



## MS Forest Legacy Program 2016 Application

<http://www.mfc.ms.gov/forest-legacy.php>

**Deadline August 15, 2017**

**See last page for address and contact information.**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Mississippi Forestry Commission in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service established the Mississippi Forest Legacy Program to protect privately owned forest lands with natural forest communities from being used for non-forest uses. Funding is federal money from the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry Program, Forest Stewardship Program (CFDA 1066.4). **Participation in Mississippi's Forest Legacy Program is strictly voluntary.**

The purpose of Mississippi's Forest Legacy Program is to match federal funds with local non-federal funds, to purchase development rights, conservation easements, or fee simple interest on those environmentally important forests threatened by conversion to non-forest uses within designed geographic areas, known as Mississippi Forest Legacy Areas. Unless fee simple interest is purchased, these forests shall remain in private ownership. **The Mississippi Forest Legacy Areas (FLAs) are:**

**Northeast** - Parts of 6 Counties - Clay, Itawamba, Lee, Lowndes, Monroe, Tishomingo

**Central** - Parts of 5 counties - Copiah, Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Simpson

**Southeast** - 13 counties - Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Jones, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, Perry, Stone, Wayne

Prior to completing this application, you are strongly encouraged to review the Mississippi Forest Legacy Program *Assessment of Need* (<http://www.mfc.ms.gov/forest-legacy.php>) for guidance on the program. Only tracts that are located in one of the designated Mississippi FLAs will be considered and must meet the national and state criteria and have a completed application submitted by the deadline. Note that all easements and interests in land acquired through the Forest Legacy Program are conveyed in perpetuity, and must contain such covenants and language to insure perpetuity of Forest Legacy easements. **For projects to be funded in federal fiscal year 2019, the deadline for application submittal is August 15, 2017**

***All submitted materials with this application become the property of the State of Mississippi and are non-returnable. Disclosure of this information is voluntary. However, failure to provide all of the requested information will substantially decrease the ability of designated persons to properly review and rank your application and property for participation in the program.***

*The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides equal employment opportunity and services to all individuals regardless of race, age, disability, religion, color, gender, creed, national origin or political affiliation. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*



**INSTRUCTIONS TO FLP APPLICANT:**

1. Download this Microsoft Word™ document; answer all questions completely and save it to submit with attachments. Please submit the application as a Word™ document in 12-point font, single spaced.
2. Answer all questions in all sections completely.
3. Attach all applicable supporting documents, photos, maps, deeds, etc. to this application.
4. **Submit this completed application and all attachments to the Mississippi Forestry Commission no later than 5 p.m. on August 15, 2017 via mail or electronically. No faxes will be accepted**
5. **For assistance, and address to submit your application and attachments:**  
Mississippi Forestry Commission  
Attn: **Forest Legacy Coordinator**  
**Jim Hancock**, MSRF #1367  
660 North Street, Suite 300  
Jackson, MS 39202  
(601) 720-0238  
[jhancock@mfc.state.ms.us](mailto:jhancock@mfc.state.ms.us)
6. **Attach one (1) clean copy the following items to this application for each contiguous parcel nominated:**
  - a. Completed application.
  - b. Name(s) and address(es) of all owner(s) of record for this tract.
  - c. Road map indicating location of property in the County or Counties where located.
  - d. Copy of plat or survey map (if available) showing property boundary and boundary of nominated parcel(s).
  - e. Aerial photo with boundaries of nominated parcel(s) marked (if available).
  - f. Copy of warranty deed.
  - g. 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.
  - h. Map identifying any dams, dumps, or waste disposal sites on the property (if any).
  - i. Forest management plan (Multiple-resource or Forest Stewardship Plan) if available.
  - j. Other (any other supporting document such as copies of any existing easements, restrictions or covenants on property, recent photos, appraisals, title search, etc.).



**SECTION I. APPLICANT INFORMATION**

1. **LANDOWNER'S FULL NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. **FULL MAILING ADDRESS (STREET OR P.O. BOX, CITY, STATE, ZIP):**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. **DAYTIME PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

4. **CELL PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

5. **FAX NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

6. **E-MAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

7. **LIST ALL CO-OWNERS OF THE PROPERTY (AND THEIR ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER OR ATTACH A LIST):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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8. **AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE (IF DIFFERENT THAN THE LANDOWNER):** *If applicable, please list name, full mailing address, phone, e-mail for persons authorized to represent you on this application.*

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**SECTION II. PROPERTY INFORMATION**

**1. LOCATION OF PROPOSED PARCEL OR PARCELS**

County(ies): \_\_\_\_\_  
Central GPS Point(s) (latitude and longitude): \_\_\_\_\_  
Township: Range: Section(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**2. SIZE:**

Total property acres of nominated parcel(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Total forested acres of nominated parcel(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
How much of the total acres above are you nominating to the Forest Legacy Program in this application? \_\_\_\_\_

**3. ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING CONSIDERED FOR: (mark one or both)**

a conservation easement, or  
 Selling the all or a portion of the property.

**4. IS ANY OF THIS ACREAGE ENROLLED IN THE AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM, A THIRD-PARTY FOREST CERTIFICATION OR OTHER FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM? If so, please list the program(s) and acres covered.**

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**5. DO YOU HAVE A WRITTEN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN OR FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN? If so, please attach a copy of it.**

Yes  
 No

**6. HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING WITH A FORESTER, LAND MANAGER OR BIOLOGIST WHO COULD PROVIDE TECHNICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PROPERTY? If so, may we contact him/her? Please provide the full name and a daytime phone number and e-mail.**

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**SECTION III. LANDOWNER GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:**

1. **DESCRIBE IN THE SPACE BELOW YOUR LONG-TERM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE NOMINATED PROPERTY.** *Please share with us why the property important to you. What would you like to see happen to this property in the future?*

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2. **LANDOWNER SELF EVALUATION:** *Please help us understand the uniqueness of your property. Prioritize in order the following reasons why your property should be enrolled in the Forest Legacy Program (1-most important to 10-least important).*

- Prevent conversion/development/fragmentation of an important forest resource
  - Protection of scenic resources
  - Protect/enhance a watershed or important drinking water supply
  - Protect/enhance an important riparian/hydrologic area
  - Provide linkage between public properties, protected areas and greenways
  - Protect/enhance/restore fish and/or wildlife habitat
  - Protect/enhance/restore habitat of rare, threatened, and/or endangered species, plant and/or animals
  - Provide for the continuation of traditional forest uses
  - Provide historical/cultural uniqueness or protection
  - Other:
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**SECTION IV. HOW YOUR PROPERTY FITS INTO THE NATIONAL FLP CORE CRITERIA**

Nominated properties must compete nationally for FLP funds. They will be scored using three (3) national core criteria (Importance, Threatened and Strategic) AND must demonstrate that they are “Ready” to be part of the Forest Legacy Program. These criteria are listed below – please describe how your property relates to each by answering each question below in as much detail as necessary.

**1. WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR PROPERTY AS IT RELATES TO ANY ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL OR ECONOMIC PUBLIC BENEFITS THAT WOULD BE GAINED BY PROTECTING AND MANAGING IT?**

*Hint – describe in detail any attributes that are applicable to your property. More points will be given to projects that demonstrate multiple public benefits with national significance. For instance, explain if your property demonstrates sustainable forest management, contributes to the resource-based economy of the region, or has highly productive soils. Is it important habitat for documented threatened or endangered animals or rare plants or species or natural communities of concern? Does it contain unique forest communities or habitat documented by a formal conservation plan? Does it provide important watershed or riparian values, or is it in a scenic viewshed, or bordering a federal wild and scenic river or state scenic stream? Does it have formally designated cultural or historic features or does it provide public access. Does it provide non-timber revenue to the local or regional economy through activities such as hunt leases, ranching, non-timber forest products, guided tours (fishing, hunting, bird watching), and recreational rentals (bikes, boats, outdoor gear).*

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**2. EXPLAIN HOW YOUR PROPERTY IS THREATENED BY DEVELOPMENT OF CONVERSION TO OTHER USES. *Hint: This criterion estimates the likelihood for conversion and considers the following:***

- Legal Protection - Are there any legal protections that currently exist on the property (such as current zoning or existing easements)? If so, do these protections remove the threat of conversion, and to what extent?
- Land and Landowners Circumstances – For example: property held in an estate, aging landowner, future use of property by heirs is uncertain, property is up for sale or has a sale pending, landowner has received purchase offers, land has an approved subdivision plan, landowner has sold subdivisions of the property, good land steward interested in conserving land, etc.
- Adjacent Land Uses - Status of adjacent properties, rate of development growth and conversion in area, rate of population growth, rate of change in ownership, etc.
- Ability to Develop - Physical attributes of the property that will facilitate conversion, such as access, slope, water/sewer, electricity, etc.



Multiple horizontal lines for writing.

**3. HOW IS THE PROPERTY STRATEGICALLY LINKED TO OTHER PROTECTED AREAS NEARBY?** *Hint: Does the property fall within a priority area designated by a conservation plan, strategy or initiative by a government or non-government entity? Will protection of your property enhance already protected lands such as other FLP tracts, state, federal or non-government lands, or other federal land protection program tracts?*

Multiple horizontal lines for writing.

**4. IS THE PROPERTY "READY" TO BE A PART OF THE FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM?** *Hint: These items are not required for the application to be considered, but any of these items that show the amount of due diligence that has already been completed will strengthen the application. To demonstrate readiness to go forward, describe and/or attach any of the items you have to this application or indicate if they have been completed such as: a cost estimate (market analysis or preliminary appraisal of the property); a signed agreement by the landowner to the easement or fee acquisition conditions; a commitment to cost share from partners – list any potential partners (we must have at least 25% non-federal cost share); a signed option or purchase and sales agreement; title search; minerals determination or remoteness letter by a geologist; forest stewardship plan or multiple use plan.*

Multiple horizontal lines for writing.







**SECTION VI. Confidential Financial Information and Ownership Information**

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.

**1. FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

The following estimates are for preliminary use only. Any final offer for conservation easement or fee simple purchase cannot exceed fair market value, as determined by an appraisal meeting the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisition (known as Yellowbook Standards).

- a. **What is the estimated total value of this property?** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- b. **How was this value determined:** (e.g.: landowner's personal estimate, licensed appraiser, Realtor, written legal appraisal -please provide a copy with this application, if available). \_\_\_\_\_
- c. **Are you willing to donate part or all of the appraised value?** (Applies to either conservation easement or fee simple title).  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_\_\_ No    \_\_\_\_\_ Not sure  
 If yes, what percent value would you be willing to donate? \_\_\_\_\_ %
- d. **State the value of any other contribution you or a partner may make to help make this project successful, either in donated value of in-kind services or financial.** For example: appraisal, survey, title work, minerals remoteness letter, survey if needed or the value any potential partners may make (please list partner and contribution). Note: Donations may constitute a charitable contribution for income tax purposes, depending on applicable Internal Revenue Service guidelines and regulations.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**2. LIENS AND ENCUMBRANCES**

Please list any and all liens and encumbrances on the property proposed for enrollment in the Mississippi Forest Legacy Program. **Examples: 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, sand and gravel, stone, etc.), tax liens, dump sites, underground fuel tanks, other environmental hazards, etc.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**3. DO YOU OWN THE MINERAL RIGHTS ON THIS PARCEL?** If you have a mineral deed, or other evidence of mineral ownership, please attach to this application.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Yes
- \_\_\_\_\_ No
- \_\_\_\_\_ Unsure



**SECTION VII. PRELIMINARY IDENTIFICATION OF RIGHTS TO BE RETAINED AND SOLD**

**CAREFULLY AND FULLY COMPLETE IF YOU WANT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A CONSERVATION EASEMENT. IF YOU ARE OFFERING YOUR PROPERTY FOR FEE TITLE ACQUISITION, SKIP THIS SECTION VII.** *The information you provide will directly affect the desirability of your property for this program. If you are considering a conservation easement, indicate which uses, rights or interests you may wish to **keep (K)** and which uses or interests you may wish to **sell (S)** as part of the conservation easement. If you are unsure, mark **U** and if not applicable, mark **NA**. Note: Checking **sell** or **keep** does not commit you to anything at this time, it merely assists the Mississippi Forestry Commission when inspecting, prioritizing and evaluating your parcel.*

**K = Keep, S = Sell, U = Unsure, NA = Not applicable to your property**

- Commercial, residential or industrial development
- The right to manage and harvest timber
- The right to subdivide the property
- The right to hunt, fish or trap (commercial).
- The right to hunt, fish or trap (non-commercial/private only).
- Mining for sand/gravel (or other minerals)\*
- Right to limit or control public access to your property
- The right to graze open areas (acres \_\_\_\_\_)
- The right to farm open areas for profit (acres \_\_\_\_\_)
- The right to build or rebuild roads (other than forest management/protection roads)
- Ownership of existing buildings and other improvements.
- Other recreational activities such as camping, hiking, cycling, horseback riding.
- Motorized access
- Expansion of existing improvements (buildings).
- Others? Please specify:
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

\* Retention of unrestricted mineral or oil/gas rights will exclude that portion or all of your property from consideration in the Mississippi FLP.



**SECTION VIII. LANDOWNER TESTIMONY AND PERMISSION**

*Please read, sign and date before submitting this application.*

The information in this application is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I, as the landowner or landowner's authorized representative (proof of authorization must accompany the application), agree to allow any needed inspection, appraisal and survey of the property being offered for consideration under the Mississippi Forest Legacy Program. I agree to allow members of the Mississippi Forestry Commission, the Mississippi Forest Legacy committee or their designee to inspect my property at any reasonable time for the purposes of this application. I understand I shall be notified in advance of all inspection visits.

I also understand that the resource values identified by me in this application for protection will be used by the Mississippi Forestry Commission to rank the project. Therefore, future protection and management of these resources are implied in the application and will be required in the easement (if applicable) and subsequent management plans. Substantial modifications of the intent set forth in this application by me or my representative will necessitate a review of the project and may jeopardize its selection and possible funding. I also understand that this property (i.e. conservation easement or fee simple title) 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 Mississippi Forest Legacy Program or if funding is unavailable. I understand that conservation easements or fee simple title will only be purchased from willing sellers.

I have read through the application and understand that all Forest Legacy projects will be reviewed by a committee for their suitability to the Mississippi 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 Mississippi to accept the easement as negotiated.

<b>Print name of each title holder</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

***Mail completed application by August 15, 2017 to:***

**Attn: Forest Legacy Coordinator**  
 Richard McInnis  
 Forest Management Chief  
 660 North Street, Suite 300  
 Jackson, MS 39202

Cell: (601) 927-8484  
 Email: [rmcinnis@mfc.state.ms.us](mailto:rmcinnis@mfc.state.ms.us)