

**West Virginia Division of Forestry
Forest Legacy Program**

Application

This completed application will help the Forest Legacy Subcommittee effectively evaluate the property to determine if it meets the requirements of the Forest Legacy Program and the criteria that the West Virginia Division of Forestry (WVD OF) and the Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee have identified as important.

A USGS topographic map with the property boundaries clearly defined must be attached to this Application in order for the Forest Legacy Subcommittee to fully evaluate the property.

Requirements:

- The property must be located in one of the four WVD OF Forest Legacy Program (FLP) Areas. The property must be in danger of conversion to non-forest uses.
- The conservation easement extinguishes the development / subdivision rights and provides opportunities for professional forestry to be practiced and for timber to be harvested. The easement will be held by WVD OF.
- The owner(s) is/are committed to preserving the conservation values of the property.
- The WVD OF can use federal funds to pay up to seventy five percent (75%) of the cost of the easement's fair market value. Twenty five percent (25%) of the easement value is to be donated by the landowner.
- The property needs a Forest Stewardship Management Plan, prepared by a WV Registered Professional Forester who is also a WVD OF certified Stewardship plan writer; or the applicant needs to commit to securing a plan if the property is recommended for national Forest Legacy funding consideration.
- The title needs to be free from defect. Deeds of Trust are acceptable, provided that they can be subordinated to the conservation easement.
- **Applications must be received by the WVD OF FLP Forester on or before February 1 at 7 Players Club Dr., Suite 1, Charleston, WV 25311.**

Landowner Information:

Project/Tract Name: _____

Landowner Name(s): _____

Are all landowners of the property listed above: (Circle One) - YES or NO

Are any of the landowners of minor age (less than 18)? (Circle One) – YES or NO

Landowner's Mailing Address(es): _____

Landowner's Email Address(es): _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Contact Person (if other than landowner): _____ Phone: _____

County: _____ Watershed: _____

Magisterial District: _____ Tax Map(s) # _____ Map Parcel(s) #: _____

Property Offered: (Check One) - IN FEE or EASEMENT

Property Information:

Total Property Acres: _____ Offered Acres (if different): _____

Number of offered acres which are forested? _____

Dominant Forest Cover Type(s): _____

Average Stand Size class: Sapling (%) _____ Poletimber (%) _____
Sawtimber(%) _____

Is the property fenced? (Circle One) - YES or NO - If yes, what is condition of fence? _____

Is the property boundary painted? - (Circle One) - YES or NO

Do you have a survey plat of property? - (Circle One) - YES or NO

When was the property last surveyed? _____ (Year)

Are there other easements and/or right-of-ways on the property? - (Circle One) - YES or NO - If yes, please explain _____

In addition to the surface, do you own the oil/gas, as well as the minerals (i.e., coal, limestone, etc.)? - (Circle One) - YES or NO - If no, please explain _____

Are any of the oil/gas or mineral rights under lease at this time? - (Circle One) - YES or NO - If yes, please explain _____

(If you answered yes, please attach a copy of executed lease agreements with application)

Are there any liens against the property? - (Circle One) - YES or NO - If yes, please explain _____

Is your property currently for sale? – (Circle One) – Yes or No

Do you have plans or are you considering selling or donating your property to a third party? - (Circle One) - YES or NO

If yes, do you understand that the third party will be the recipient of Forest Legacy funding if they continue with the Forest Legacy Program and if it becomes available in the future? - (Circle One) – YES or NO

Degree of Land Conversion Threat - The property is or has been threatened by development or is perceived to be in danger of development. Some examples of threat are increased property taxes, debt to be paid, financial offers, etc. (15 points):

Parcels which border the applicant's property have commercial or residential development and/or have been subdivided in past 10 years? - (Circle One) - YES or NO - If yes, please explain _____

Parcels that lie within two (2) miles of the applicant's property which have commercial or residential development and/or have been subdivided in past 10 years? - (Circle One) - YES or NO - If yes, please explain _____

Does property have public road frontage or a deeded right-of-way? - (Circle One) - YES or NO - If yes, _____ (ft.)

Does property have stream frontage - (Circle One) - YES or NO - If yes, distance - _____ (ft.) and name of stream: _____

Does property have existing public utilities or are they available to property - (Circle One) - YES or NO

What is the distance to the nearest residential or commercial development? - _____ (mi.)

Describe the topography of the land (i.e., slope, elevation, aspect) _____

Distance to nearest population center: _____ (mi.); Name of city or town: _____

Forest Resource Economic Benefits (15 points):

Has there been a professionally prepared forest management plan completed for the property? (Circle One) - YES or NO - If yes, when was the plan prepared? _____ (date). Please attach a copy of forest management plan (if applicable) to application.

What forest management activities have been completed on the property? Please explain:

If timber was harvested, were best management practices followed? Please explain: _____

Did you have professional assistance from a Registered Professional Forester? - (Circle One) - YES or NO Did you harvest the timber yourself – (Circle One)- YES or NO

Describe the properties unique forest resource benefits such as highly productive soils for timber production, high timber volumes, high quality and / or mature timber, unique forest cover types, etc.: _____

Has there been any fire, insect, or wind damage to your timber? – (Circle One)-YES or NO

Do you have any invasive species on your property? (Circle One) – YES or NO

If yes please explain the type and amount damage and / or invasive species:

Wildlife and Ecological Benefits (15 points):

Explain the importance to you as it relates to the fish and wildlife resources which occur on the property: _____

Describe the properties unique ecological benefits such as rare or unique plant communities and list any rare threatened or endangered plant or animal species which are known to occur on the property: _____

Does the property provide for a diversity of wildlife habitat types? - (Circle One) - YES or NO - If yes, please explain _____

Describe any ecologically important areas or conditions such as caves, karst topography, high elevation bogs, wetlands, shale barrens, etc. which occur on the property: _____

Water Quality and Watershed Protection Benefits (15 points):

Does the property exhibit any special water quality or watershed protection aspects? - (Circle One) - YES or NO - If yes, please explain _____

Are there High Quality Streams located on/or bordering the property: - (Circle One) - YES or NO - If yes, name the stream and approximate stream distance: _____

Describe the riparian resources on the property: _____

Describe what the benefits to the local municipal water source or recharge area are (if applicable): _____

Describe the isolated wetlands, springs and seeps which occur on the property: _____

Outdoor Recreation, Educational, Scenic and Other Important Benefits (15 points):

Are there special historical and cultural resources located on the property? - (Circle One) - YES or NO - If yes, please explain _____

Does the property provide special view-shed benefits? - (Circle One) - YES or NO - If yes, please explain _____

Is the property visible from other public lands? - (Circle One) - YES or NO - If yes, list the public areas _____

Has the tract been used for educational purposes (i.e., forestry, environmental, wildlife, etc.)? - (Circle One) - YES or NO - If yes, please explain _____

Is there evidence of community support for preserving this tract? - (Circle One) - YES or NO - If yes, please explain or provide written documentation _____

Will you include public access as a condition of the easement? (Circle One) - YES or NO

If yes, what uses may be allowed? Explain

Strategic and Other Benefits (15 points):

Is this project part of a WV Division of Forestry Strategy (WVDOF) for protecting working forest land? Does this project adjoin or strategically fit with any existing Forest Legacy Program Conservation Easements? (Circle One) – YES or No – If yes please explain _____

Is your property part of any non -WVDOF conservation plan, strategy or initiative and does it enhance other conservation investments? - (Circle One) - YES or NO - If yes, please explain _____

Were any other previous conservation easement(s) enhanced: - (Circle One) - YES or NO - If yes, please explain _____

Are there any other benefits not described above that your property provides.

Project Readiness (5 points):

Are you willing to donate a part of the easement value (minimum - 25% required)? - (Circle One) - YES or NO - If yes, please explain _____

Are you interested in donating more than the required 25%?

Do you have a title report that can be reviewed by WVDOF and the Forest Legacy subcommittee? (Circle One) - YES or NO – If yes, please attach a copy.

Incompatibles Uses (5 points):

Are there uses (i.e., trash dumps, unrestricted livestock grazing, etc.) of the property that are incompatible with forest management? - YES or NO - If yes, please explain _____

Is there evidence from erosion and sedimentation from off-road vehicles operated off established roads or trails? - YES or NO - If yes, please explain _____

Is their evidence that hazardous waste may be present on the property? - YES or NO - If yes, please explain _____

Feel free to provide other pertinent information as needed.

The information compiled above is true to the best of my knowledge. All holders to the title of the property must sign and date the application below:

Name (Print):	Signature:	Date:

This Section To Be Completed By Forest Legacy Program Forester	
Application Number:	
Forest Legacy Area:	
Date Application Received:	
Application Received By:	

RANKING SHEET FOR FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM APPLICATION TO BE COMPLETED BY FLP SUBCOMMITTEE		
Project/Tract Name: _____		Application Number: _____
Category:	Possible Points:	Actual Points
Degree of Land Conversion Threat	15	
Forest Resource	15	

Economic Benefits		
Wildlife and Ecological Benefits	15	
Water Quality and Watershed Protection Benefits	15	
Outdoor Recreation, Educational, Scenic Benefits	15	
Strategic Benefits and other Benefits	15	
Project Readiness	5	
Incompatible Uses	5	
	(Possible Score) 100	Final Score: _____
SCORED BY: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____		

Participation in Division of Forestry Programs is open to all eligible applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex marital status, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination write: WV Division of Forestry, 1900 Kanawha Blvd., East, Charleston, WV 25305. The West Virginia Division of Forestry is an equal opportunity employer.