



North Carolina Forest Legacy Program Application for FY 2021



Introduction:

This document provides guidance to the NC Forest Legacy Review Committee (FLARC) on how to score your Forest Legacy Program (FLP) application. Information requested directly relates to the three core national criteria, project readiness and other evaluation considerations used in this process. The FLARC will review and score this application and rank it relative to other NC applications received this year. The application and recommendations of the FLARC will then be considered by the National Review Panel which will perform final ranking and submit a prioritized list of FLP projects for submission to the Office of Management and Budget for consideration in the President's Budget. Please answer each question as concisely and honestly as possible. If you have questions, contact Les Hunter at:

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Forest Stewardship Coordinator
N.C. Forest Service
1616 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1616
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Les.Hunter@ncagr.gov

Application Deadline is May 24, 2019

Directions for completing the Forest Legacy Program Evaluation Package

Page 1: Cover Page – Applicant Information, Property Information, Funding Information

Page 2: Forest Legacy Application Checklist – Items **required** for a complete application.

Pages 3-4: The first part of application requires detailed information on the following subjects:

- LANDOWNER GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
- LANDOWNER COMMENTS
 - THREAT OF CONVERSION
- FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN
- TRADITIONAL FOREST VALUES
- RETENTION OR RELINQUISHMENT OF PROPERTY RIGHTS

Pages 5-8: Project Evaluation – Answer all of the questions that apply to the property offered for Forest Legacy Program funding. Your responses will help project evaluators rank your proposal. This form outlines all of the program priorities and will give you an estimation of how competitive your proposal will be in comparison to others. Provide any supporting documentation that may help project evaluators more thoroughly evaluate and rank your application.

Note: The term "property" as referenced throughout the application refers only to the area offered for conservation easement as funded by the Forest Legacy Program.

Page 9: Signature and Disclaimer Page



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Forest Legacy Application Cover Page

File Number (assigned by NCFS): NC21- _____

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Project Name: _____

Landowner's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Daytime Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Landowner's Agent: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Daytime Telephone Number: _____

Applicant's Name (if different from landowner): _____

Applicant's Address: _____

Partner(s) (e.g. land trust): _____

Partner(s) contact information (include address, telephone number and email address of primary contact): _____

Tract Location:

U.S. House District: _____

U.S. Senate District: _____

PROPERTY INFORMATION: (Provide all that apply)

Legal Description: County _____

Tax Map or PIN #(s): _____

Assessor's Plat and Lot Numbers: _____

Deed Reference (Book and Page Number): _____

Current Local Zoning (where property is located): _____

(Include minimum lot size and road frontage requirements): _____

FUNDING INFORMATION:

Property's Total Acres: _____

Forested Acres of Tract Offered for Forest Legacy: _____

Acres of Cleared/Open Land Offered for Forest Legacy: _____

Legacy Funds Requested for this Project (or phase): _____



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NC Forest Legacy Application Checklist – Please be sure to include all of the following items with your application.

With your Forest Legacy Program application package, please submit two (one original and one copy) of the following for each contiguous parcel:

- _____ Completed Application
- _____ Name(s) and address(es) of other owner(s) of record for this tract
- _____ Signature of Applicant
- _____ Forest Stewardship Plan
- _____ Draft Briefing Document
- _____ Supporting Documentation
- _____ Copy of road map indicating location of the property
- _____ Copy of plat or survey map of the parcel
- _____ Aerial photo indicating parcel boundaries (can be obtained from your local Farm Services Agency Office and/or online county parcel data)
- _____ Legal Description (if available)
- _____ Photos (if available)
- _____ List of existing permanent improvements on the tract, including houses, barns, lakes, ponds, dams, wells, roads and other structures, and the total number of acres occupied by improvements.
- _____ Map identifying all dams, dumps or waste disposal sites on the property

If the proposed easement area does not extend to the entire property, please provide a map that shows both the property boundary and the proposed area to be placed under easement.

NOTE: All materials become the property of the State of North Carolina and are not returnable.

NOTE: Applicants are strongly encouraged to type in responses to each question rather than submitting a hand-written application.



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LANDOWNER GOALS AND OBJECTIVES – Describe your long term goals and objectives for this property:

LANDOWNER COMMENTS – In your opinion, is there a Threat of Conversion to Non-Forest Use of the parcel proposed for enrollment in the Forest Legacy Program? Provide specific information to support your opinion:

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN – What activities recommended in your plan have you implemented? *Note: the absence of a Forest Stewardship Plan will result in a rejection of your application from the review process. *

TRADITIONAL FOREST VALUES - What is/are the "Traditional" use(s) of this forest land?

RETENTION OR RELINQUISHMENT OF PROPERTY RIGHTS – Carefully and fully complete the following section. The information you supply may directly affect the desirability of the property, its appraised value and desirability for acquisition. Note that checking "RETAIN" does not limit your ability to negotiate price and options in the future; it merely assists the Forest Legacy Committee in evaluating your parcel.

Indicate which of the following interests you desire to retain or relinquish. All other rights may become the property of the State of North Carolina upon successful completion of negotiations between the State of North Carolina and you. Provide a brief explanation as to why or for what purpose certain rights are being retained.

RETAIN	RELINQUISH	
_____	_____	Timber and wood product rights
_____	_____	Water rights (Water rights are limited to on-site use. Sale or conveyance of water off-site is not permitted.)
_____	_____	Prohibit public access
_____	_____	Hunting



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RETAIN	RELINQUISH	
_____	_____	Fishing
_____	_____	Camping
_____	_____	Hiking or other passive recreation
_____	_____	Bicycling
_____	_____	Horseback Riding
_____	_____	Mineral rights - NOTE: If applicant desires to retain mineral rights, please provide an explanation of the extent of those retained rights and purpose for retaining mineral rights.
_____	_____	Grazing in existing clearings
_____	_____	Farming in existing non-forested areas
_____	_____	Construction of roads
_____	_____	Motorized access
_____	_____	Expansion of existing improvements
_____	_____	Mushroom/Ginseng/Craft Material Collection
_____	_____	Other: _____

EXPLANATION FOR RETAINING RIGHTS:



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FOREST LEGACY PARCEL EVALUATION

The following evaluation will be used to rank your project based on National Core Criteria and helps complete the Briefing Document to be reviewed by the National Panel should your project be submitted. PLEASE Attach a brief written explanation for each “yes” noted in the following sections to aid reviewers in determining how your project or parcel meets the criteria set forth below.

- I. **Importance** – This criterion focuses on the attributes of the property and the environmental, social, and economic public benefits gained from the protection and management of the property and its resources.
- *High importance* – The project protects multiple public benefits with national significance;
 - *Medium* – The project protects some public benefits with national or state significance; or
 - *Low* – The project protects public benefits with state or local significance

Economic Benefits from Timber and Potential Forest Productivity

Demonstrated sustainable forest management – The property is being managed in accordance with a Forest Stewardship Plan? (Yes/No) Please indicate if management activities are third-party certified (such as Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Forest Stewardship Council, and American Tree Farm System).

Economic Benefits from Non-timber Products – Please list all non-timber economic benefits the property provides that supports the local or regional economy. Activities may include agricultural use, hunting lease(s), public recreation, tourism and/or education opportunities (hiking, biking, boating, guided tours, etc.) and non-timber forest products (pine straw, ginseng collection, etc.).

Threatened or Endangered Species Habitat – Are there federally documented threatened or endangered plants and animals or designated habitat on the property? (Yes/No) If so, please list and provide source of information.

Fish, Wildlife, Plants, and Unique Forest Communities – Does the property contain unique or globally rare forest communities and/or important fish or wildlife habitat as documented by a formal assessment or wildlife conservation plan or strategy developed by a government or a non-governmental organization (e.g. NC Natural Heritage Program Significant Natural Heritage Area or NC Wildlife Resources Commission Wildlife Action Plan)? (Yes/No) If so, please list. You are encouraged to contact state and local conservation agencies and conservation organizations for information on existing conservation plans that may apply.

Water Supply and Watershed Protection – Does the property have a direct relationship with protecting the water supply or watershed, such as provides a buffer to public



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drinking water supply, contains an aquifer recharge area, or protects an ecologically important aquatic or marine area, riparian area, wetlands, shorelines, river systems, headwaters, floodplains or sensitive watershed lands? (Yes/No) If so, please explain (100 words or less).

Public Access – Will the property be available for access by the public for recreation? (Yes/No) If so, what type of recreation?

Scenic – Is the property located within plain site of a government designated scenic feature or area (such as trail, river, or highway)? If so, please list.

Historic/Cultural/Tribal Significance – Does the property contain features of historical, cultural, and/or tribal significance, formally-documented by a government or a non-governmental organization? (Yes/No) If so, please explain and provide source of documentation.

- II. Threat** – This criterion estimates the likelihood for conversion of the property to non-forest use. During the evaluation of threat, a good land steward interested in conserving land will not be penalized. If property has been acquired by a third party at the request of the state, to minimize immediate threat of conversion, the threat will be evaluated based on the situation prior to the third party acquisition.
- *Likely* (11-20 points) – Multiple conditions exist that make conversion to non-forest uses likely.
 - *Possible* (1-10 points) – A few conditions exist that make conversion to non-forest uses possible.
 - *Unlikely* (0 points) – Current conditions exist that make conversion to non-forest uses unlikely.

Legal Protection - Is the property currently subject to legal protections (e.g. current zoning or existing easements)? What impact do these protections have on the threat of conversion, and to what extent?

Property and Landowners Circumstances – Is the property held in an estate or trust? Are there other circumstances that impact the immediate future of the property (e.g. aging landowner, future property ownership by heirs is uncertain, property is for sale or has a sale pending, condemnation is pending, landowner has received purchase offers, land has an approved subdivision plan, landowner has sold subdivisions of the property, etc.)?

Adjacent Land Use – What is the existing land use on adjacent properties (e.g. farm, forest, residential, etc.)?



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Local/Regional Economic Conditions – Provide a concise summary including rate of development, rate of population growth (percent change), rate of change in ownership, rate of subdivision and conversion to non-forest use, etc. (100 words or less)

Ability to Develop- Provide brief explanation of physical attributes of the property that might facilitate conversion, such as access, buildable ground, zoning, slope, water/sewer, electricity, etc. (100 words or less)

III. Strategic – This criterion reflects the project’s relevance or relationship to conservation efforts on a broader perspective. When evaluating strategic, three considerations should be made: 1) the scale of a conservation plan, 2) the scale of the project’s contribution to that plan, and 3) the placement of the parcel within the plan area.

- *High* (21-30 points) – The property significantly advances a landscape-scale or watershed-based conservation strategy through infill and/or key linkages and supports previous conservation investments.
- *Average* (11-20 points) – The property makes a modest contribution to a conservation effort and is near already protected lands.
- *Low* (0-10 points) – The property is not part of a conservation plan, but will lead to locally-focused conservation effort.

Attributes to consider:

Conservation Strategy- How does the project fit within a larger conservation plan, strategy, or initiative as designated by either a government or non-governmental entity? Please list applicable plan(s), strategy(s) and/or initiative(s). *You are encouraged to contact state and local conservation agencies and conservation organizations for information on existing conservation plans that may apply.*

Complement Protected Lands- Will the project enhance already-protected lands including past FLP projects, federal, state, or non-governmental organization conservation lands? If so, please explain. (100 words or less)

Additional Considerations

1. The National Review Panel will **give one (1) additional point** added to the average panel score for projects that have leveraged 50% match, or greater from a non-federal source.
 Requested amount from FLP \$ _____
 Amount of matching funds \$ _____ Percent of total project cost _____%
 Total project cost \$ _____
 Please list source(s) and amount of matching funds. Include bargain sale/reduction in sale price by landowner.



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2. The National Review Panel will **give one (1) additional point** added to the average panel score for projects that have a project readiness score of 5 or greater.

Project Readiness is defined as the degree of due diligence applied and the certainty of a successful FLP project. To demonstrate project readiness, completed items need to be specified (including completion date) in FLIS and credit will only be given to those items completed. Projects with multiple tracts must have the following tasks completed on 50% or more of the acres among the offered tracts to receive credit.

1. **Information has been documented to support cost estimate, such as completed market analysis or appraisal. (Yes/No) Date completed:**
2. **Landowner (including partners and/or heirs) and easement holder have agreed to easement or fee acquisition conditions. (Yes/No)
Name and address of proposed easement holder, if not N.C. Forest Service:**
3. **Matching funds have been obtained from a specified source(s). (Yes/No)
Please distinguish between funds applied for versus committed, and source(s).**
4. **A signed option or purchase and sales agreement is held by the state or at the request of the state. OR at the request of the State, conservation easement or fee title is held by a third party. (Yes/No)**
5. **Title search is completed. (Yes/No)**
6. **Minerals determination is completed. (Yes/No)**
7. **Forest Stewardship Plan is completed. (Yes/No)**

LIENS AND ENCUMBRANCES – *List any and all liens and encumbrances on the property proposed for enrollment in the Forest Legacy Program. Examples: Utility easements, public rights of way, water flow or use restrictions, septic systems or water easements, deed restrictions, tax liens, etc.*



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The information provided above is true to the best of my/our knowledge and belief.

ALL TITLE HOLDERS MUST SIGN

PRINT NAME(S)	SIGNATURE	DATE
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

DISCLOSURE OF THIS INFORMATION IS VOLUNTARY; HOWEVER, FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY RESULT IN DELAY, OR FAILURE TO PROCESS THIS APPLICATION

- Resource values identified by the applicant / landowner for protection will be used by the committee to rank the project. Therefore, future protection and management of these resources are implied in the application and will be required in the easement and subsequent management plans.
- Substantial modifications of the intents set forth in this application by the landowner or his/her representative will necessitate a review of the project and may jeopardize its selection and possible funding.

I have read through the application and understand that all Forest Legacy projects will be reviewed by a committee for their suitability to the North Carolina Forest Legacy Program. Furthermore, that the Forest Legacy agreement is voluntary and subject to the availability of funds and the willingness of the State of North Carolina to accept the easement as negotiated.

_____ Signature of landowner / Applicant Date: _____

_____ Signature of landowner / Applicant Date: _____

_____ Witness Date: _____