



Forest Legacy Program Application

Ohio Department of Natural Resources,
Division of Forestry



Purpose of Forest Legacy Program

Ohio's Forest Legacy Program is a partnership between the State and the USDA Forest Service to identify and protect environmentally important forests from conversion to non-forest uses, primarily through the purchase of conservation easements. Projects are funded using federal funds and local cost-sharing.

The overall mission of Ohio's Forest Legacy Program is to protect working forests. The program was established with the guiding principle that working forests would be professionally managed under a forest management plan that incorporates timber harvesting as a management tool. Working forests provide other environmental benefits, including rare wildlife and plant habitat, and improve air and water quality. The program goals are to:

- 1. Protect working forests threatened by conversion to non-forest uses*
- 2. Protect and enhance social/cultural values associated with forest uses*
- 3. Improve/enhance biodiversity*
- 4. Improve water quality and protect water quantity*
- 5. Enhance economic productivity through traditional forest uses*

Deadlines: May 31 for priority review. However, applications are accepted throughout the year.

Submit completed application to:
(Please, retain a copy for your files.)

Cotton Randall
Forest Legacy Coordinator
ODNR – Division of Forestry
2045 Morse Rd., H-1
Columbus, OH 43229-6693

Questions? Contact Forest Legacy Coordinator: Phone: (614) 265-6667

Email: cotton.randall@dnr.state.oh.us

Or visit Ohio's Forest Legacy website:

<http://ohiodnr.com/Forestry/tabid/5293/Default.aspx>

INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction. We recommend that you talk to a conservation professional or lawyer who is familiar with conservation easements and can explain both the commitments that landowners assume and the natural resource benefits that are derived, when agreeing to the type of easement used in this program. Working with a land trust during the application process can also be beneficial, as they have experience with conservation easements and may be able to provide technical support. To locate land trusts that work in your area, visit the website of the Coalition of Ohio Land Trusts at <http://www.ohiolandtrusts.org/>.

Page 1. Primarily seeks information on the ownership, location, and size of the parcel(s) being nominated. The final section of page 1 seeks information about your ownership objectives.

Page 2. At the top of page 2, you may add any additional comments about your property or your proposal. Note: it is recommended that you read the *Narrative section* of the Self-Evaluation on page 6 before completing this, as it also asks for additional information about the property. Additional pages may be added if you need more space.

The next section seeks financial information about your parcel and the parts of your ownership you are willing to sell or donate to the Forest Legacy Program. The information provided will also be used in scoring of your application and is held in confidence. Property appraisals are not required to complete this section, but may be helpful in your estimates and deliberations. Any offer by the Forest Legacy Program to purchase easements will require an appraisal conducted in accordance with federal yellow book appraisal guidelines. These appraisals are coordinated through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources near the end of the Forest Legacy project selection process.

Page 3. This very important section asks you to identify what parts of your ownership you are willing to sell or convey to the Forest Legacy Program. It is not a commitment form, but should be considered seriously because it will affect the desirability of your parcel and its appraised value. Please indicate whether you wish to SELL, KEEP or are UNSURE for each of the interests listed on this page. Do not leave any item unchecked. You may add other interests to this section if needed.

SELL means you are interested in selling the interest to the program. KEEP means you wish to retain it and keep full control. UNSURE means you need more information or have not yet decided. The final part of page 3 asks for your signature to attest that all owners of rights to the property are aware of this application and that the information provided in your application is, to your knowledge, accurate. It is not necessary that all property owners sign the application. However, the person signing this application must have legal authority to represent this property and the owners.

“Self Scoring” Insert: This three-page form allows you to provide additional information and to do a quick self-scoring of your parcel. It is similar to the score sheet used to rank all of the applications that are received. **Please, complete this score sheet to the best of your ability and submit a copy with your application.** Additional pages may be added if you need more space for the narrative section.

APPLICATION PACKET CHECKLIST:

Please submit each of the following items with your application. If you cannot locate these items call the Forest Legacy Coordinator for substitutes.

- A thoroughly completed and signed application form
- A completed “self scoring sheet”
- Copy of road map indicating location of the property
- Copy of the county plat map showing the location of the property. Please outline the property and the proposed Forest Legacy area.
- Copy of forest management plan, if available
- Aerial photo of property (Available at the local USDA Service Center (FSA or NRCS), or possibly the county auditor or engineer’s office). Please outline property and proposed Forest Legacy area.
- Any written comments you wish to provide in addition to the application.

Please Note: All submitted materials become property of the State and are non-returnable. Disclosure of this information is voluntary. However, failure to provide all of the requested information will make it very difficult for your application and the property to be properly evaluated and scored. *Incomplete applications may be returned unprocessed to the applicant.*

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity employer.’



Forest Legacy Program Application

Ohio Department of Natural Resources,
Division of Forestry



Applicant information Authorized agent for landowner if different

Landowner's name: _____

Agent's name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

Fax/e-mail: _____

Fax/e-mail: _____

Please list all co-owners of this property: _____

Property Information

1. Property Address (if different from above): _____

2. County: _____ Civil Township: _____

3. Property is located in section(s) _____, Township _____ Range _____

4. What is the land currently zoned as? _____

5. Total property acres: _____ Total acres forest: _____

6. How much of the total acres above are you nominating for the Forest Legacy Program (75% of area must be forests)?

Forest acres: _____, Open or cleared acres: _____, Acres of Water: _____, Total: _____

7. Do you own the mineral rights? Yes, No, Partially

8. Are you interested in a conservation easement, or transferring total ownership of the land?

9. Is any of this area enrolled in a property tax program? Yes, No

If yes, which program? Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) Ohio Forest Tax Law (OFTL)

Landowner Goals and Objectives

1. Please describe your long term goals and objectives for the nominated property. (e.g., it might help to think about: Why is the property important to you? Why do you own it? Why did you buy it? What would you like to do with this property?) You may attach an extra page if needed.

2. Do you have a written forest management plan? Yes, No. If yes, please send a copy with your application.

Have you been working with a forester who could provide technical information about your woods? Yes, No

May we contact him/her? Yes, No Forester's name and phone #: _____

Comments on Property

Add general comments about your Forest Legacy application or property uniqueness. You may describe any awards or recognition received, or why your property would be a good showcase for protecting working forests in Ohio.

Confidential Financial Information

The following financial, deed and lien information shall remain confidential until such time as: 1) the application has been approved and all transactions are concluded, or 2) all title holders give written permission to release the information.

Financial Information

The following estimates are for preliminary use only. Any final offer for conservation easement or fee simple purchase cannot exceed fair market value, as determined by an appraisal meeting federal appraisal standards.

- 1) What is the estimated total value of this property? _____
- 2) What is the estimated value of the development rights, or other rights proposed to be transferred to the Ohio Forest Legacy Program? _____
- 3) How was this value determined? _____ (examples: landowner's personal estimate, licensed appraiser, Realtor, written legal appraisal). Date of the appraisal (*month, day, year*): _____
- 4) Are you willing to donate part of the easement value? Yes, No (*Note: federal funding requires 25% cost-share*)
 - What % are you willing to donate? 25%, 50%, 75%, 100%, Other: _____
 - What is your approximate asking price for the interests being offered? _____

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

Comments on financial information:

Liens and Encumbrances

Please list any and all liens and encumbrances on the property proposed for enrollment in the Ohio Forest Legacy Program. Examples: Mortgages, Utility easements, public rights of way, water flow or water use restrictions, septic systems or water easements, deed restrictions or covenants, mineral extraction rights (gas, oil, coal, stone, etc.), tax liens, dump sites, underground fuel tanks, other environmental hazards, etc.

Preliminary Identification of Rights to be Retained and Sold

It is important the following section be carefully and fully completed. The information you provide will directly affect the desirability of the parcel, appraised value and its priority as an Ohio Forest Legacy parcel. Please, indicate which of the following uses or interests you wish to **keep** and which uses or interests you wish to **sell** as part of the conservation easement.

Note: Checking **sell** or **keep** does not commit you to anything at this time, it merely assists the Forest Legacy Committee when inspecting, prioritizing and evaluating your parcel. Also, note that development rights are the minimum rights purchased on Forest Legacy Tracts and therefore are not included on the list below.

KEEP	SELL	UNSURE	Forest use or interest
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Right to manage and harvest timber
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Right to extract minerals (e.g., oil, gas, coal, gravel, etc.) and/or gravel
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Right to limit or control public access to your property
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Right to lease hunting rights
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Right to graze open areas (acres _____)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Right to farm open areas (acres _____)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to sell or transfer the entire property to the Forest Legacy Program.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other. Please specify: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other. Please specify: _____

Comments on rights to be retained and sold:

Application Signature(s)

I hereby certify that the information I have included in this application is, to my knowledge, correct and that all owners of these rights identified in this proposal for acquisition through the Forest Legacy Program are aware of this application and approve of its submission. I also attest that I understand that the purposes of the Ohio Forest Legacy Program are as follows:

- *Protect working forests threatened by conversion to non-forest uses thereby minimizing forest fragmentation.*
- *Protect and enhance social/cultural values associated with forest uses.*
- *Improve/enhance biodiversity.*
- *Improve water quality and protect water quantity.*
- *Enhance economic productivity through traditional forest uses.*

By signing this application the title holders are confirming their willingness to convey the property interest(s) identified in the application and with the deed terms identified, provided that the application receives Forest Legacy funding. Signatures on this application form shall not create any enforceable legal rights on behalf of any applicant or title holder, nor does signing constitute a commitment on the part of any property owner to sell the property. It is meant only to indicate that all parties are aware of the project, the terms of the project, and that it is being prepared for submission to the Forest Legacy Program with the endorsement and willingness of all parties. **Any sale arising from this application would be strictly voluntary on the part of the title holders. Further, the property will not be purchased for the purposes of the Forest Legacy Program, by condemnation or any other means, by the state if negotiations do not result in an amicable agreement.**

Signature(s) of landowner(s) or legal agent Date (month, day, year) Mail completed application to:

Forest Legacy Coordinator
 Ohio Division of Forestry
 2045 Morse Road, Bldg. H-1
 Columbus, OH 43229-6693
 Questions: (614) 265-6667

OHIO'S FOREST LEGACY PARCEL EVALUATION – Self Scoring

Ohio Department of Natural Resources / Division of Forestry

The information provided in the following narrative and self-scoring sections will help us complete the initial scoring and ranking of your application. The categories correspond to the evaluation criteria outlined in the implementation guidelines for Ohio's Forest Legacy Program, in Section 10 of the program's Assessment of Need.

NARRATIVE SECTION - Provide a brief description of the parcel's benefits/threats for each category:

Threat of land-use conversion: Describe the degree of threat from development (residential or commercial) or parcelization. Characteristics of the property to consider include: suitability for development, road frontage, access to utilities, and recent development or population growth nearby.

Traditional forest uses: Describe how the property supports traditional forest uses. This could include characteristics of the land itself, like good soils that support quality timber or proximity to local sawmills, and things you are doing on the property, like active forest management, recent or planned timber harvests, or production of non-timber forest products like maple syrup, Christmas trees, mushrooms, or herbal medicines (e.g., ginseng).

Scenic and outdoor recreation: Describe how your property would provide scenic and recreation benefits. These benefits could be a result of your property being adjacent to or within the viewshed of scenic byways or trails, or in proximity to public lands. If public access would be conveyed, that could also be mentioned.

Water quality and watershed protection: Describe the importance of your property to water-related benefits. This could include the presence of high quality streams, forested buffers around streams, or unique aquatic habitat, as well as benefits to municipal water sources or recharge areas.

Ecological values: Describe the ecological values of your property. This could include rare species (including listed threatened and endangered species), unique or declining habitats, or overall biological diversity.

Historical or cultural resources: Describe any historical or cultural resources that have been documented on or near the property.

Educational opportunities or other important values: Describe how the property provides educational or research opportunities related to natural resources, or other important values that are not represented elsewhere.

SELF-SCORING SECTION - Please circle points scored for each item.**A. Watershed Protection and Water Quality Values: (9 points maximum)**

- 2 pts** Parcel has over 500 feet of perennial waterway shoreline, **or**
1 pt Parcel is situated on a river or perennial stream, but less than 500' frontage or more than 500' on an intermittent or seasonal stream
- 2 pts** Parcel is within a regional drinking water aquifer area or within 1 mile of a public water supply lake or river. **or**
1 pt Parcel drains to stream or river that feeds a public water supply lake or river.
- 3 pts** Parcel is within the watershed of a designated scenic river (state or national).
- 2 pts** Parcel contains a wetland larger than 2 acres in size. **or**
1 pt Parcel drains into a natural wetland larger than 2 acres within 1/2 mile

Your Score _____

B. Public Recreational Values: (8 points maximum)

- 2 pts** Proposed parcel has access to a public water body, **or**
1 pt Adjoining parcel has water based recreation open to the public
- 2 pts** Parcel has access to a public trail system, **or**
1 pt Adjoining parcel has trails open to the public
- 2 pts** Parcel has other outdoor recreation opportunities open to the public, **or**
1 pt Adjoining parcel has other outdoor recreation open to the public
- 2 pts** Parcel adjoins public lands. **or**
1 pt Parcel adjoins other protected private lands or is within 1 mile of public lands.

Your Score _____

C. Scenic Resource Values: (4 points maximum)

- 3 pts** Parcel contains or has frontage on a designated scenic route, byway, or trail, **or**
2 pts Parcel is within view of a designated scenic route, byway, or trail.
- 1 pt** Parcel is part of an important, regionally known scenic view.

Your Score _____

D. Cultural or Historical Values: (4 points maximum)

- 2 pts** Parcel contains a documented historic forestry site (e.g., grist/sawmill)
- 2 pts** Site contains other documented historic site(s), **or**
1 pt No historic sites documented, but there is a high probability of significant sites being present.

Your Score _____

E. Traditional Forest Values: (14 points maximum)

- 2 pts** Parcel grows great timber (site quality and productivity for forest products is high), **or**
1 pt Parcel grows fair/good timber (site quality and productivity is medium to fair)
- 2 pts** Parcel has forest management plan and has been actively and well managed by the current owner, **or**
1 pt Parcel has an existing forest management plan, but has not been actively managed the past 10 years
- 3 pts** Sustainable timber harvesting is an important part of the active forest management
- 2 pts** Parcel produces non-timber forest products (e.g., maple syrup, Christmas trees, mushrooms, ginseng)
- 1 pt** Parcel is enrolled in the Ohio Forest Tax Law or Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) Program
- 1 pt** Parcel is certified to sustainable forestry standards (e.g., FSC, SFI, or Tree Farm)
- 2 pts** Parcel has greater than 500 acres of forest land, **or**
1 pt Parcel has greater than 200 acres of forest land.
- 1 pt** Parcel has established research plots or educational facilities.

Your Score _____

F. Endangered Species Values: (5 points maximum)

- 5 pts** Parcel supports at least 1 federally-listed rare, threatened or endangered (RTE) species (documented), **or**
3 pts at least 3 state-listed RTE species (documented), **or**
2 pts 1-2 state-listed RTE species supported and documented on the parcel, **or**
1 pt No RTE species documented, but parcel has high likelihood of supporting RTE species.

Your Score _____

G. Other Ecological Values: (7 points maximum)

- 2 pts** Parcel is part of a large contiguous forest block at least 3,000 acres (including parcels beyond your property), **or**
1 pt Parcel is part of at least 1,000-acre contiguous block of forest
- 2 pts** Parcel contains old growth forest or forest undisturbed for at least 100 years
- 2 pts** Parcel contains other important unique or declining ecological communities like vernal pools, oak savannas, etc.
- 1 pt** Parcel contains a mix of wildlife habitat types.

Your Score _____

H. Conversion Threats to Parcel: (10 points maximum)

- 2 pts** Public water or sewer systems currently exist at parcel, **or**
1 pt Public water or sewer systems are within 2 miles of the parcel
- 1 pt** At least 50% of site is suitable for development (e.g. soils, slope, can be divided into 2 to 10-acre lots)
- 1 pt** Parcel has at least 500 feet of public road frontage
- 1 pt** Parcel is within 20 miles of a city of at least 20,000 people
- 2 pts** Parcel is within 5 miles of a new residential or commercial development
- 3 pts** Property is currently listed for sale, **or**
2 pts Owner has been approached by outside interests about selling the parcel

Your Score _____

I. Acquisition and Management of Parcel: (6 points maximum)

- 1 pt** There is written support to purchase this parcel from ODNR, land trusts, or other conservation groups.
- 1 pt** Owner has expressed willingness to sell the easement at least 25% below market value, **or**
1 pt There is written **financial** support from ODNR, land trusts or other groups to cover 25% cost-share
- 2 pts** Parcel is absent of significant environmental hazards and in good ecological condition
- 1 pt** Traditional forest uses are compatible with parcel's natural values
- 1 pt** Current adjoining land uses (*and zoning*) are compatible with Forest Legacy Program

Your Score _____

J. Other Factors – circle appropriate items (8 points maximum)

- 1 pt** There is written, active support from the community for this Legacy parcel
- 3 pts** Parcel complements other federal investments or initiatives (e.g. wetland reserve program, watershed projects)
- 3 pts** Readiness- At least 50% of the easement value is being donated or paid for by landowner or other project partners
- 1 pt** Readiness- Parcel has a completed Forest Legacy appraisal, purchase option or agreed upon conservation easement

Your Score _____

Your Total Score _____
(75 maximum)