COLORADO FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM APPLICATION

The Colorado Forest Legacy Program promotes landscape-scale conservation by conserving environmentally important, threatened private forests.

Instructions

The Colorado State Forest Service, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, is pleased to request applications for the Forest Legacy Program.

Resources: Find information about Colorado's FLP on the CSFS' Forest Legacy webpage and Colorado's State Forest Action Plan. Information on the National Forest Legacy Program is available on the USFS Forest Legacy webpage. For more information or support, call the CSFS at 970-258-3769 or email CSFS_ForestLegacy@colostate.edu.

Deadlines: The state accepts applications on a rolling basis, with the goal of making each project application as competitive as possible. For each year, there will be an application deadline; after this date, eligible projects will be considered for funding the following year. Once grant funding is awarded, projects have two years to complete all grant requirements.

Submit completed applications via email to the CSFS
CSFS_ForestLegacy@colostate.edu
Colorado State Forest Service

Contact for more information
KatieRose.Levin@colostate.edu
Katie Rose Levin
Colorado Forest Legacy Program Specialist

Project eligibility

This section helps the CSFS determine if the project will be a good fit for the Forest Legacy Program. Please see the instructions for more details on each criterion, including definitions and instructions on how to access the Forest Legacy Area map.

For the purposes of this application, an area is considered forested if it has 10% tree cover or could become so through natural regeneration or planting. Trees of all sizes count.

Is the property within, or partially within, a designated Forest Legacy Area? Which one? _____	☐ Yes ☐ No
Is the property privately owned?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Is the landowner a willing and voluntary seller?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Is the property at least 75% forested?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Has the landowner met with the CSFS FLP specialist?	☐ Yes ☐ No

Applicant information

Current landowners: Provide the legal names and contact information for all landowners, including business entities with ownership interests in the property.

Legal name	Phone	Email

Intended future landowners: Provide the legal names and contact information for all intended future landowners, including agency acquisition holders, individuals or business entities with intended future ownership interests in the property.

Legal name	Phone	Email

Project applicant(s): Provide the legal name and contact information for the project applicant. Project applicant may either be the current or future landowner.

Legal name	Phone	Email

Primary contact: Provide the point of contact who will answer questions and provide information for the project applicant. If the primary contact is someone other than the project applicant, describe the relationship of the primary contact and provide legal documentation giving the primary contact the authority to represent the project applicant.

Legal name	
Mailing address	
Phone and email	
Relationship to landowner	

Project partner(s): Any entity or individual other than the project applicant who will work on the project. Project partners can include NGOs, landowners' representatives or other affiliated groups. The relationship and roles of the project partner must be clearly described. Please see the application instructions for further information about required documentation.

Project partner	
Mailing address	
Phone	
Email	
Describe role	

Project partner	
Mailing address	
Phone	
Email	
Describe role	

Project partner	
Mailing address	
Phone	
Email	
Describe role	

Property information

Property name (e.g., Forested Stream Ranch)	
Property address (If applicable, county assessor parcel number)	
County(s)	
Nearest community	
Forest Legacy Area	
Property acres	
Forested acres	
Percent forested	
Brief property description (approx. one paragraph)	
List permanent structures, facilities and infrastructure on the property (i.e., houses, barns, out-buildings, roads, trails, dams, antennas).	
List known liens, encumbrances, covenants, title defects, mortgages, easements, rights-of-way, water restrictions, contracts, leases, etc., on the property.	
List proposed future buildings or infrastructure.	

Maps and documents

Include the following items with this application. These may be updated as the application proceeds through the process. If requested items are not available, provide an explanation. Projects may still be eligible for the project even if they do not have listed documents at time of application.

Document/map description	Attached (Y/N)
Vicinity map (as PDF) • Boundaries of the property and identifiable landmarks • Surrounding landownership • Current development and infrastructure	
Property map (as PDF) • Boundaries of the property • Easement boundaries or part of parcel to be conveyed • Forested versus non-forested area • Aerial photograph • Proposed designated improvement area, if applicable	
GIS files (as .shp) • Property boundaries • Proposed designated improvement areas • Current infrastructure (roads, buildings, ponds)	
Legal property description	
Property documentation. Include known liens, encumbrances, covenants, title defects, mortgages, easements, rights-of-way, water restrictions, contracts, leases, etc., on the property.	
Value determination. This can include an appraisal, market analysis or other verifiable mechanism.	
Match documentation. Match does not need to be secured to apply; however, upon award the project must provide 25% match.	
Forest Stewardship Plan (if present). This is not required to apply.	

Photos

Submit no more than four photographs highlighting the unique values of the property. Include the photos as attachments in the application package submitted by email.

Real estate

The FLP purchases two types of real estate: Conservation easements and/or fee simple acquisitions. Indicate which type this project proposes and complete the appropriate section. If the project will include designated improvement areas (DIA), complete that section as well.

Conservation easement
This proposal is for a conservation easement. ☐ Yes ☐ No

This proposal includes DIAs. ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, fill out *Designated improvement area* section.

This property includes existing structures. ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, list the current structures on the property. This should match the information provided in the *Property information* section.

Fee simple acquisition
This proposal is for fee title conveyance. ☐ Yes ☐ No

This proposal includes DIAs. ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, fill out *Designated improvement area* section.

This property includes existing structures. ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, list the current structures on the property. This should match the information provided in the *Property information* section.

Designated improvement areas
How many DIAs are in the project area? _____

For each DIA, describe the size, approximate location and intended uses (e.g., parking, residence, agricultural structures, new buildings, existing buildings).

Name of DIA	Acreage	Intended use, including current and proposed structures. How will the DIA be accessed?

Financial information

There are two tables in this section. Fill out the table that applies to the type of real estate proposed in your project (conservation easement or fee simple acquisition). All projects must fill out the *Match information* section, indicating 25% match, even if match funding is not secured at the time of application. Matching funds do not need to be secured at application, but it will make the project more competitive.

Conservation easement (CE)		
A	Property's total acreage	
B	Acreage proposed for CE	
C	Total acreage of proposed building envelopes	
D	Estimated value of CE	
E	Requested transaction and due diligence costs	
F	Total amount of project (D + E)	
G	FLP funding requests (no more than 75% of F)	
H	Amount of cash match from non-federal partners (if known)	
I	Amount of other match (if known)	
J	Total value of match (must be least 25% of F)	

Fee simple acquisition (FSA)		
A	Property's total acreage	
B	Acreage proposed for FSA	
C	Estimated value of FSA	
D	Requested transaction and due diligence costs	
E	Total amount of project (C + D)	
F	FLP funding requests (no more than 75% of E)	
G	Amount of cash match from non-federal partners (if known)	
H	Amount of other match (if known)	
I	Total value of match (must be least 25% of E)	

Match information

Is 25% match already secured? ☐ Yes ☐ No

List all match partners or potential partners. If match is not secured, please provide a strategy for providing match.

Other comments

Project readiness

Projects are rated based on a variety of factors. One of these factors is readiness, comprising the factors below. A project receives one point for each factor completed prior to application. More points will result in a more favorable rating. While none of these are required for application, the more that are done in advance, the more favorable the rating, and the more competitive the application.

Indicate which of the following items the project has completed and attach the required documents as part of the emailed application package.

For conservation easements Draft conservation easement agreed to by project applicant and the CSFS **For fee simple acquisition** Draft deed language agreed to by the future landowner and the CSFS	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ No
Completed title search with encumbrances identified	☐ Yes ☐ No
Mineral rights holders identified. If mineral rights are severed, mineral assessment and determination of remoteness completed.	☐ Yes ☐ No
A signed option or purchase agreement is held by the State or at the request of the State, OR at the request of the State, the fee title has been pre-acquired by a third party.	☐ Yes ☐ No
25% non-federal grant match secured	☐ Yes ☐ No

Forest Stewardship or Multi-Resource Management Plan

Each project requires a Multi-Resource Management Plan (MRMP) prior to distribution of funding, but this is not required to apply to the program and in no way affects eligibility. Projects that have or are creating a Forest Action Plan or MRMP may be more competitive.

Type of plan	
Does the property already have a Forest Stewardship Plan or MRMP? If yes, indicate the year it was created and what kind the type of plan. _____	☐ Yes ☐ No
Will the applicant be requesting funds to update or create a plan as part of the due diligence funding request?	☐ Yes ☐ No

Colorado application narrative

The Colorado application narrative describes the project. Under each section, suggested topics are included. Only include what is applicable to your specific project. Follow the formatting specified. Attach the document as part of the application package submitted by email.

Section	Format	Include as applicable
Project name	Short title	
Project overview	Two paragraphs	Executive summary
Importance	No more than 20 bullet points	Include how the project addresses the importance of the following: • Economic benefits from timber and potential forest productivity • Economic benefits from non-timber products and recreation • Threatened or endangered species habitat • Fish, wildlife, plants and unique forest communities • Water supply, aquatic habitat and watershed protection • Cultural/historic features; tribal significance • Benefits to local communities • Public access • Scenic value • Carbon sequestration/climate resilience, adaption to climate change
Threatened	No more than 10 bullet points	Describe how the property is threatened with conversion to non-forest land through: • Lack of protection • Land and landowners' circumstances • Adjacent land use • Ability to develop • Other specific threats of forest conversion to non-forest uses
Strategic	No more than 10 bullet points	Describe how the project is strategic by how it: • Contributes to larger conservation initiatives, strategies or plans • Complements protected lands • Benefits local communities • Provides other landscape-scale goals and public benefits
Supporting parties	Unlimited bullet points	List partners and fiscal contributors

Optional criteria and additional information

Provide any additional comments not included elsewhere in the application. Enter the information here or attach it to the application package submitted by email.

Landowner agreement and acknowledgement

The information in this application is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I, as the landowner(s), agree to and acknowledge the following:

Willing landowner
I have interest in enrolling my property in the Forest Legacy Program. If awarded, I agree to develop a multi-resource management plan that meets the requirements of the Forest Legacy Program. I also agree that conservation easement or deed terms (as applicable) will be consistent with Forest Legacy Program Implementation Guidelines.

Inspection, appraisal and survey
I agree to allow the Colorado State Forest Service and the U.S. Forest Service and each entity's respective employees and contractors to access and inspect my property at any reasonable time for the purposes of this application, and to allow access, inspection, appraisal, environmental review and survey of my real property being offered for consideration under the Colorado Forest Legacy Program by representatives of the CSFS and USFS for this purpose. I understand I shall be notified in advance of all inspection visits.

Amicable agreement acknowledgment
Prior to closing, the value of the property or interest in the property as determined by an approved appraisal will be communicated to me in writing. I acknowledge and understand that the sale of the property as part of this program is strictly voluntary and that eminent domain will not be used if negotiations do not result in an amicable agreement.

Application only
I also understand that this application is only a project proposal, and a request for the nominated property to be considered for the Colorado Forest Legacy Program. I understand the CSFS may provide feedback on this application to increase the competitiveness of the project on the federal level, and that the proposal may change during the application process with the approval of both the CSFS and the project applicant. I acknowledge that the Forest Legacy Program is a competitive grant program, and that this application does not constitute an agreement to purchase, lease or otherwise compensate the landowner for any property interests.

Landowner name	Landowner signature and date
Landowner name	Landowner signature and date
Landowner name	Landowner signature and date
Landowner name	Landowner signature and date

Submit completed applications and supporting documents, files and photos to the CSFS:

CSFS_ForestLegacy@colostate.edu
Colorado State Forest Service
Katie Rose Levin, Forest Legacy Program Specialist