

ARKANSAS FOREST LEGACY APPLICATION

(This application is available electronically)
Submit by July 31 to be considered for the next funding cycle

The Arkansas Forest Legacy program uses federal funds, and non-federal matching funds, to purchase development rights through fee title or conservation easements on environmentally important forests in Arkansas so these threatened properties remain intact and continue to provide traditional forest benefits.

Applicant Information **Authorized agent for landowner (if different)**

Landowner's name: _____	Agent's name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
Fax / e-mail: _____	Fax / e-mail: _____
Please list all co-owners of this property (or any others with interest in it): _____	

Property Information

1. County: _____ Section: _____ Township: _____ Range: _____ Rec.# _____ Parcel#: _____
2. What is the land currently zoned as? _____
3. What are the current uses of the property? _____
4. Are there any encumbrances (liens, mortgages, easements, and/or leases) on this property? Yes No
If yes, please list and explain in the Confidential Financial Information Section.
5. Total property acres: _____ Total acres forest: _____
6. How much of the total acres above are you nominating for the Forest Legacy Program?
Forest acres: _____ Open or cleared acres: _____ Acres of water: _____ Total: _____
7. I am interested in a conservation easement, or transferring total ownership of the land.
Do you have a preference as to what government entity holds title? Yes No
If yes please indicate the entity.
8. Is any of this area Certified Forest or in a Habitat Conservation Program? Yes No
How many acres? _____

Landowner Goals and Objectives

1. Please describe your long term goals and objectives for the nominated property. (It might help to think about – Why is the property important to you? Why did you buy it? What would you like to do on and with this property?) Use as much space as needed

2. Do you have a written forest management plan? Yes No

If yes, please send a copy with your application (Please note that a multi-resource forest management plan that complies with Forest Stewardship standards is a requirement for inclusion into the program at the time of closing on a conservation easement)

3. Have you been working with a forester or other natural resource professional that could provide technical information about your forest? Yes No

May we contact him/her? Yes No Forester's name: _____

Phone #: _____

License #: _____

Parcel Evaluation

Landowner: Please help us picture the uniqueness of your property. Your comments help use in our evaluation of the eligibility

- A. Riparian or Hydrologic Areas:** Water and watershed protection is an important forest value. Explain the water resource values of the proposed property (rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands, etc.). **Information on Threatened and Impaired Watersheds and 303(d) listed watersheds are available from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality.**
- B. Existing or Potential Public Recreational Opportunities:** Public recreation opportunities are defined as those having non-commercial and non-landowner users. Explain the recreational values of the proposed property.
- C. Scenic Resources:** The scenic aspects of a natural resource area may often be subjective. Describe the special qualities making your parcel stand out as a scenic resource.
- D. Known Cultural, Historical, or Prehistoric areas:** Material evidence of previous human occupation (e.g. petroglyphs, house pits, midden, bedrock mortars, etc.) comprises a unique and irreplaceable resource, as do other historic features such as cemeteries, pioneer home sites, old grist and sawmill sites, old grist and sawmill sites, etc. and natural landscape features. Explain the archaeological values of your parcel.
- E. Roads and Improvement:** Please discuss amount (approximate total length, type (dirt, rocked, paved, etc.) and condition of roads on the property. Are there any road conditions that need to be improved, eliminated or replaced? What structural improvements exist on the property: include houses, barns, shops, power lines, fences, etc.
- F. Traditional Forest Productivity:** Traditional forest uses provide timber and other forest products and amenities for an improved quality of life. Explain the traditional forestry resource values of the parcel. Please indicate the Site Index for your parcel. The Site Index is a measure of timberland productivity. **If you don't know your Site Index, you can get help determining this from a local Registered Professional Forester, a forester at your county Forestry Division office, or call the AR Forest Legacy Coordinator.**
- G. Fish and Wildlife Habitat:** Protecting and enhancing wildlife features on and off the property is crucial to maintaining viable wildlife populations. Explain how your parcel contributes to healthy wildlife habitats.
- H. Known Rare, Threatened, and Endangered species:** As urbanization and subdividing of forest lands continue, the need to give special attention to rare, threatened, and endangered species of fish, wildlife, and plants increases. Explain the rare plants and habitats found on or near your parcel. **For more information on threatened and endangered species or Natural Diversity Data Base Sites that may be present on or near your property contact the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, or a local Registered Professional Forester.**

- I. **Ecological Community and Connectivity Values:** In addition to the characteristics already outlined, a parcel may have other exceptional ecological conditions important to the area. Explain the other ecological values or important traits of your property (e.g. geology, proximity to public lands).
- J. **Type and Level of Conversion Threats:** There are various kinds and degrees of threat to valuable forested areas, such as encroaching housing and recreational development, commercial and/or utilities development, illegal activities such as drug labs or pot gardens, zoning or ownership that would preclude traditional forestry values and the dividing of land ownership in smaller parcels. Explain how your property is either threatened by development or conversion to other uses, or can slow the development pressures in your area.
- K. **Acquirability or Manageability:** Even if a forested parcel is threatened with conversion to non-forest use, protecting it under the Forest Legacy Program is not always easy. Describe the level of support for your proposal and how it compliments other land conservation efforts.

Landowner's Comments

Other comments you may wish to add about your Forest Legacy Nomination or property uniqueness.

Confidential

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 cannot exceed fair market value, as determined by an appraisal meeting federal and/or state appraisal standards.

1. What is the estimated total value of this property?
2. What is the estimated value of the interests (see page 3) proposed to be transferred by conservation easement to the Arkansas Forest Legacy Program?
3. How was this value determined? (Examples: landowner's personal estimate, licensed appraiser, realtor, written legal appraisal).

If appraised, date of the appraisal:

4. Are you willing to donate part of the easement value? Yes No
 - What percentage are you willing to donate?
 - What is your approximate asking price for the interest being offered?

5. Do you have another source such as a Land Trust or another federal or state agency willing to fund part of the purchase price? Yes No
- If yes, who is the partner and what is the relationship?
 - How much are they willing to contribute to the cost of the easement?

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

Comments:

Liens and Encumbrances

Please list any and all liens and encumbrances on the property proposed for enrolment in the Arkansas Forest Legacy Program. Examples of liens and/or encumbrances include: 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

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 a Forest Legacy parcel. Please, indicate which of the following uses or interests you wish to **retain** as part of the conservation easement.

Note: Checking **YES** or **NO** does not commit you to anything at this time, it merely assists the Arkansas Forest Stewardship 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.

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>UNSURE</u>	<u>Forest use or interest</u>
_____	_____	_____	Will you retain the right to commercially harvest timber?
_____	_____	_____	Will you wish to retain unrestricted access to minerals (e.g. coal, gravel, etc.)?*
_____	_____	_____	Will you wish to retain restricted surface occupancy mineral rights?***
_____	_____	_____	Will you wish to retain unrestricted access with oil and gas?*
_____	_____	_____	Will you wish to retain restricted surface occupancy oil and gas rights?***
_____	_____	_____	Will you wish to limit or control public access to your property? <u>Public access is not a requirement of the Forest Legacy Program.</u>
_____	_____	_____	Will you wish to retain rights to graze open areas? (acres)
_____	_____	_____	Will you wish to retain right to farm open areas? (acres)
_____	_____	_____	Will you wish to retain the right to build or rebuild roads (other than forest management/protection roads)
_____	_____	_____	Other. Please specify:

- * Retention of unrestricted mineral or oil/gas rights will exclude that portion of your property from consideration in the Arkansas Forest Legacy Program.
- ** Retention of restricted mineral or oil/gas rights which allows less than 10% surface disturbance may be consistent with the Arkansas Forest Legacy Program.

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 (proof of authorization must accompany the application) agree to allow inspection, appraisal, and survey of my property being offered for consideration under the Arkansas Forest Legacy Program. I agree to allow members of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture - Forestry Division, Arkansas Forest Stewardship Committee, USDA Forest Service, or their designated staff to inspect my property at any mutually agreeable time for the purposes of this application. I understand I shall be notified in advance of all inspection visits.

I also understand that this property will not be purchased if negotiations do not reach an amicable agreement or if the property does not meet the needs or qualifications of the Arkansas Forest Legacy Program. Conservation easements will only be purchased from willing sellers.

Signature(s) of landowner(s) or legal agent	Date	Mail or email completed application to:
		Shay Hoog, Forest Legacy Coordinator Arkansas Department of Agriculture Forestry Division 1 Natural Resources Drive Little Rock, AR 72205 Phone: 501-912-6540 Shay.Hoog@agriculture.arkansas.gov

Must be signed in ink.