

APPLICATION INTRODUCTION:

The Ohio Forest Legacy Program is carried out in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service which provides funding for projects. It is important for landowners interested in the program to fully understand for what they are applying. For a complete description of the program, landowners are encouraged to visit the Ohio Forest Legacy Program website and review the Assessment of Need (<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home/landowner/legacy/default/tabid/5293/Default.aspx>) as well as the U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy website (<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flp.shtml>). It would also be helpful to discuss with someone knowledgeable about conservation easements what conservation benefits would result as well as what it would mean to the landowner and future landowners.

The Ohio program has specific goals and objectives.

Program Goals:

- 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; and
- 5) Enhance economic productivity through traditional forest uses.

Program Objectives

- 1) Foster and connect large and intact forestland tracts;
- 2) Protect areas of social, recreational, cultural and historical significance;
- 3) Focus on the most ecologically significant areas of the state; and
- 4) Support communities by focusing on conserving the most economically significant areas for forest related industries.

The basic restrictions and requirements for individual tracts enrolled in the program are as follows:

- 1) The landowner would not develop the property;
- 2) The landowner would not subdivide the property;
- 3) The landowner would agree to manage the property as a working forest under the guidance of a multi-resource forest management plan (A working forest is defined as, “A forest with a management plan stating clearly identified management goals that incorporate timber harvesting as an essential management tool);
- 4) The landowner will be required to get a resolution in support of the project from the County Commissioners in which the property resides; and
- 5) The property will be required to be in the current agricultural use value taxation program

Questions to Consider before making application to the Forest Legacy Program

- 1) Does the property possess forestry and other natural values such as special scenic, biological, ecological, outdoor recreation, water quality, or historical-cultural values?
- 2) Is the property in an area where forests are actively being converted to non-forest uses?
- 3) Am I committed to preserving the working forest and conservation values of the property?
- 4) Am I (and/or others) willing to contribute at least 25% of the project's cost?

TRACT APPLICATION

The information requested below will be used by the Ohio Forest Legacy Committee/Forest Stewardship Committee to evaluate the tract you propose to enroll in the Forest Legacy Program. This information may also be used to rank Forest Legacy applications nationally. You may submit any additional information (such as a survey or appraisal) that you believe might assist in review of your proposal. Attach additional pages if necessary. If you have any questions please call the ODNR – Division of Forestry at (614) 265-6694. If the application is incomplete it will be returned to you.

Please return the completed application and supporting material to:

Mark Ervin
ODNR-Division of Forestry
2045 Morse Road, Bldg. H-1
Columbus, OH 43229

.....
Office Use Only

Date Received: _____

Received By: _____

Tract #: _____

Project Name _____

Tract Name _____

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Section 1 – Landowner Information

1a) County: _____

Township: _____

1b)

	<u>Owner(s)</u>	<u>Agent (if applicable)</u>	<u>Sponsor (if applicable)</u>
Name	_____	_____	_____
Address	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
Phone (Day)	() _____	() _____	() _____
Phone (Evening)	() _____	() _____	() _____

1c) Is this application for a purchase of:

- i) Conservation Easement
- ii) Fee Purchase of Land

(NOTE: The purchase of a conservation easement is preferred by the Forest Legacy Program in Ohio. Fee acquisition of property will be considered only in certain circumstances; for example if a property is an in-holding to an existing state-owned forest property. Any sale, in fee or of a conservation easement, is strictly voluntary on the part of the landowner)

Section 2 – General Property Information

2a) Property address if different from owners address in Section 1:

Address: _____

Name of person in residence (if applicable): _____

2b) Property Coordinates (available from Topo Zone or similar web site <http://www.topozone.com/>)

Use UTM coordinates (example: UTM 17 353312E 4467144N (NAD83/WGS84)) Circle the appropriate Zone and Datum.

UTM Zone (16 or 17) _____ E _____ N. (NAD83 WGS84)

2c) Deed Reference

Assessors Information

Book: _____	Page: _____	Map#: _____	Lot#: _____
Book: _____	Page: _____	Map#: _____	Lot#: _____
Book: _____	Page: _____	Map#: _____	Lot#: _____
Book: _____	Page: _____	Map#: _____	Lot#: _____

2d) County Auditor's tax record of applicant forest

Parcel No. Acres

2e) Is the land currently enrolled in CAUV Yes No

2f) Boundaries:

Does the owner have a recent survey of the property? Yes No

Are the property boundaries visibly marked? Yes No

2g) Are there any known land title defects or encumbrances or liens on the property including mortgages, easements, contracts, leases or outstanding rights of record (e.g. industrial contracts with landowners for management, timber rights, mineral rights, etc.)? NOTE: If the mineral rights are owned by a third party and those rights allow for removal by surface mining methods, the property would be ineligible for the Forest Legacy Program unless those rights were extinguished. Oil and Gas extraction are considered compatible non-forest uses and can be permitted under certain restrictions. Yes No

If yes, please identify:

2h) Are there any permanent improvements such as houses, barns, dams, antennas, all season roads, utility rights of way with structures, pipeline rights of way, etc. on the property? Yes No

If yes, please explain and show on map:

2i) To the best of your knowledge, are there any known present or past environmental hazards or waste on the property or abutting properties? Yes No

Are there any trash dumps on the property? Yes No

If yes to either of the above, please explain:

Section 3 – Forestry Information

3a) Forest Management Plan

Does the property have a professionally prepared forest management plan? Yes No

Is the plan identified as a “Forest Stewardship Plan?” Yes No

If yes to either, what date was the plan prepared/approved? _____

If yes to one or both of the above, by whom was the plan prepared? _____
(Name)

How long has the property been managed following a written management plan? _____ Years.

Comments:

Is the plan a multiple use plan? Yes No

If yes, what uses are covered and what are the landowner’s primary interests?

Comments:

What forest management practices have been completed in the past 10 years? Were the practices recommended in the Forest Management Plan and are you following a timeline for practice implementation in the Forest Management Plan?

Comments:

3b) Tract Area By Category (enter acreage for each category, enter 0 if not present)

Forest Land

Productive Forest Land _____

Nonproductive Forest Land _____

(steep slopes, shallow soils)

Total Forested _____

3b) **Continued**

Non-Forested Land

Open Field/Agricultural _____

Water/Wetland _____

Roads _____

Gravel Pits _____

Other (specify) _____

Total Non-Forested _____

Total Ownership Acreage _____

Acreage Proposed for Easement _____

3c) Water resources information: How much frontage does the property have on lakes, ponds, rivers and streams?

<u>Water Body Name</u>	<u>Frontage (feet)</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Does the property exhibit any special water quality or watershed protection aspects? (i.e. a high quality stream or a surface water source for a municipality) Yes No

If yes, please describe in detail.

3d) Forest resources information:

Which of the following values pertain to this tract? (Please describe each in detail describing the resource or your personal interests for that resource.):

- Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Riparian Areas
- Unique or Unusual Species or Natural Communities
- Cultural Resources
- Timber Management
- Other Ecological Values or public Benefit
- Public Recreation Opportunities
- Rare, Threatened and/or Endangered Species or Natural Communities
- Part of a Large Contiguous Block of Forest Land
- Scenic Resources
- Watershed Protection
- Other _____

List any unique forest resources (such as any mature forest types, plant communities, and any unusual rare non-woody plants).

Describe the plant community/communities present including unique or rare non-woody plants.
Comments:

3e) Timber resource information:

How would you currently rate the property for production of quality wood products? (The forest management plan may provide information that will help.)

- Above Average Average Below Average

Please describe the timber harvesting history on the property (if harvesting was done by a previous landowner please list it as such).

When was the last harvest conducted? _____
(Date)

What type of harvest was done? (e.g. clear cut or partial harvest – be as specific as you can)

Were the services of a professional forester used? Yes No

Comments:

Did the logger follow logging best management practices (BMPs)? For example, did the logger attempt to limit soil erosion and stream degradation by implementing practices such as water bars? Yes No

Comments:

3f) Forest Health Information:

Is there evidence of forest health problems (e.g. fire mortality, insect/disease problems, invasive species)?

Yes No

If yes, describe the problem and any mitigation practices taken or proposed.

Comments:

3g) Forest Wildlife Information:

What wildlife has been seen on the property or the general area that would benefit from this property being protected? Include the landowner's general thoughts about wildlife and their use of the property?

Game Species Comments:

Non-Game Species Comments:

Rare-Threatened-Endangered Species Comments:

Unique Wildlife Habitat Comments:

3h) Other resource aspects:

Does the property exhibit any special water quality or watershed protection aspects? (i.e. a high quality stream or a surface water source for a municipality) Yes No

If yes, please describe in detail.

Are there special view-shed benefits to the property? (i.e. is it visible from a scenic river or highway, is it visible from another protected property?) Yes No

If yes, please describe in detail.

Is the general public given access rights onto the property? (While not a program requirement, public access can make a project more competitive at the national level. Public access can include a public access trail that crosses the property or public hunting with permission. This does not need to be open ended access; it can be for special time periods ... e.g. during bird migrations or hunting seasons). Yes No

If yes, please describe in detail.

Are there special historical or cultural resources on the property? Yes No

Please describe in detail and note if any aspects of the property are listed in state or federal historic registers.

Are there uses of the property that are incompatible with a working forest or the Forest Legacy Program? (Examples might be local ordinances that restrict harvests, steep slopes that would be incompatible with harvests, etc.) Please explain:

Section 4 – Forest Legacy Purposes

4a) Threat of conversion

Identify the threat of conversion of this parcel to non-forest use:

Describe tract characteristics that make it suitable or desirable for conversion/development (soils, terrain, views, road or water frontage, etc).

Describe what zoning (county, township, other), if any, affects the property.

4b) Strategic Location

Does the property lie within, or in close proximity to, a Federal or State designated special resource area (e.g. Wild and Scenic River, public water supply, any other natural resource related strategic plans, etc.)?

Yes No

If yes, please explain:

Is the property in close proximity to Municipal, State, or Federally owned conservation land (e.g. National Forest, State Forest, State Park, National Wildlife Refuge)? Yes No

If yes please explain:

Is the property in close proximity for privately owned & protected conservation land? (e.g. a conservation easement or private conservation group owned property) Yes No

If yes please explain:

4c) One of the purposes of the Ohio Forest Legacy Program is to retain properties in perpetuity as a sustainable tract of land for the production of sawlogs, pulpwood, and other forest products.

Please explain any limitations to this purpose on this property that you would request in this project.

4d) One of the purposes of the Ohio Forest Legacy Program is conserve streams, riparian areas and the quality of groundwater and water resources.

Please explain any limitations to this purpose on this property that you would request in this project.

- 4e) One of the purposes of the Ohio Forest Legacy Program is to limit fragmentation and conserve biodiversity, fish and wildlife habitats, rare plants and animals, rare and exemplary natural communities, and cultural resources. Please explain any limitations to this purpose on this property that you would request in this project.

- 4f) What rights will be retained or sold by the owner and how will those rights further the stated goals of the Forest Legacy Program to protect forest land from conversion to non-forest uses, while maintaining traditional uses? Rights retained:

Rights sold:

Explanation:

- 4g) Please describe the general character, ownership and use of abutting lands.

- 4h) Has there been an appraisal of the property? Yes No If so, would you be willing to supply a copy of the appraisal to the State (this document would be kept confidential at applicants request)? Yes No

4i) Estimate fair market value of the rights being sold (fee or easement): \$_____

4j) The federal contribution to total project cost cannot exceed 75%. The remaining 25% of project funding needs to come from a non-federal source of funding. This funding can come from outside interests or from the landowner in the form of a donation of 25% or more of the value of the easement and/or donation of the cost of a real-estate appraisal or property survey. Has the applicant identified sources for 25% or more of project costs? (Example: The total cost of a project is estimated at \$100,000 which costs are comprised of the cost of the easement, plus the costs of an appraisal and a survey. Only \$75,000 (75%) can come from a US Forest Service grant. The remaining \$25,000 (25%) must come from a non-federal source such as landowner donation or in-kind costs). Please explain:

REQUIRED ATTACHMENT

- a. Location map Yes
- b. USGS Topographic map with area identified Yes
- c. Assessors Map for tract Yes
- d. Photographs. Aerial photos if available Yes
- e. Legal Description (copy of deed) Yes

OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS

- f. Letter of appointment of landowner's agent, if applicable. Yes No
- h. Special reports, inventories or other information or maps useful in evaluating the property for inclusion in the Forest Legacy Program. Yes No
- i. Boundary surveys Yes No
- j. For owners retaining resource rights: a State approved Forest Stewardship Management Plan (required prior to project closing). Yes No

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.

Landowner signature

Landowner Mailing Address

Landowner Name (typed or printed)

Landowner's Authorized Representative
(signature)

Landowner's Authorized Representative
(typed or printed)

Additional Landowner Signatures:

Name (Signature)

Name (typed or printed)

Name (Signature)

Name (typed or printed)

Ohio Forest Legacy Program Project Budget Sheet

Project Name: _____

Requested from Forest Legacy Program:

Expense	Amount
Total request from Forest Legacy Program	

Cost Share:

Expense	Source of Funds	Cash	Non-Cash	Amount
Total Cost Share				

Land Donation – Tract name	Value
Total Cost Share	

Note: The total cost share amount must be \geq (Forest Legacy Program funding) \div 3