



## **COLORADO FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR 2024 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 or go towards fee acquisitions 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. The Colorado State Forest Service released a 2020 updated Assessment of Need that is now available. Applicants may use the Forest Legacy Area map at the end of this application to determine eligibility for 2024 funds. The Forest Legacy Map is also available in the Forest Action Plan (FAP) application of the CO Forest Atlas at [www.coloradoforestatlas.org](http://www.coloradoforestatlas.org).

The significance of the conservation values, build out potential and pressure, and forest resources on the proposed property will ultimately determine its success in receiving Forest Legacy funding. Due to limited funding for the program and very high demand for program funding nationwide, larger projects that consist of 1,000 acres or more have typically been most successful at receiving funding when pooled with all other projects submitted from the other 49 states and territories.

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:**

**5:00 PM on June 15, 2022**

**These applications will be eligible for funding that may become available beginning 2024.** 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  
[Erik.Castello@colostate.edu](mailto:Erik.Castello@colostate.edu)  
Foothills 5060 Campus Delivery

**Direct all questions to:**

Erik Castello  
Colorado State Forest Service  
970-491-3850 – office  
412-401-6958 – cell  
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060

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.

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 970-491-3850.

### Section 1 – Eligibility

1. Is the property in private ownership (lands in public ownership do not qualify for the Program)?  
Yes  No
2. Is the property within, or partially within a designated Forest Legacy Area (as referenced at the end of this application)?  
Yes  No
3. Does the property consist of at least 75% lands classified as forested?  
Yes  No
4. Has the applicant discussed the proposed project with the Colorado State Forest Service Forest Legacy Program Manager (Erik Castello, 970-491-1869, [Erik.Castello@colostate.edu](mailto:Erik.Castello@colostate.edu))?  
Yes  No
5. At least 25% of the project costs planned to be secured from non-federal cash or in-kind sources.  
Yes  No

**If the answer to any of the above questions is “No”, the applicant is not eligible to apply for funding from the Forest Legacy Program. Please contact the Forest Legacy Program Manager for any questions or concerns regarding eligibility.**

**Section 2 – Landowner/Applicant Information**

Landowner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Agent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list all co-owners of this property: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Section 3-- Property Information**

1. County(s): \_\_\_\_\_

2. Legal Description (If too long to list here, please attach legal description to application):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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 4 -- 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 5 -- 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 6 – 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 7 -- 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.*

1. Please indicate how many structures are currently located on the property and where they are located. (Please include minor and major structures)
2. Number and size of proposed building envelopes – how many structures are currently in each and how many new residences would be reserved?
3. Are there any portions of the property that are intended to be excluded from the conservation easement? What are the proposed locations and sizes?
4. Additional Information:

<b>Forest Use or Interest</b>	<b>Retain</b>	<b>Convey</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
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 8– 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 9 – 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.
  - Are there any deeded water rights associated with the property? If so, please list all below:
  - Will those water rights be encumbered in the conservation easement?
  - If not, please describe reason why water rights are not planned to be encumbered by the proposed conservation easement.
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 10 – 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 ALL 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 11 -- Additional Landowner/Agent Comments

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

**Section 12 -- 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.

<b>Printed Landowner/Agent Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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



# Colorado Forest Legacy Areas, 2020

