**FY2024**
Cost Share to Landowners	119,292	208,807	191,446	205,299	259,720	185,929
Grants to Forestry Boards	36,500		-	-	-	139,094
Office of Secretary	42,900	25,000	14,600	-	-	
Regular Payroll						46,150
Contractual Wages	5,000	40,823	70,090	66,465	57,621	32,243
Miscellaneous	1,750	428	592	593	345	3,234
Contracts & Agreements						206,000
Bad Debt Expense	1,236		1,050	1,525	11,549	8,173
Total Expenditures	**206,678**	**292,958**	**277,778**	**273,881**	**329,235**	**620,824**
Net Gain/Loss	$ 159,954.00	$ (37,475.00)	$ (45,945.01)	$ (60,080.30)	$ (41,879.21)	$ 806,831.59

If you have any questions about this submission, please do not hesitate to contact Lydia McPherson, Director of Legislative and Constituent Services at (410) 260-8113 or lydia.mcpherson1@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Josh Kurtz
Secretary

cc: Sarah Albert, Mandated Reports Specialist, Legislative Library (5 copies)
Lydia McPherson