



# COLORADO FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM APPLICATION

## March 2024

***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) is a federally funded and state-administered program that supports efforts to protect private forest lands that are environmentally, economically and socially critical. The program helps prevent fragmentation of our forests and preserves natural vistas for all to enjoy.

The Colorado Forest Legacy Program is a partnership between Colorado and the USDA Forest Service to identify and help conserve environmentally important forests from conversion to non-forest uses. The program supports the protection of privately owned forest lands through conservation easements (legally binding agreements that transfer a negotiated set of property rights from one party to another) or land purchases (fee simple).

In order to be eligible for the program, the proposed property must be located within a Forest legacy Area, as identified in the [Colorado Forest Legacy Assessment of Need](#), must be privately owned and must consist of at least 75 percent of lands classified as forests. The Federal government may fund up to 75 percent of project costs, with at least 25 percent coming from non-federal cash or in-kind sources.

Forestlands at greatest risk of conversion to non-forest use and show a high significance of conservation values such as scenic, cultural, recreation and water resources, fish and wildlife habitat, and that support traditional forest uses, will receive priority.

Landowners who elect to participate in the program are required to follow a multi-resource, land management plan approved by the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS). Activities consistent with the management plan and easement are permitted, including timber harvesting, grazing and recreation activities.

The Colorado State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee will evaluate proposals and recommend to the state forester those proposals that have sufficient merit to forward to the U.S. Forest Service. Forwarded proposals will then compete at a national level for funding. All easements secured with FLP funds will be held by the State of Colorado.

## Deadlines, Instructions & Resources

FLP Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): up to 3 projects, not to exceed \$20 million statewide  
Information on Forest Service LWCF funding:

**Colorado FLP LWCF Application Deadline: TBD**

**USFS National LWCF Deadline: TBD**

FLP Inflation Reduction Act (IRA): Large Landscape, State-Tribal Partnership, or Strategic Small-Tract  
Information on Forest Service IRA funding: [FY24 Call Letter for Projects](#), [FY24 Project Scoring Guidance](#)

**Colorado FLP IRA Application Deadline: May 3, 2024**

**USFS National IRA Deadline: May 20, 2024**

Applications must be received by the state deadline to allow for the CO Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (FSCC) time to review. Applications not reviewed by the FSCC will not be considered.

Please check the box below the FLP funding source you are applying for. Be sure the project qualifies for the funding source by checking the Call Letters and Scoring Guidance above.

LWCF	IRA – Large Landscape	IRA – State-Tribal	IRA – Strategic Small
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**Email or Return applications to:**

[Erik.Castello@colostate.edu](mailto:Erik.Castello@colostate.edu)  
Colorado State Forest Service  
ATTN: Erik Castello, Forest Legacy  
5060 Campus Delivery  
Fort Collins, CO 80523

**Discuss Project with:**

Erik Castello  
Colorado Forest Legacy Program Coordinator  
[Erik.Castello@colostate.edu](mailto:Erik.Castello@colostate.edu)

More information on the Forest Legacy Program is available through the [USFS Forest Legacy](#) website. Additional applications and information about the [Colorado Forest Legacy Program](#), including detailed [Forest Legacy Area](#) descriptions, may be accessed through our website, by calling the Colorado State Forest Service at 970-491-6303 or emailing [Erik.Castello@colostate.edu](mailto:Erik.Castello@colostate.edu).

## Initial Eligibility

\*If the answer to any of the below questions is “No”, the applicant is not eligible to apply for funding.

- Is the property in private ownership or at high risk of conversion to non-forest use?  
Yes ☐ No\* ☐
- Is the property within, or partially within a designated [Forest Legacy Area](#)?  
(Sign In or Request Account, Forest Action Plan 2020, Map Themes dropdown, toggle Forest Legacy Areas)  
Yes ☐ No\* ☐ Forest Legacy Area name:
- Does the property consist of at least 75% lands classified as forested?  
Yes ☐ No\* ☐
- Has the project been discussed with the CSFS Forest Legacy Coordinator?  
Yes ☐ No\* ☐
- Will at least 25% of the project costs be secured from non-federal cash or in-kind sources?  
Yes ☐ No\* ☐

## Applicant Information

Full Name:	
Mailing address:	
Phone:	
Email:	
Landowner's representative:	
Phone:	
Email:	

## Property Information

Reference name (if applicable, e.g. Bar-S-Ranch):	
Property address:	
County(s):	
Nearest community:	
Acres to be included in FLP easement:	Forested acres:
Legal description. Use <i>Optional Criteria &amp; Additional Info</i> section below, if necessary:	
Please list and describe any permanent structural or infrastructural facilities such as houses, barns, out-buildings, all season roads, dams, antennas, etc. on the property. Use <i>Optional Criteria &amp; Additional Info</i> section below, if necessary:	
Please list and describe any liens, encumbrances, covenants, title defects, mortgages, easements, rights-of-way, water restrictions, contracts, leases, etc. on the property. Use <i>Optional Criteria &amp; Additional Info</i> section below, if necessary:	
Please briefly describe the threat of conversion to non-forest use. Attributes may include lack of protection, land and landowner circumstances, adjacent land use and ability to develop. Use <i>Optional Criteria &amp; Additional Info</i> section below, if necessary:	

## Financial Information

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

Following the easement transaction, will ownership be either:	
Maintained (conservation easement) <b>or</b>	
Conveyed (fee simple purchase)	
Estimated fair market value of proposed easement:	
How was this value determined? (i.e. licensed appraisal, realtor or landowner estimate):	
Estimated sale (asking) price for the easement:	
Will a part of the easement value be donated? If yes, amount:	

## Project Readiness

Indicate the due diligence items completed. Indicate the timeline for transaction completion.

Easement or fee conditions:	Non-federal cost share commitment:
Signed purchase agreement:	Title search:
Mineral determination:	Stewardship Plan (or equivalent):

Estimated transaction completion:

## Forest Legacy Goals

Listed below are the goals of the Colorado Forest Legacy Program in priority order. Check each goal that would be accomplished if this application were successful.

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

## Identification of Rights to be Retained or Conveyed

Please indicate which of the following uses or interests will be retained and which will be conveyed (sold/donated) as part of the conservation easement.

<b>Forest Use or Interest</b>	<b>Retain</b>	<b>Convey</b>
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Residential and/or commercial development rights

Forest management and wood products harvest rights

Non-wood forest product harvest rights (i.e. craft items, mushrooms)

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 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.

## Maps

Please include the following items with this application. **Items marked with an asterisk (\*) are required and must be included to establish eligibility.** If requested items are not available, please explain.

\*Highway map with property location identified

\*County plat map with property boundaries identified

\*Property map that identifies permanent structures (buildings, dams, outbuildings, barns, etc.)

Aerial photograph(s) with property boundaries identified

## Selection Criteria & Checklist

The following criteria will be used to evaluate prospective FLP projects. **Criteria marked with an asterisk (\*) 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. Clearly indicate and describe optional criteria in the following *Optional Criteria & Additional Info* section. These criteria are not in order of significance.

**\*FLA Area Inclusion:** Indicate the [Forest Legacy Area\(s\)](#) in which the property is located.

- Indicated in *Initial Eligibility*

**\*Willing Landowner:** Landowner signature(s) on this application or written authority granted to an agent and signed by landowner(s) is required.

- Signature required in *Testimony and Permissions*

**\*Easement Condition:** Conservation easement terms must be consistent with FLP guidelines.

- Indicated in *Initial Eligibility* and *Identification of Rights to be Retained/Conveyed*

**\*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.

- Indicated in *Financial Information*

**\*Threat of Conversion to Non-Forest Use:** Describe existing and potential threats of conversion to non-forest uses.

- Indicated in *Property Information*

**\*Readiness:** Describe the status of project development and the timeline for completion.

- Indicated in *Project Readiness*

**\*Value of Project:** Describe the cost-benefit relationships of the project.

- Indicated in *Financial Information*

**Plan:** The property must have a multi-resource management plan (Forest Stewardship Plan) prepared by time of easement closing. Attach to application if completed.

- Indicated in *Project Readiness*

**Property Size:** Larger parcels will be given a higher value than smaller parcels. Smaller parcels may be given a high value during ranking based on other factors.

- Indicated in *Forest Legacy Goals*

**Forest Type:** List the main forest cover type(s) present.

- Indicate in *Optional Criteria & Additional Info* below

**Forest Condition:** Describe the forestland condition.

- Indicate in *Optional Criteria & Additional Info* below

**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.

- Indicated in *Property Information*

**Wildlife/Plant Habitat:** Describe the value to wildlife habitat. List any threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant and animal species that occur on the property.

- Indicate in *Optional Criteria & Additional Info* below

**Urgency:** Describe the status of conversion threats.

- Indicated in *Property Information*

**Partnerships:** List all project supporters and their involvement. Include letters of support.

- Indicate in *Optional Criteria & Additional Info* below

**Community Support:** Describe how surrounding landowners and the local community support the project. Include letters of support.

- Indicate in *Optional Criteria & Additional Info* below

**Scenic Resources:** Describe the scenic values enhanced or protected.

- Indicate in *Optional Criteria & Additional Info* below

**Ecological/Environmental Significant Resources:** Describe the presence of significant resources.

- Indicate in *Optional Criteria & Additional Info* below

**Economic Significance:** Describe the economic impacts.

- Indicate in *Optional Criteria & Additional Info* below

**Wildfire Hazard Reduction:** Describe the potential reduction of wildfire hazard or intensities.

- Indicate in *Optional Criteria & Additional Info* below

**Aquatic Resources:** Describe aquatic resources such as lakes, rivers, wetland areas, and streams.

- Indicate in *Optional Criteria & Additional Info* below

**Historic Land Use:** Describe the historic and ongoing traditional forestry land use.

- Indicate in *Optional Criteria & Additional Info* below

**Public Access:** Describe the potential or willingness for public access. Not a requirement for FLP.

- Indicate in *Optional Criteria & Additional Info* below

**Water Quality Protection:** Describe protection or enhancement to water quality of lakes, rivers, and streams. Please list any deeded water rights and whether or not those water rights will be encumbered in the easement.

- Indicated in *Property Information*, expand in *Optional Criteria* below

**Cultural Resources:** Describe protection of cultural resources, historic or archeological sites.

- Indicate in *Optional Criteria & Additional Info* below

**Other Public Values:** Describe other potential public values.

- Indicate in *Optional Criteria & Additional Info* below

## Optional Criteria & Additional Info

Use this space to provide optional criteria and any additional comments not included elsewhere in the application. Attach additional sheets if necessary.



## 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**

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**Return applications to:**

[Erik.Castello@colostate.edu](mailto:Erik.Castello@colostate.edu)  
Colorado State Forest Service  
ATTN: Erik Castello, Forest Legacy  
5060 Campus Delivery  
Fort Collins, CO 80523

The map below is also available in the Forest Action Plan application of the [Colorado Forest Atlas](#).  
Instructions: Sign In or Request Account for the Colorado Forest Atlas, select Forest Action Plan 2020, Map Themes dropdown, toggle Forest Legacy Areas.

Colorado Forest Legacy Areas, 2020

