

CALIFORNIA'S FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

Application Instructions

(Please note that this form is available electronically, either by e-mail, on disk or through the CDF internet website <http://www.fire.ca.gov/ResourceManagement/ForestLegacyProgram.asp>)

Purpose of Forest Legacy Program – The California Forest Legacy program uses federal funds, and state matching funds, to purchase development rights and conservation easements on environmentally important forests in California so these threatened remain intact and continue to provide traditional forest benefits. These forests remain in private ownership, except for the conveyed easement items (e.g. development rights) which become state owned and protected.

Deadlines: June 30 for the next funding cycle. However, applications are accepted any time.

Submit completed application to: Jeff Calvert
(Please retain a copy for your files.) Forest Legacy Coordinator
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Questions: Forest Legacy Coordinator
(916) 653-8286
Jeff_Calvert@fire.ca.gov

Page One

Primarily seeks information on the ownership, location, and size of the parcel being nominated. The final section of page one seeks information about your ownership objectives. **NOTE Question 7: if federal funds are used to purchase the interest, a government entity must hold the title.** Generally, the State of California and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection will be the grantee. However, others, such as Resource Conservation Districts (RCD), Open Space Districts and Cities, can hold the title. Please briefly describe your property objectives in the landowner Goals & Objectives Section.

Parcel Evaluation Section

The information you provide on page two is used in preliminary scoring and ranking of your proposal. This section helps to identify nominated parcels that have state, regional, or even national significance. Please refer to the Parcel Evaluation insert, pages (a) and (b), for information on the scoring system and further description of the headings of this part of the application. These descriptions should be helpful in composing your responses.

Question "1" of this section is your assessment of how the nominated property is threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. Threat examples include, but are not limited to: clearing and converting to grapes or other agricultural uses, housing, breakup into small unmanageable parcels, non-native species invasion, surface mining, and zoned for development.

Landowner Comments Section

You may add any additional comments about your property or your proposal that may be helpful in the evaluation of your application and property. Additional pages may be added if you need more space.

Confidential Financial Information Section

This 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. Under Liens and Encumbrances, please explain if any of the liens or encumbrances would prohibit your ability to place a conservation easement on your property. The information provided will also be used in scoring 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. However, if your application is accepted and you receive an offer to purchase an easement on the property, an appraisal must be conducted in accordance with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions. The appraiser must be certified and on the Federal List of Approved Appraisers. Under most conditions project funds may be used to cover appraisal costs.

The final part of the application form asks for your approval for the Forest Legacy site reviewers to visit your property and to attest to the information provided in your application. It is not necessary that all property owners sign this application. However, the person signing this application must have legal authority to represent this property and the owners.

Preliminary Identification of Rights To Be Retained

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 very seriously. It will affect the desirability of your parcel and likely its appraised value. Please indicate what rights you wish to retain under this section. Please **do not** leave any item unchecked. You may add other interests to this section if needed. **“Yes”** means this is an interest you are interested in retaining. **“No”** means this is an interest you wish to retain and keep full control. **“UNSURE”** means you need more information or have not yet decided on this interest.

“Self-Scoring” Insert, pages (a) and (b): This two-page form allows you to do a quick scoring of your parcel. It is very similar to the score sheet used to prioritize all the applications received. **Please, complete this score sheet to the best of your ability and submit a copy with your application. See the Parcel Evaluation Section for additional information on filling out the “Self-Scoring” insert**

APPLICATION PACKET CHECKLIST:

- Thoroughly completed and signed application form
- Completed “self-scoring sheet”
- Copy of road map indicating location of the property
- Copy of the county plat map showing location of the property – please outline the property and the proposed Forest Legacy area
- Copy of forest management plan, if available
- Aerial photo (or high quality copy) of the property, if available (this is not necessary for initial application). These are available at your local Farm Services Agency or Natural Resources Conservation Service office. Photos may also be available from the county auditor or surveyors office. **Please outline property and proposed Forest Legacy area.**
- The boundaries of the project on a USGS quadrangle or equivalent topographic map of a scale of no less than 1” = 2000’. This map must also show any dams, underground fuel tanks, dumps, or waste disposal sites on the property.
- Map or list of permanent improvements on the nominated parcel (e.g. roads, buildings, ponds, dams, wells, and other structures, and approximate acreage occupied by improvements).
- Any written comments you wish to provide in addition to the application

Please note: All submitted materials become property of the State of California and are non-returnable. Disclosure of this information is voluntary. However, failure to provide all of the requested information may make it difficult for your application and the property to be properly evaluated and scored.