



# USDA FOREST SERVICE

## Forest Legacy Program

### Overview



## Program Description

- The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) was established in the 1990 Farm Bill to protect environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses and to promote forestland protection through the use of conservation easements and fee-simple purchase.
- The FLP involves a partnership between the Forest Service, State lead agencies, local governments, land trusts, local organizations, and citizens, and interested landowners.
- The program operates on the principle of “willing buyer, willing seller”.
- The FLP assures that both traditional uses of private lands and the public benefits of America's forests are protected for future generations. It provides an incentive based mechanism to maintain a working forest, protect important fish and wildlife habitat, conserve watershed functions, and maintain recreation opportunities. The program emphasizes protection of significant forests that can be effectively protected and managed.
- States and Territories develop an Assessment of Need (AON) to participate in the FLP. The AON is an implementation plan that evaluates forest characteristics, uses, and threats, describes specific forest areas where the FLP will be focused, and outlines program goals and eligibility criteria that guide the selection of forest tracts.
- Thirty-six States and Territories are active in the program: Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Michigan and American Samoa are waiting approval of their AONs. Six other states (Arizona, Florida, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, and Texas) are actively developing AONs.
- Since its first appropriations in FY 1992, FLP has conserved over 600,000 acres across 26 States and Territories. FLP has provided excellent leverage of the forest conservation federal investment by protecting almost \$270 million of land value with a Federal investment of \$132 million.

## Appropriations History:

FY 1992	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1995*	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004**
...Dollars in thousands...												
4,938	9,915	6,948	6,688	3,000	2,000	4,000	7,012	29,933	59,868	65,000	68,380	71,046

\* Total reflects amount prior to rescission (\$7.8 M of unspent funds in FY95 and \$1.112 M of carry-over from FY94)

\*\* Total includes redistribution of \$6.914M from prior year funds.

## Summary of Forest Legacy Program Accomplishments

(Land protected as of 12/31/03)

State	Assessment of Need Approval Date	Total Acres	Total Value	Forest Legacy Contribution
Alabama	March 22, 2002	656	\$602,370	\$500,000
Alaska	November 1, 2002			
California	January 22, 1996			
Amended:	January 16, 2001	4,776	\$7,930,000	\$1,095,731
Colorado	March 22, 2002	220	\$1,470,000	\$500,000
Connecticut	October 26, 1994	1,261	\$2,271,000	\$390,000
Delaware	December 10, 1998			
Georgia	March 22, 2002			
Hawaii	November 29, 1994	1,800	\$1,060,000	\$1,060,000
Idaho	November 1, 2002	2,710	\$662,667	\$497,000
Illinois	November 29, 1994	236	\$1,080,548	\$765,411
Indiana	December 10, 1998	1,726	\$1,414,500	\$1,039,000
Iowa	March 7, 2002			
Kentucky	December 3, 2003			
Maine	March 18, 1994	62,413	\$15,962,700	\$9,659,000
Maryland	January 22, 1996	1,061	\$2,450,000	\$728,000
Massachusetts	August 5, 1993			
Amended:	January 16, 2001	2,961	\$9,355,332	\$5,494,500
Minnesota	February 2, 2000	755	\$2,101,400	\$1,212,000
Montana	February 29, 2000	149,915	\$35,991,970	\$15,905,533
New Hampshire	February 11, 1994			
Amended:	February 29, 2000	194,059	\$29,101,072	\$19,236,072
New Jersey	October 26, 1994	2,597	\$14,003,000	\$2,262,000
New Mexico	March 2, 2002			
New York	October 26, 1994			
Amended:	December 10, 1998	1,555	\$4,773,400	\$2,403,400
North Carolina	February 29, 2000	3,431	\$10,376,575	\$5,594,060
Oregon	March 22, 2002			
Pennsylvania	May 7, 2002			
Puerto Rico	October 30, 1997	1,429	\$1,576,875	\$791,700
Rhode Island	December 30, 1993	1,458	\$3,732,000	\$2,344,000
South Carolina	February 7, 2000	21,090	\$21,416,854	\$12,741,910
Tennessee	February 7, 2000	7,527	\$11,440,000	\$5,500,000
U.S. Virgin Islands	June, 20, 2003			
Utah	February 27, 1997	40,486	\$37,069,090	\$12,383,174
Vermont	February 11, 1994	51,619	\$9,381,000	\$6,010,000
Virginia	January 16, 2001	2,591	\$3,705,000	\$2,571,000
Washington	October 26, 1994	12,986	\$27,244,895	\$16,401,429
West Virginia	December 2, 2003			
Wisconsin	January 16, 2001	35,337	\$13,251,375	\$5,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>606,655</b>	<b>\$269,449,673</b>	<b>\$132,084,920</b>