



# Idaho Forest Legacy Program

## Call for FFY2023 Project Applications

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### Summary

The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is receiving project applications for consideration for the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) in federal fiscal year 2023.

FLP is a program that seeks to protect privately owned, economically and environmentally important forestlands that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. FLP is a voluntary program that, through the purchase of conservation easements, operates on the “willing buyer, willing seller” principle. Lands covered by an FLP conservation easement stay in private ownership and continue to be managed for traditional uses such as forest management while protecting other values such as recreation opportunities and fish and wildlife habitat.

Specific goals for the program are identified below.

### Goals

- Identify high priority forestlands in Idaho
- Maintain the cultural and economic stability of rural communities by conserving *working* forest landscapes
- Conserve and/or enhance water quality
- Maintain unique forest habitats
- Protect and provide habitat for native fish, wildlife and plants
- Protect the social values that forests provide such as public recreation, scenic, cultural and historical values

More information about the Forest Legacy Program can be found at:

IDL: <https://www.idl.idaho.gov/forestry/forest-legacy-program/>

Forest Action Plan – Resource Strategy: <https://www.idl.idaho.gov/forestry/forest-action-plan/>

U.S. Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flp.shtml>

Landowners should work with a land trust organization or another state agency to develop their application. Project proposals are evaluated and prioritized by the Idaho Lands Resource Coordination Council using the following categories: *Importance, Threatened, Strategic*, level of *Readiness* and degree of *Support*.

Qualifying applications will be forwarded to the regional and national ranking committees for final ranking and funding consideration. Funds are awarded to successful projects two to three years after submitting the initial application.

## Stewardship Contribution

Periodic and perpetual monitoring and administrative responsibilities are required of IDL once a conservation easement is acquired. Federal and State of Idaho funds cannot be used to cover these costs. To fund these perpetual responsibilities, IDL collects a one-time stewardship contribution per conservation easement acquisition.

The stewardship contribution is deposited into an endowment account where only the interest earned is utilized for stewardship expenses. The fund is intended to not only pay for the operating and administrative costs of the physical monitoring inspections, but also to fund legal defense of the easement if ever needed.

Stewardship contributions vary and are negotiated with landowners prior to closing. The minimum stewardship contribution amount is \$10,000, but will increase with easement complexity. Funding amounts depend on several factors which may include conservation easement acreage, travel distance, conservation easement complexity, and other factors.

## Application Deadline

Applications must be received by **July 15, 2021** to be considered for fiscal year 2023. All proposals must address the Application Requirements and include the required supporting documentation. Applications received after the July 15, 2021 deadline will not be considered for FFY 2023.

Please submit **1 full electronic copy** of the project proposal to the attention:

Karen Neorr, Forest Legacy Program Coordinator  
e-mail: [kneorr@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:kneorr@idl.idaho.gov)

2550 Highway 2 West  
Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

tel: 208-263-5104

Applicants are highly encouraged to contact Karen Neorr, Idaho Department of Lands, Forest Legacy Coordinator, at (208) 263-5104 before submitting an application to ensure the proposal meets State and Federal program requirements.

## **Application Requirements**

IDL recommends that all applications be submitted in an electronic format. Formatting guidelines include:

- Document Length: Maximum of 25 pages (8 ½" x 11"), one sided, excluding supporting documents (see Section G)
  - Font Size: At least 10 pt
  - Margins: At least ½" on all sides
1. Project must meet one or more of Idaho's FLP goals.
  2. Project must be within an Idaho Priority Landscape Area as identified in the [Forest Action Plan](#) (FAP)-Resource Strategy.
  3. Project must be sponsored by a state agency or a land trust organization.
  4. Project lands must be privately owned.
  5. Project must be at least five (5) acres in size.
  6. Project must include a minimum 25% non-federal match: cash, donation, or in-kind. The FLP will fund up to 75% of total project costs (acquisition costs plus other allowable expenses). A Forest Legacy acquisition will not occur until a landowner meets the non-federal match percentage as stated in their application.
  7. Each project *tract* must be 75% forestland (defined as land with trees that has at least 10% canopy cover of native tree species and is not currently developed for non-forest use).
  8. Landowners agree to follow federal FLP requirements and implementation rules including:
    - a. Accepting an appraisal that meets standard federal appraisal guidelines.
    - b. Managing the property by means of a Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) approved through the Idaho Forest Stewardship Program.
    - c. Signing a perpetual conservation easement with the State of Idaho, with the stated purpose of conserving in perpetuity the forestland and conservation values of the property.
    - d. Allowing annual monitoring for conservation easement (CE) compliance.
  9. Landowners must complete the Proposed Reserved Rights and Restrictions form.
  10. Application must include a signed "Landowner Certification and Inspection Consent" form from each potential conservation easement grantor.

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Estimated Conservation Easement Value: \$  
Estimated Due Diligence Cost: \$  
Total Tract Cost (Conservation Easement Value + Due Diligence Cost): \$  
Forest Legacy Program Funding Request (rounded to the nearest \$5,000): \$  
Non-Federal Cost-Share: \$

## E. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This description should provide the evaluators with an overview of the project, summarizing how it meets the core criteria and ultimately, why the project should be considered for the Forest Legacy Program (do not exceed 1 page).

## F. CORE CRITERIA – DETAILED DESCRIPTION

### *Importance*

These criteria reflect the environmental, economic and social values conserved by the project and the scale of people's interest in its protection. More points will be given to projects that demonstrate multiple benefits and at a broad scale.

1. **Forestry:** Describe how the project demonstrates sustainable forest practices in accordance with a management plan (additional points for third party certification), contributes to the resource-based economy and demonstrates attributes to sustain a productive forest.
2. **Non-Timber Economic Benefits:** Describe other activities that provide economic benefit such as hunting leases, ranching, agriculture, non-timber forest products, recreation or tourism.
3. **Threatened or Endangered Species Habitat:** Does the site have documented occurrence or designated habitat for rare, threatened or endangered plants or animals?
4. **Fish, Wildlife, Plants, and Unique Forest Communities:** Describe the site's unique forest communities and/or important fish or wildlife habitat. Specify a wildlife conservation plan or strategy if applicable.
5. **Water Supply Protection:** Describe any contiguity with or direct access to riparian areas, wetlands, shorelines, river systems, sensitive watershed lands, public drinking water supply or an aquifer recharge area.
6. **Public Access/Recreation:** Will protection of the property maintain or establish access by the public for recreation? Describe future conditions of public use.
7. **Scenic:** Describe the site's scenic attributes and, if applicable, its location within a viewshed of a formally designated scenic feature or area (such as trail, river, or highway).
8. **Historic/Cultural/Tribal:** Describe formally documented historical, cultural or tribal features that are located on site.

### *Threatened*

These criteria evaluate the likelihood of conversion from forest to non-forest uses. Describe the current and future threat of conversion and how it will result in a loss of forest values and public benefits.

1. **Legal Protection:** Describe the degree of legal protections, or lack of, that currently exist on the property (e.g., zoning or existing easements), if these protections remove/increase the threat of conversion and to what extent.

2. **Land/Landowner Circumstances:** Describe any extenuating circumstances that could potentially lead to forest conversion (e.g., property held in an estate, aging landowner and future ownership by heirs is uncertain, property is up for sale or has a sale pending, purchase offers).
3. **Adjacent Land Use Changes:** Examples - rate of development growth and conversion, rate of population growth, rate of change in ownership, etc.
4. **Ability to Develop:** Describe physical attributes of the property that would facilitate conversion (e.g., access, zoning, utilities, mineral potential).

### **Strategic**

These criteria reflect the project's relevance or relationship to conservation efforts on a broader perspective. The following considerations will be used to evaluate a project's strategic relationship to a conservation plan(s).

1. **Conservation Strategy:** Describe how the project fits within a designated conservation plan, strategy or initiative (include the scale of the conservation plan, the project's contribution to that plan and its placement within the area).
2. **Compliment Protected Lands:** Describe how the project is strategically linked to other protected lands (e.g., State, Federal, or privately owned protected lands (refuges, conservation easements)).

### **Readiness**

These criteria evaluate the degree of due diligence completed and reflects a landowner's commitment to completing a Forest Legacy easement in a timely manner. Specify completed items and include date of completion. Completed items should be provided in your supporting documentation (Section G).

1. Cost estimate (e.g., completed market analysis or preliminary appraisal)
2. Draft conservation easement
3. Cost share commitment (source(s) and amount(s) of non-federal match)
4. Signed option or purchase and sale agreement
5. Completed title search
6. Completed minerals remoteness report
7. Idaho Department of Lands Forest Stewardship Plan
8. Draft Baseline Documentation Report

### **Support**

Provide a brief list here of supporting parties. Support is encouraged from any combination of individuals or organizations, although support from federal, state or local elected officials, government agencies and land-trust/conservation organizations are highly encouraged. Letters of support should be provided in your supporting documentation (Section G).

## **G. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (formatting requirements do not apply)**

1. Cover Page
2. Maps – state and local scales
3. Photographs – aerial, property photos, etc.
4. Letters of Support
5. Documentation of Readiness
6. Proposed Reserved Rights and Restrictions form
7. Signed Landowner Certification and Inspection Consent

**PROPOSED RESERVED RIGHTS AND RESTRICTIONS**

Please, indicate which of the following uses or interests you wish to retain as part of the conservation easement.

**Note:** Checking **YES** or **NO** helps the Forest Legacy Committee when inspecting, prioritizing, and evaluating your tract. 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 you wish to retain</u>
			Existing residences and structures. Describe
			Additional development. Explain
			Additional subdivision. Explain
			Commercial timber harvest restrictions. Explain
			Restricted mineral rights.* Explain
			Will you allow public access to your property? Explain including commercial or noncommercial uses.
			Grazing. ([ ] acres)
			Agriculture. ([ ] acres)
			Additional commercial activities. Explain
			Other. Please specify:

\*Retention of unrestricted mineral or oil/gas rights will exclude that portion of your property from consideration. Use of gravel pits for on property use may be acceptable.

**LANDOWNER CERTIFICATION AND INSPECTION CONSENT**

To the best of my knowledge, the information in this application is true and complete. I agree to allow members of the USDA Forest Service, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho’s Forest Legacy committee or their designees to conduct inspections, appraisals, surveys, data collection, or other permitted activities on my property at a mutually agreeable time for the purposes of this application and that I shall be notified in advance of all such inspections.

I understand that the purpose of the Idaho Forest Legacy Program (FLP) is to protect environmentally important forest areas and the public values they provide from the threat of conversion to non-forest uses. I understand that participation in the Forest Legacy Program is entirely voluntary and that a conservation easement will not be purchased if negotiations do not reach an amicable agreement or if the property does not meet the needs or qualifications of Idaho’s Forest Legacy Program. The State of Idaho will only purchase conservation easements from willing sellers.

I understand that the Idaho Department of Lands cannot acquire a conservation easement without a stewardship contribution which will allow IDL to monitor and ensure conservation easement compliance in perpetuity.

I have read and understand the terms in the Call for FFY2023 Project Applications. With those understandings, I submit this application for consideration for the Forest Legacy Program.


**Landowner or Authorized Signature(s)**

**Title**

**Date**