



COLORADO FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR 2020 FUNDS

The Colorado Forest Legacy Program purpose is to protect environmentally important private forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses.

Background

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) authorizes the USDA Forest Service or the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) to purchase permanent conservation easements on **private** forestlands to prevent those lands from being converted to non-forest uses. Forestlands that contain important scenic, cultural, recreation, and water resources, as well as fish and wildlife habitat and other ecological values that will support continued traditional forest uses receive priority. Those landowners who voluntarily choose to participate in the program are required to follow a land management plan designed for their forest. These plans are approved by the CSFS and must be reviewed at least every 10 year for the need to update them. Activities consistent with the management plan, including timber harvesting, grazing, and recreation activities are permitted.

The Colorado Forest Legacy Program was initiated in 2001 through a statewide assessment of private forestland at risk of conversion to non-forest uses. Colorado State Forest Service has completed a review of the original Forest Legacy Assessment of Need in 2009.

It is recognized that Colorado has an extensive network of well-qualified land trusts and other non-governmental land conservation organizations. The Colorado Forest Legacy Program intends to support the efforts of this existing land conservation community. Since the CSFS is the lead agency for the Colorado Forest Legacy Program, all easements secured with the help of Forest Legacy funds will be held by the State of Colorado. The CSFS believes the program offers an important opportunity for land conservation groups to access federal funding to protect valuable private forestlands.

Application Instructions

Application Deadline: For full consideration, applications must be received no later than 4:00 PM on August 31, 2018. These applications will be eligible for funding that may become available beginning 2020. Applications must be submitted by the deadline to be considered for funding.

Return applications to:
Colorado Forest Legacy Program
Colorado State Forest Service
Colorado State University
Foothills 5060 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060

Direct all questions to:
Carolyn Aspelin
Colorado State Forest Service
970-491-1869
carolyn.aspelin@colostate.edu

Application Instructions (continued)

Please be as complete as possible. All information is provided voluntarily. Applications submitted without all requested information, will be accepted and evaluated as well as possible.

Please remember that applications to the program are for private forestlands. Applications for lands held in public ownership do not qualify under the Forest Legacy Program.

Additional information about the Forest Legacy Program may be accessed on the US Forest Service web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flp.shtml>

Additional application forms and other information about the Colorado Forest Legacy Program, including detailed Forest Legacy Area descriptions, may be acquired by calling the Colorado State Forest Service at 970-491-6303.

Section I – Landowner/Applicant Information

Landowner Name: _____ Agent Name: _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Fax: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Email: _____

Please list all co-owners of this property: _____

Section II -- Property Information

1. County(s): _____

2. Legal Description: _____

3. Reference Name (other than owner name): _____

4. Current Property Tax Classification: _____

5. Total property acres: _____ Total Forested Acres: _____

6. Acres nominated for Colorado Forest Legacy Program: a. Forested: _____

b. Non-forested: _____ c. Water surface: _____ d. Total: _____

Section III -- Financial Information

Financial: The following estimates are for preliminary use only. Any final offer for conservation easement purchase may not exceed fair market value, as determined by an appraisal according to federal appraisal standards.

1. What is the estimated total market value of the nominated property? _____
2. What is the estimated value of the interests proposed for transfer by conservation easement to the Colorado Forest Legacy Program? _____
3. How was this value determined? (i.e. landowner estimate, licensed appraisal, realtor estimate, etc.) _____
4. What is your estimated sale price for the interests being offered? _____
5. Are you willing to donate part of the easement value? Yes _____ No _____
If yes, what portion are you willing to donate? 25% _____ 50% _____ 75% _____ 100% _____
6. Please indicate ownership intentions following conservation easement transaction:
 - a. Maintain ownership _____
 - b. Convey ownership _____

Note: Donations may constitute a charitable federal income tax contribution, depending on applicable Internal Revenue Service guidelines and regulations.

Liens and Encumbrances: Please list all liens, encumbrances or title defects on the nominated property and briefly describe conditions of each. Examples include, mortgages, utility easements, public rights of way, water restrictions or easements, covenants, tax liens, etc. (Use additional sheets if necessary.)

Section IV -- Landowner Vision, Goals and Objectives

On a separate sheet(s), please describe your vision for the nominated property. Include discussion of your goals and objectives for the land and how they align with the Colorado Forest Legacy Program.

Section V – Forest Legacy Goals

Which of the Colorado Forest Legacy Goals would be accomplished if this application were successful?

1. _____ Reduction of forested land fragmentation as a result of development pressures, subdivision and increasing housing density.
2. _____ Protection of water quality and production amounts.
3. _____ Protection of significant wildlife habitat.
4. _____ Protection of economically significant timber forest products through positive forest stewardship programs.
5. _____ Protection of significant riparian communities.
6. _____ Maintaining continuity of forested lands adjacent to protected lands.
7. _____ Protection of unique ecological areas.
8. _____ Reduction of risk and occurrence of wildfires especially in developed areas or ecologically sensitive areas.
9. _____ Protection of private property owner’s rights.
10. _____ Protection of lifestyle for property owners.

Section VI -- Identification of Rights to be Retained or Conveyed

Please complete this section carefully and completely. The information will directly affect the evaluation of the nominated parcel and its priority as a Colorado Forest Legacy Program property. Please indicate which of the following uses or interests you wish to keep and which uses or interests you wish to sell/donate as part of the conservation easement.

***Note:** The following information does not create an obligation, nor is it binding. It is understood to be a good faith estimate of values to be included in the Colorado Forest Legacy Program transaction.*

Forest Use or Interest	Retain	Convey	Unsure
Residential and/or commercial development rights	_____	_____	_____
Forest management and wood products harvest rights	_____	_____	_____
Non-wood forest products (i.e. mushrooms, herbs, craft items, etc.) harvest rights	_____	_____	_____
Mineral extraction rights - unrestricted access*	_____	_____	_____
Mineral extraction rights – restricted surface occupancy	_____	_____	_____
Oil and gas rights – unrestricted access*	_____	_____	_____
Oil and gas rights – restricted surface occupancy	_____	_____	_____
Public access restriction rights	_____	_____	_____
Grazing rights (_____ acres)	_____	_____	_____
Farming rights (_____ acres)	_____	_____	_____
Road building/rebuilding (other than forest management/protection roads) rights	_____	_____	_____
Existing buildings or improvements ownership. Please specify.	_____	_____	_____
Other (please specify)	_____	_____	_____

*Retention of unrestricted mineral and oil and gas rights will exclude that portion of the property from consideration for the Colorado Forest Legacy Program.

Section VII – Forest Legacy Program Selection Criteria

Following are the 26 criteria by which applications will be evaluated. Please respond as appropriate on additional sheets. It is the applicant's responsibility to determine the response extent. **Criteria marked with "*" are required and must be clearly addressed to establish eligibility.** The remaining criteria are optional and will be evaluated as adding value to the application and used to rank competing projects. No priority significance is implied by the order in which the criteria are listed.

1. ***FLA Area Inclusion:** Indicate the Forest Legacy Area(s) in which the property is located. See the Forest Legacy Area map on Page 7.
2. ***Willing Landowner:** Landowner signature on this application or written authority granted to an agent and signed by landowner is required.
3. ***Easement Condition:** Describe desired conservation easement terms and how they adhere to Forest Legacy Program guidelines.
4. ***Plan Quality:** The nominated property must be covered by a land management plan that is consistent with Forest Stewardship Program plan guidelines (enclosed).
5. ***Money Leverage:** Describe how Forest Legacy funding will be leveraged. At least 25% of the project costs must be secured from non-federal cash or in-kind sources.
6. ***Threat of Conversion to Non-Forest Use:** Describe existing and potential threats of conversion to non-forest uses.
7. ***Readiness:** Describe the current status of project development and the timeline for transaction completion.
8. ***Value of Project:** Describe the cost-benefit relationships of the project.
9. **Property Size:** Describe the property size compliments the Forest Legacy Program goals.
10. **Forest Type:** At a minimum, list the forest vegetation species present.
11. **Forest Condition:** Describe the forestland condition.
12. **Continuity with Other Protected Lands:** Describe proximity and relationship to other protected lands and the ownership of those lands. If this project is part of a larger conservation plan describe the plan and how this property fits into the plan.
13. **Wildlife/Plant Habitat:** Describe the value to wildlife habitat. List any threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant and animal species that occur on the property.
14. **Urgency:** Describe the status of conversion threats. Development in the local area and percent growth and development are examples.
15. **Partnerships:** List all project supporters and their involvement. Include letters of support if possible. This is an important criteria to show broad documented support.
16. **Community Support:** Describe how surrounding landowners and the local community support the project. Include letters of support if possible.
17. **Scenic Resources:** Describe the scenic values enhanced or protected. Does the property lie within any scenic corridor or other identified scenic area.
18. **Ecological/Environmental Significance and Resources:** Describe the occurrence of significant ecologic conditions or environmental resources.
19. **Economic Significance:** Describe the economic impacts.

20. **Wildfire Hazard Reduction:** Describe the potential reduction of wildfire hazard or intensities.
21. **Aquatic Resources:** Describe aquatic resources such as lakes, rivers, wetland areas, and streams.

Section VII – Forest Legacy Program Selection Criteria (continued)

22. **Historic Land Use:** Describe the historic and ongoing traditional forestry land use.
23. **Public Access:** While public access provides public benefit consistent with Forest Legacy goals, it is not required. Describe the potential for public access.
24. **Water Quality Protection:** Describe protection or enhancement to water quality of lakes, rivers, and streams.
25. **Cultural Resources:** Describe protection of cultural resources, such as historic sites or archeological resources.
26. **Other Public Values:** Describe other potential public values.

Section VIII – Additional Information

Please include the following items with this application. **Items marked with “*” are required and must be included to establish eligibility.** The remaining items are optional and may be requested later. If requested items are not available, please explain.

- _____ Highway map with property location identified*
- _____ County plat map with property boundaries identified*
- _____ Property map with buildings, and other permanent improvements identified*
- _____ Property map with dams, fuel tanks, dumps, waste disposal sites or other such locations identified*
- _____ Aerial photograph(s) (high-quality copy is acceptable) with property boundaries identified
- _____ Copy of land management plan

***Note:** All submitted materials become property the Colorado State Forest Service and are non-returnable.*

Section IX -- Additional Landowner/Agent Comments

Please use this space to provide additional comments not included elsewhere in the application. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Section X -- Testimony and Permission

The information in this application is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I (we), as the landowner(s) or landowner's authorized agent (letter of authorization must accompany the application) agree to allow inspection, appraisal and survey of my property being offered for consideration under the Colorado Forest Legacy Program. I agree to allow members of the Colorado Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee and the Colorado State Forest Service to inspect my property at any reasonable time for the purposes of this application. I understand I shall be notified in advance of all inspection visits.

I also understand that this application is only a request for the nominated parcel to be considered for the Colorado Forest Legacy Program and does not constitute an agreement to purchase, lease or otherwise compensate the owner for any property interests.

Printed Landowner/Agent Name	Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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