



MS Forest Legacy Program 2016 Application

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

Deadline August 15, 2016

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 2018, the deadline for application submittal is August 15, 2016**

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, 2016 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
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):**

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.*



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.

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.



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.

Print name of each title holder	Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Mail completed application by August 15, 2016 to:

Attn: Forest Legacy Coordinator
Jim Hancock, MSRF #1367
 Grants and Special Programs Manager
 660 North Street, Suite 300
 Jackson, MS 39202
 (601) 720-0238
jhancock@mfc.state.ms.us