



MS Forest Legacy Program 2021 Application Application Deadline August 15, 2021

See last page for application address and MFC contact information.

ABOUT THE FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

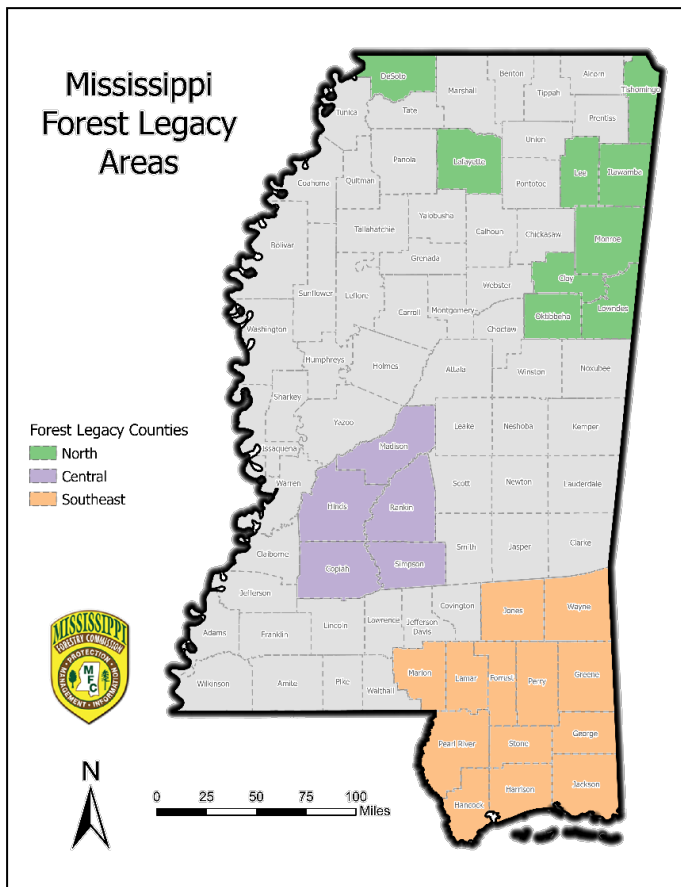
The purpose of the Mississippi Forest Legacy Program (FLP) is to identify and protect environmentally important forest areas threatened by conversion to non-forest uses and to promote forestland protection and other conservation opportunities. The U.S. Forest Service provides up to 75% of the funds through a nationally competitive grant program to the state, and the program is managed locally by the Mississippi Forestry Commission. The FLP works with private landowners to acquire perpetual conservation easements that permanently limit property interests and uses to protect forest values. In some cases FLP also purchases and accepts donations of forestland in full fee. The FLP only works with willing sellers or donors.

Designated Mississippi Forest Legacy Areas (FLAs) are:

North - Clay, Desoto, Itawamba, Lafayette, Lee, Lowndes, Monroe, Oktibbeha, Tishomingo

Central - Copiah, Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Simpson

Southeast - 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 Plan*

(<https://www.mfc.ms.gov/programs/private-landowner-services/forest-legacy-program/>) for eligibility requirements and program guidance.

Only properties located in one of the designated Mississippi FLAs will be considered and must meet the national and state criteria and must have a completed application submitted by August 15th. All easements and interests in land acquired through the program are conveyed in perpetuity and must contain such covenants and language to insure perpetuity of Forest Legacy Program easements.

Participation in Mississippi’s Forest Legacy Program is strictly voluntary. For applications to be considered for federal fiscal year 2023, the deadline for application submittal is August 15, 2021.

All materials submitted 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 disability, race, age, religion, color, gender, creed, national origin, or political affiliation.

Deadline for submitting application is August 15th.



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, 2021 via mail, hand delivery 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**
Richard McInnis
660 North Street, Suite 300
Jackson, MS 39202
(601)927-8484
rmcinnis@mfc.ms.gov
6. **Attach one (1) clean copy the following items to this application for each contiguous parcel nominated:**
 - a. Application: Completed application.
 - b. Owners: Name(s), address(es), phone number and email of all owner(s) of record for this tract(s) and the exact listing(s) of ownership name.
 - c. Location: Central latitude and longitude, County, and 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). (You may email a GIS shape file as well).
 - e. Aerial photo with boundaries of nominated parcel(s) marked (if available).
 - f. Deed(s): Copy of all deed(s).
 - g. Improvements: 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.



SECTION II. PROPERTY INFORMATION

1. LOCATION OF PROPOSED PARCEL OR PARCELS

County(ies):

Central GPS Point(s) (latitude and longitude):

Township: Range: Section(s):

Tax Parcel #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 all or a portion of the property.

Unsure

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 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?*

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:



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?**

***Helpful hints** – 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).*

2. **EXPLAIN HOW YOUR PROPERTY IS THREATENED BY DEVELOPMENT OF CONVERSION TO OTHER USES.**

***Helpful Hints:** 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.*

3. HOW IS THE PROPERTY STRATEGICALLY LINKED TO OTHER PROTECTED AREAS NEARBY?

***Helpful Hints:** 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, expand or buffer already protected lands such as other FLP tracts, state, federal or non-government lands, conservation easements, or other protected or conserved lands, designated scenic areas or byways?*

- 4. IS THE PROPERTY "READY" TO BE A PART OF THE FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM? *Helpful 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; survey; title search; minerals determination or remoteness letter by a geologist; forest stewardship plan or multiple use plan.**



SECTION V. OTHER COMMENTS

ADD ANY OTHER COMMENTS ABOUT YOUR FOREST LEGACY APPLICATION OR THE UNIQUENESS OF YOUR PROPERTY.



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 2016 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, 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, conservation easements, 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, enrollment in government programs (such as USDA conservation programs), 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 the MFC 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, 2021 to:

Mississippi Forestry Commission
Attn: **Forest Legacy Coordinator**

Richard McInnis

660 North Street, Suite 300

Jackson, MS 39202

(601)927-8484

rmcinnis@mfc.ms.gov

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

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