

USFS FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

IN CALIFORNIA

PROTECTING PRIVATE FOREST LANDS FROM CONVERSION TO NON-FOREST USES



Main Photo
A landowner and guests walking among mature trees at the Miller Forest Reserve.
Credit: The Northcoast Regional Land Trust

Inset Photo
Brandon, Les & Philo Barnwell— Fifth, fourth & Third generations of Chalk Mountain Forest Stewardship.
Credit: Barnwell Family Archive

ABOUT FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

Development of the nation's forested areas poses an increasing threat to maintaining the integrity of our country's valuable forest lands. Intact forest lands supply timber products, wildlife habitat, soil and watershed protection, aesthetics, and recreational opportunities. However, as these areas are fragmented and disappear, so do the benefits they provide. While local governments commonly guide development away from the most sensitive areas through traditional land use controls, sometimes these measures are not sufficient to fully protect the forested component of our natural resource base.

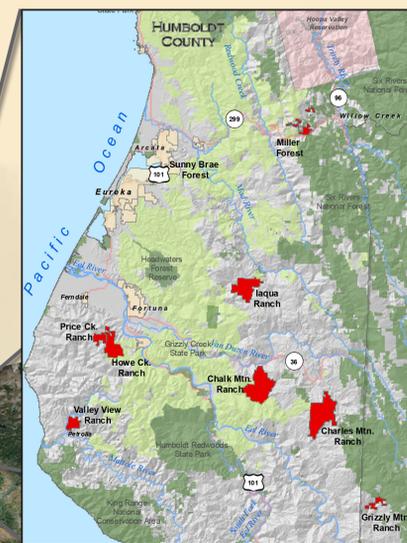
The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, as amended in 1990, recognizes that the majority of the Nation's productive forest lands are in private ownership; that private landowners are facing increased pressure to convert their forest lands to other uses; that greater population density, user demands and restrictions on Federal and other public lands are placing increased pressures on private lands to provide a wide variety of products and services from working forests including timber and other forest commodities, fish and wildlife habitat, watershed function and water supply, aesthetic qualities, historical and cultural resources, and recreational opportunities; and that good stewardship of privately held forest lands requires a long-term commitment that can be fostered through a partnership of Federal, State, local government and individual efforts.

- The purpose of the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) is to protect environmentally important forestland threatened with conversion to non-forest uses, such as subdivision for residential or commercial development. Protecting forests will ensure California's forests continue to be a significant carbon storage "sink" by avoiding conversion to non-forest uses that will result in GHG emissions rather than carbon sequestration
- To help maintain the integrity and traditional uses of private forestlands, the FLP promotes the use of permanent conservation easements. These easements provide a new approach, a new tool, with which the federal government, in cooperation with state and local agencies, private organizations, and individuals can preserve the rich heritage of private forests.
- The program is entirely voluntary. Landowners who wish to participate may sell or transfer particular rights, such as the right to develop the property or to allow public access, while retaining ownership of the property and the right to use it in any way consistent with the terms of the easement. Forest management activities, including timber harvesting, hunting, fishing and hiking are encouraged provided they are consistent with the program's purpose.

Over the **20 years** of the existence of the Forest Legacy Program, CALFIRE and USFS have collaborated with landowners and other partners to preserve over **95,000 acres** of forest lands across the state. This includes **over \$15 million** in federal funding, **over \$50 million** in California state funding, and **over \$25 million** in landowner and other donations.

The "Legacy" program in California is comprised of two separate but complementary programs: the **Federal Forest Legacy Program** and the **California Forest Legacy Program**. More information can be found at the following websites:

- <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flp.shtml>
- http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgmt/resource_mgmt_forestryassistance_legacy



FLP in Humboldt County

In Humboldt County, the Forest Legacy Program has successfully engaged with **eight** projects (see adjacent map).

Working with **The Six Rivers to the Sea** project, local landowners, and other partners, FLP project properties cover almost **25,000 acres** that increase connectivity and maintain working landscapes in the unique ecosystems located between the **Six Rivers National Forest** and California's northern coast. This matrix of public and private lands function to support natural landscape functions, fish and wildlife habitat protections, and a diverse natural resource economy for rural ranch landowners and communities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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