

# Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) Withdrawal Application

Use this form to request release of land from the SFIA covenant. The withdrawal request must come from the claimant or purchaser of the land. If the land is owned by a business or organization, the entity must appoint one authorized representative to complete and sign this application.

## Check all that apply:

- I am requesting to withdraw from the program because I have been enrolled in the program for at least one-half the duration of the covenant.
- The claimant (landowner) passed away less than a year ago.
- The enrolled land is being taken by eminent domain or the landowner and the entity with power of eminent domain reach an agreement before eminent domain proceedings begin (Complete page 2 of this form).
- The enrolled land is in a conservation easement at least as restrictive as SFIA.

## Landowner Information

You must apply in the name of the claimant or landowner. Complete a separate application for individual-owned and entity-owned property.

Name of Claimant or Landowner \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number/Federal ID or Minnesota Tax ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

## Property Information

Provide all the following information for each parcel of land you want to request to release from the program.

County	Covenant Recording Number	Parcel Identification Number (PID) (The PID is not the legal description)	For Eminent Domain/Conservation Easement, List Number of Eligible Acres to be Released*

Attach a separate withdrawal application, if needed.

\*For land taken by eminent domain and land covered by a conservation easement withdrawal requests, partial releases are allowed. Provide a legal description of the land being requested for release. For other withdrawal requests, the release must be the entire parcel.

## Sign Here

**Claimant or authorized representative (signature required):** I declare that this form is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I own or I am an authorized representative of the entity that owns the land.

Signature of Landowner or Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this application and all required attachments to:

**Minnesota Department of Revenue**  
**Mail Station 3340**  
**600 N. Robert St.**  
**St. Paul, MN 55146-3340**

## Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) Withdrawal Application, page 2

### Eminent Domain Request Additional Information

The following questions and explanations outline what needs to be proven for the land you requesting to be withdrawn from SFIA under Minnesota Statute 290C.10, paragraph (b). All questions must be answered. The request to withdraw must include all of the documents listed for each question in order to be approved.

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Name of Project (Optional)

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#### Does the government unit/entity have title to the land?

- Yes.** Provide a copy of the deed or other instrument transferring title of the land.
- No.** You are not the claimant. The withdrawal request must come from the owner, grantee, or purchaser of the land. The government unit/entity may coordinate with the claimant to submit a request to the Department of Revenue.

#### Does the government unit/entity have the power of eminent domain with regard to the land?

- Yes.** Provide all of the following documents to show eminent domain powers.
- Copy of the state or federal statute, rule, or law authorizing eminent domain authority.
  - Condemnation proceeding order, if applicable.
  - Copy of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission decision or court order conferring eminent domain authority on an entity, if applicable.
- No.** The property **will not** be withdrawn from the SFIA program at this time. The land is still bound by the covenant. The claimant must follow the standard withdrawal process to remove it from SFIA.

#### Does the government unit/entity have possession of the land?

Possession is the right under which one may exercise control over something to the exclusion of all others.

- Yes.** Provide a copy of the instrument showing the government unit/entity has possession of the land. The materials submitted will be used to determine if the land will be used for a public purpose as required under Minnesota Statute 290C.10, paragraph (b). If the land will not be used for public purposes, it **will not** be withdrawn from the SFIA program.

**Return to the Sign Here section on page 1 of this form.**

# Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) Withdrawal Application Instructions

## Withdrawal Process from SFIA

The current owner of the land enrolled needs to request withdrawal from the program. Your land must stay in SFIA for at least the length of your covenant (8, 20, or 50 years). After half of the covenant length has passed, you may ask to withdraw your land from the program.

Under state law, there is a waiting period equal to half your covenant length before your land is removed from the program. So, after we receive your request, your land will remain in SFIA for another 4, 10, or 25 years, depending on the length of your covenant. You will receive incentive payments during the waiting period as long as you continue to meet all the program requirements and return your certification to us by the deadline each year.

**Note:** Land enrolled in SFIA is bound by your covenant until you complete the withdrawal process – no matter the covenant length.

### Example

Paul Bunyan enrolls his land in the SFIA program in 2008 under an 8-year covenant. In 2019, Paul decides he wants to withdraw his land from SFIA. He sends a completed SFIA Withdrawal Application to the department. Paul's waiting period is 4 years (half the length of his 8-year covenant). His land remains in SFIA for 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. The land is removed from the program effective January 1, 2024. Paul receives SFIA payments during the 4-year waiting period as long as he continues to meet all the program requirements and returns his certification by the deadline each year.

## Can I withdraw from SFIA early?

There are only a few exceptions that allow land to be released from the SFIA program early without penalty:

**Death of a Claimant** — Within one year after the death of the claimant, the claimant's heir, devisee, or estate must notify the department to terminate enrollment. Attach a copy of the death certificate with this request.

**Eminent Domain** — Property in SFIA may be withdrawn from the program without penalty when the claimant (person or entity owning the property) requests withdrawal and the state of Minnesota, any local government unit, or any other entity meets all of the following criteria:

- Title or possession to the land
- Power of eminent domain over the land
- Acquired title or possession to the land for a public purpose

**Conservation Easement** — If land is in a permanent conservation easement held by a government or nonprofit entity and the conservation easement is as restrictive as the SFIA covenant, the land will be allowed early withdrawal.

You may withdraw only the affected acres. Acres that are enrolled in SFIA but not in a conservation easement must remain in SFIA.

Attach a copy of the conservation easement with this request.

## Use of Information

We use the information you provide on this form to properly identify you and determine if you qualify to receive an incentive payment. Your application may be delayed or denied if you do not provide all of the requested information, except your phone number. However, providing a daytime phone number can save time if we have any questions.

Your Social Security number is required. (See Minnesota Statute 290C.04.) Your Social Security number is private information; we cannot disclose it to others without your consent.

Your Federal ID or Minnesota Tax ID number are also private or nonpublic information; however, we may disclose them to county assessors or treasurers for property tax or debt collection purposes. All other information on this form is public.

## If Your Request is Approved

We will send a confirmation letter with the date your land will be released. Once you have withdrawn, you cannot re-enroll in SFIA for at least three years. If your property qualifies for immediate withdrawal, a release of covenant will be sent immediately.

## Questions?

For questions about withdrawing from SFIA, contact the department:

- Web: [www.revenue.state.mn.us](http://www.revenue.state.mn.us)
- Phone: 651-556-6088
- Email: [sfia.proptax@state.mn.us](mailto:sfia.proptax@state.mn.us)

For questions about forest management plans, contact the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources:

- Web: [dnr.state.mn.us/foreststewardship](http://dnr.state.mn.us/foreststewardship)
- Email: [sfia.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:sfia.dnr@state.mn.us)