

## XIV. APPENDICES

### Appendix A. Stakeholder Participation - Invitation

#### Forest Legacy Assessment - Your Ideas Needed

Your input is being requested as part of the Michigan Forest Legacy Needs Assessment. To keep private forestland intact, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is working with other government agencies, nonprofit organizations and the public to begin Michigan's participation in the Forest Legacy Program. Funded by the U. S. Forest Service Cooperative Forestry Program, Forest Legacy provides federal grants to states to protect private forestland from being converted to non-forest uses (urban residential).

Forest Legacy programs are guided by an individual state plan describing the need for the Forest Legacy Program, identifying where forests are being converted and explaining how the State proposes to manage the Forest Legacy Program. These state plans are called an Assessment of Need and are shaped by public involvement. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has contracted with The Nature Conservancy to complete the Forest Legacy Needs Assessment. The Nature Conservancy is working with The Conservation Fund to facilitate public involvement. The Forest Legacy Assessment process will gather and evaluate a variety of geographic and environmental information. In addition, a critical component is to measure the interest and concerns of stakeholders who may be involved in the future of private forestland

The Forest Legacy Program is a voluntary program that resulted from the Federal Cooperative Forestry Act, amended in the 1990 Farm Bill. Funds are available to acquire either an interest in land (easements) or the land itself from landowners wanting to participate. In most cases, title to these lands or interests in the lands will be vested in state or local governments.

You have a couple ways to give your input on the Forest Legacy Needs Assessment that include attending public meetings, reviewing the draft Assessment of Need or filling out the attached survey. You are also welcome to send comments to me at anytime during the process. To get your name on a mailing list to receive a draft Assessment of Need please contact me at 616-426-8825 or at [pkohring@conservationfund.org](mailto:pkohring@conservationfund.org). More information on the Forest Legacy Program can be found on the U.S. Forest Service website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/flp.htm>

Attached are a general description of the Michigan Forest Legacy Program and a copy of the survey.

**For further information about meetings, please call 616-426-8825.**

Public Meeting Schedule		
City	Date & Time	Address
South Haven	August 16 3:00 pm-5:00 pm	Old Harbor Inn 515 Williams St
Grayling	August 20 7:00 pm- 9:00 pm	Hartwick Pines M-93
Marquette	August 21 7:00 pm-9:00 pm	Peter White Library 217 N. Front Street

## Appendix B. Forest Legacy Program Information

### Forest Legacy Program In Michigan

#### Background

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) is a program that resulted from the Federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act, amended in the 1990 Farm Bill. FLP was established to protect environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses.

The development of Michigan's forest areas poses an ever-increasing threat to maintaining the State's valuable forestlands. Forestlands not only supply timber products, but also provide wildlife habitat, watershed protection, and recreation and aesthetic values. Fragmentation and parcelization across our State is resulting in the loss of these valuable ecosystems and the biological, economic and social values they provide.

The FLP is a voluntary program that protects sensitive areas that are identified by the State. The program encourages and supports the acquisition of conservation easements on privately owned forestlands. These easements are legally binding agreements that transfer a negotiated set of property rights from one party to another. The property remains in private ownership. There is also the option of acquiring the property through a full fee purchase.

To participate in FLP, the proposed property must meet the following National criterion:

- Be an environmentally important forest area that is threatened by conversion to non-forest uses
- Provide opportunities for the continuation of traditional forest uses (i.e. forest management, timber harvesting, recreation)
- The landowner must have a multi-resource management plan prepared and approved.

In addition to the gains associated with the sale or donation of property rights, landowners may also benefit from reduced taxes associated with limits placed on land use.

#### Forest Legacy Program

In order to become a participant in FLP, Michigan must have the Governor designate a State Lead Agency and conduct an Assessment of Need (AON). The AON provides information on specific sensitive and critical forested areas in Michigan, as well as identifies programs that already exist in Michigan that addresses these areas. Once this is completed and approved by the USDA Forest Service, Michigan can access FLP funds. In other states, the State Lead Agency has been the equivalent of Michigan's DNR Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division. Administration of the Forest Legacy Program would lie within the state lead agency. The FLP requires the state to have an advisory committee. This advisory group would advise the State Lead Agency on setting program criteria, developing an application process and reviewing applications. Currently, there are several advisory committees who may be interested in becoming involved with the FLP, or a new advisory committee specific to FLP could be formed.

USDA Forest Service funds are available to help prepare the AON. Attached is criterion that is required in the AON. Using USDA Forest Service funds, and possible support from other organizations, the State Lead Agency could either prepare the AON internally or contract the work to an outside organization.

#### Proposed Steps:

1. The MDNR commits to support the Forest Legacy Program and preparing the AON.
  2. The MDNR requests the Governor designate a State Lead Agency.
  3. The MDNR requests a USDA Forest Service grant to assist in the preparation of the AON.
  4. The State Lead Agency develops the Assessment of Need.
  5. The Assessment of Need is submitted to the USDA Forest Service for review and approval.
-

## Forest Legacy Program – National Funding History

The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act directs that the maximum Federal contribution for total FLP costs may not exceed 75%. The USDA Forest Service position is that at least 25% of these costs may be matching funds or in-kind contributions from non-Federal sources, including States and non-profit organizations. Non-federal contributions may include direct costs and indirect costs associated with any of the planning, acquisition, capital improvement, management, or administrative activities.

National Forest Legacy Program - Budget History									
FY1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
(Thousands of dollars)									
4,938	9,915	6,948	6,688	3,000	2,000	4,000	7,012	29,933	59,768

## Conclusion

The FLP is a voluntary conservation easement program to protect critical forest ecosystems that are in danger of becoming fragmented, and eventually disappearing. The FLP is currently being well supported by the Federal Government, and USDA Forest Service expects this support to continue. Currently, 22 states and territories are active in FLP. Twelve states are developing AON plans or are considering beginning the planning process. With Michigan's Great Lakes and unique systems, we need to also consider becoming a part of the Forest Legacy Program.

**Appendix C. Michigan Forest Legacy Proposed Project Information Form**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title:

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

Name, Mailing and E-mail Address, Telephone Number, & Contact Person of Landowner:

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

Name, Mailing and E-mail Address, Telephone Number, & Contact Person of Partner Organization:

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

Land Protection Method (easement or fee) and Proposed Management & Monitoring Entity:

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

Project Abstract:

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

Total Project Cost (provide detail of acquisition, management and other costs including legal, survey and appraisal costs):

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

Dollars Requested:

\_\_\_\_\_

Matching Funds to be provided, including funds for stewardship (state dollar amount and source of funds)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Landowner signature**

**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix D. Michigan Forest Legacy Program - *Minimum Eligibility Requirements***

1. A minimum of 75% of the parcel acreage meets the definition of "forestland" as defined by the United States Forest Service.
2. More than 50% of the land meets Michigan's commercial forest land standards as defined in Part 511 of the PA 451 of 1994 and capable of providing a sustainable flow of forest products. Exceptions to this requirement may be made only on a case by case basis as deemed appropriate by the MDNR and the Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee.
3. Parcel threatened by immediate, present or future conversion to non-forest uses.
4. Parcel provides for a minimum of two public values as stated in Michigan's Assessment of Need.
5. Parcel has a MDNR/SAC approved Forest Stewardship Plan or other multi-resource management plan written by a professional forester or other MDNR/SAC approved professional. Summary of management plan must accompany application.
6. Proposal provides for a minimum of twenty-five percent cost share of project costs and provides explicit accounting of how the cost share will be met.

## Appendix E. Michigan Forest Legacy Prioritization Check List for Parcel Evaluation

Proposal/Tract Name \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria (max = 20 pts)	Weighted Point System			Total Points	Comments
	Low	Med	Hi		
Abuts Public Or Other Protected Land	5	10	20		
Parcel Size	5	10	20		
Traditional Forest Uses Maintained W/ Approved Mgt. Plan	5	10	20		
Scenic Resources	5	10	20		
Public Access Allowed	5	10	20		
Known Historic/ Cultural Resources	5	10	20		
Fish & Wildlife Habitat	5	10	20		
Riparian & Water Resources	5	10	20		
T&E Sp. Or Special Communities	5	10	20		
Other Ecological Values/Coastal Zone/Natural Rivers	5	10	20		
Level Of Conversion Threat	5	10	20		
Identification Of Completed Acquisition Activities	5	10	20		
Commitment & Ability To Monitor, Manage, Administer And Enforce	5	10	20		
Identification of All Parties Supporting this Project					
Money Leverage/25% Match Established	5	10	20		
Identification Of National Benefits Complements Prior Federal Investment Or Federal Lands	5	10	20		
Partnerships Involved & And Identified	5	10	20		
TOTALS					

**Appendix F. List of Rights Wishing to be Retained by Landowner**

It is important that the following section be carefully and fully completed. This information will directly affect the desirability of the parcel as well as its appraised value and prioritized ranking. Note that checking "yes" does not limit your ability to negotiate price and options in the future, it merely assists the Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee when evaluating your parcel.

Indicate which of the following interest you desire to retain: (Those marked "yes" should be the rights you want to retain. All other rights may become the property of the State of Michigan upon successful completion of negotiations between the State of Michigan and yourself.)

Yes	No	
___	___	Timber and wood product rights
___	___	Mushroom/herb and root/cra ft material collection
___	___	Mineral rights (unrestricted access to minerals)*
___	___	Mineral rights (restricted with limited surface occupancy)**
___	___	Oil and gas rights (unrestricted access to oil and gas)*
___	___	Oil and gas rights (restricted with limited surface occupancy)**
___	___	Right to limit or control public access
		Retain control of the following recreational activities:
___	___	Hunting
___	___	Fishing
___	___	Camping
___	___	Hiking or other passive recreation
___	___	Bicycling/Mountain Bike Riding
___	___	Horseback Riding
___	___	Motorized Vehicle Access
		Non-Forest Uses within easement area.***
___	___	Grazing (amount of area ___ acres)
___	___	Farming (amount of area ___ acres)
___	___	Road Construction (other than for forest management/protection)
___	___	Buildings and other improvements (amount of area ___ acres)
___	___	Other:_____

\*Retention of unrestricted mineral or oil/gas rights will exclude that portion of the tract from consideration in the Forest Legacy Program.

\*\*Retention of restricted mineral or oil/gas rights which allow less than 10% surface occupancy may be consistent with the Forest Legacy Program.

\*\*\*Total area of all non-forest uses cannot exceed 10% of the total tract area.

## Appendix G Stakeholder Assessment Survey & Results

### MICHIGAN PRIVATE FOREST LAND ASSESSMENT SURVEY

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is assessing the status of Michigan's private forestlands to determine the risks of conversion to non-forest uses. This survey is part of the Forest Legacy Needs Assessment process.

The Forest Legacy Needs Assessment will gather and evaluate a variety of geographic and environmental information. In addition, a critical component is to measure the interest and concerns of stakeholders who may be involved in the future of private forestland. Your answers to this questionnaire will provide valuable information. Please take a few moments to complete the survey and return it to the mailing address or fax number by August 16, 2002.

Please tell us about yourself:

*Note: All information will be used strictly for the purpose of the Forest Legacy Needs Assessment. None of the information will be used for any other purpose.*

Residence Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ County of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

>TOTAL: 28

(Note: totals for each question may not match total number of surveys)

What setting do you live in? (Please circle one) Urban/suburban/rural

>Urban: 1

>Suburban: 2

>Rural: 24

Do you live in Michigan? Y/N If so for how many years?

>Less than one year: 0

>1-5 years: 3

>6-10 years: 0

>greater than 11 years: 23

Do you or someone in your household own 10 or more acres of Michigan forestland?

>Yes: 17

>No: 8

What best describes your primary interest in private forestland conservation? I am a (please choose all that apply):

>Federal/State government natural resources-related agency employee	8
>County/Local government/tribal natural resources-related agency employee	6
>Private land owner	17
>Land-use planner	2
>Forest/Timber industry employee	1
>Conservation/land trust member or staff	6

- >Elected federal/state/county/local (please circle one) public official 4
- >Private natural resource professional 2
- >Other: non-profit resource; water resource protection; planning commission 3

Please choose your five (5) most important state-wide criteria for protection of critical private forest:

Wetland/riparian issues	17	Threatened/Endangered Species	8
Water quality/quantity	9	Unique Ecological Areas	10
Hunting	5	Mineral/Gas/Oil Resources	1
Fishing	2	Forest Timber Products	10
Lakes, Rivers, Streams	8	Non-Timber Forest Products	1
Motorized Recreation	1	Large Contiguous Forest	10
Non-motorized Recreation	2	Flora/Fauna Species Diversity	10
Wildlife Viewing	0	Wildfire Control Issues	0
Scenic Landscape Viewing	1	Lifestyle Protection for Landowner	2
Historical/Archaeological Sites	0	Private Property Rights	6
Wildlife Habitat	12	Other (2): access; economic return	
Growth/Sprawl Control	19		

Please provide any other comments that you believe would be helpful to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as it conducts this assessment.

[text comments reviewed and included as appropriate]

Thank you very much for taking time to provide your valuable input.

## Appendix H. News Release for AON Public Hearings



### NEWS RELEASE

Michigan Chapter: 101 East Grand River · Lansing, MI 48906-4348

Website: [nature.org/michigan](http://nature.org/michigan) · Email: [michigan@tnc.org](mailto:michigan@tnc.org)

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 5, 2002

**Contact:** Peg Kohring, The Conservation Fund  
(616) 426-8825 or [pkohring@conservationfund.org](mailto:pkohring@conservationfund.org)  
Garret Johnson, Director of Gov. Relations  
(517) 316-2260 or [gjohnson@tnc.org](mailto:gjohnson@tnc.org)

#### Public Input Needed on Draft Forest Legacy Proposal

**LANSING, Mich.** — A series of public hearings will begin next week on Michigan's draft assessment of need for the federal Forest Legacy Program. Persons interested in the long-term conservation of privately owned Michigan forestland should consider attending a session in their area.

To keep private forestland intact, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) is working with concerned citizens, other government agencies, and nonprofit organizations like The Nature Conservancy and the Conservation Fund to evaluate Michigan's potential participation in the federal Forest Legacy Program.

Public hearings across the State at the locations and times given below will provide an opportunity for public comment on Michigan's draft Forest Legacy Assessment of Need (AON). The Draft AON, prepared by The Nature Conservancy under contract with the MDNR, is currently undergoing departmental review. A copy of the Draft AON is now available on the Internet at The Nature Conservancy's website, <http://nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/michigan/>. Comments may also be provided by letter or e-mail.

#### **The public comment period ends September 20, 2002.**

Funded by the U. S. Forest Service Cooperative Forestry Program, Forest Legacy provides federal grants to states to protect private forestland from being converted to non-forest uses (urban residential).

Forest Legacy programs are guided by an individual state plan describing the need for the program, identifying where forests are being converted and explaining how the state proposes to manage the program. These state plans are called an "Assessment of Need" (AON) and are shaped by public involvement. MDNR has contracted with The Nature Conservancy to complete the Assessment of Need, and The Nature Conservancy is working with The Conservation Fund to facilitate public involvement.

The Forest Legacy Assessment process has gathered preliminary input on a variety of geographic and environmental information, and a series of meetings have been held to gauge the interest and concerns of stakeholders who may be involved in the future of private forestland.

The Forest Legacy Program is a voluntary program that resulted from the Federal Cooperative Forestry Act, amended in the 1990 Farm Bill. Funds are available to acquire either an interest in land (easements) or the land itself from landowners wanting to participate. In most cases, title to these lands or interests in the lands will be vested in state or local governments.

*Public meetings will be held at the following scheduled times:*

**Marquette:** 7-9 p.m., Sept. 9, Peter White Library, 217 N. Front St.

**Grayling:** 7-9 p.m., Sept. 10, Hartwick Pines State Park

**Lansing:** 7-9 p.m., Sept. 11, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, 600 S. Walnut St.

**Dearborn:** 7-9 p.m., Sept. 18, U. of M. Dearborn, Environmental Interpretive Center, Fairlane Ave.

**Kalamazoo:** 7-9 p.m., Sept. 19, Kalamazoo Nature Center, 7000 Westnedge Ave.

To send comments or to get your name on a mailing list to receive a draft AON, please contact Peg Kohring at The Conservation Fund at (616) 426-8825 or at [pkohring@conservationfund.org](mailto:pkohring@conservationfund.org). More information on the Forest Legacy Program can be found on the U.S. Forest Service website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/flp.htm>.

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. The Nature Conservancy counts 1 million members nationwide, including more than 32,000 in Michigan. To date, the Conservancy and its members have been responsible for the protection of more than 80 million acres worldwide, including 12 million acres in the United States, and more than 73,000 acres in Michigan.

**APPENDIX I. Meeting Minutes Approving First Draft of AON**

**FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**  
**State Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes**

*Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Office, Gaylord, MI*

*October 10, 2002*

**Attendees:** Warren Suchovsky, FSP Committee Chair  
Kathie Arney, FSP Coordinator  
Kimberly Balke, Conservation Resource Alliance  
Cara Boucher, DNR Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division  
Steve Chadwick, DNR Wildlife Division  
Bob DeVillez, DNR Service Forester  
Jim Fish, Landowner  
Gerald Grossman, Association of Consulting Foresters  
Sarah Hazzard, Conservation Resource Alliance  
Matt Heiman, Leelanau Land Conservancy  
Ernie Houghton, DNR Service Forester  
Garret Johnson, The Nature Conservancy  
Steve Kalisz, DNR Service Forester  
Peg Kohring, The Conservation Fund  
Rory Mattson, UP Sportsmen Association  
Rick Moore, Michigan Association of Conservation Districts  
Dave Neumann, DNR Service Forester  
Georgia Peterson, MSU Extension  
Byron Sailor, DNR Service Forester  
Marilyn Shy, Michigan Association of Conservation Districts  
Tom Stone, DNR Service Forester  
Pat Turkington, Farm Service Agency  
Lela Vandenburg, MSU Extension  
Todd Vigland, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy  
Shannon Zezala, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

The meeting was called to order at 10:05.

Warren led introductions.

Marilyn Shy motioned to approve the meeting minutes of July 24, 2002. Pat Turkington supported the motion. Motion passed. Minutes approved.

Warren asked if there were any additions or changes to today's agenda. There were none. Marilyn Shy motioned to adopt the agenda as written. Supported by Pat Turkington. Motion passed.

Warren asked if there was any public participation. There was none.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

Cara Boucher provided information regarding a new insect, the Emerald Ash Borer that was discovered in southeast Michigan in July, 2002. This insect is extremely destructive to ash trees. Currently, it is mostly an urban/suburban concern; however, the insect has the capability to spread into rural forests. The southeast counties are quarantined. This insect could have a large impact in southeast Michigan. FIA data shows 34 million ash trees present in the area. We can probably expect a Federal quarantine within the next year.

State retirements end October 31, 2002. The Cooperative Programs Section will be losing service forester, Bob DeVillez. Kathie Arney is also resigning at the end of the year to pursue a career in education. With the election year, we expect a lot of energy being devoted to transition. Bob DeVillez and Kathie Arney's positions will be filled. The FSP coordinator's position will be integrated with other cooperative forestry responsibilities within the Division.

Bernie Hubbard is our Acting State Forester, and is also Acting Assistant Chief to Mindy Koch.

Kathie updated the committee on the FSP budget. For fiscal year 2002, we ended up turning about \$30,000 back to the USDA Forest Service. Questions arose as to why we had to turn back money. Plan writing barriers came up as a reason. There is the perception of competition between agency and private professionals. Also, better training and marketing of FSP is needed to promote management plan preparation.

We do not have information regarding funding for fiscal year 2003. Cara reported that we have \$400,000 allocated from the Forest Development Fund for the old CRMI program. Bradstreet's office has said they would match it with another \$400,000. We expect perhaps \$400,000 available by the time budgets are allocated. The Wildlife Division has taken their "CRMI" allocation, and has put it into a new private lands program that is partially funded by the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

To date, we have prepared 126 FSP plans. For fiscal year 2003, it is hoped that the new cost-share incentive program, Forest Land Enhancement Program, will encourage FSP management plan preparation.

Jerry Grossman reminded the committee that at the July meeting, we discussed the need for a workshop for certified plan writers on marketing forest stewardship and management planning. Jerry and Rory Mattson agreed to take the lead on the coordinating of the workshop. They will formulate a committee, and put together an agenda and proposal. FSP can dedicate up to \$3000 for the workshop.

Warren commented that from the sample of plan writers he has talked with, the explanations for low plan preparation is they don't make money from preparing plans. They make money from timber sales.

#### **FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM**

Cara led a discussion on the draft Assessment of Need (AON). On September 18, 2002, a conference call was held for the FLP subcommittee and the FSP State Advisory Committee so the DNR and The Nature Conservancy could receive comments about the draft AON. Five public meetings have been held throughout the state to also receive comments about the draft. Comments have been submitted to TNC, who are incorporating them into the next draft.

A question was raised as to the timeline for getting the draft updated and completed. TNC replied they would like to get the draft done ASAP. Grossman asked if the committee could obtain hard copies of the AON when the next draft is completed. TNC will do this.

Comments were received about the content of the AON. Criteria were discussed. Peg Kohring commented that Michigan's most significant feature is its water, and how Michigan contributes to 20% of the fresh water in the world. Dave Neumann remarked that high quality hardwoods were excluded in southern lower peninsula. Although it is currently excluded, it can be added in the future.

The general feeling from the committee about the draft AON. There were some concerns about the project selection process and the lack of clear selection criteria. Comments from the public have been positive. Jerry Grossman moved that the committee accept the draft with appropriate revisions and the final draft AON be distributed to the committee for comments. Marilyn Shy supported the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion moved to a possible FLP project for FY2004. The Federal Government is in the process of identifying projects for line items in their budget...to act as a placeholder. The Kamahameha Schools Trust is selling 389,000 acres this year. Much of the land is currently open to public use, and federal and state owned land is integrated within the property. The property is a working forest, which is important in FLP. Cara explained it is good to have

a placeholder, even if this property falls through. The placeholder can be moved to other possible projects, until the funding is actually allocated to a specific project.

Warren Suchovsky commented that this is a globally significant piece of property, and would be an ideal candidate for FLP. Currently, the State is not purchasing property, and this would be a way to keep this property forested.

Tom Stone moved that the Committee identify the Kamahameha Schools Trust property be identified as a placeholder and top priority project for FLP in Michigan. Pat Turkington supported the motion. Motion carried.

#### **FOREST LAND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (FLEP)**

Georgia Peterson and Lela Vandenburg from MSU Extension presented Option Finder to the committee, a computerized method of surveying groups about specific topics. We went through an exercise that helped the committee prioritize forest management issues in the state. Top on the list were Education and Outreach and Regeneration/Reforestation/Retention.

The committee proceeded to discuss the draft state plan for FLEP. Comments included:

- Contracts for cost-share practices should be for 18 months, without extensions
- FSP plans are required for FLEP, and should also qualify for EQIP and WHIP
- What is the role for MDA and the Conservation Districts? There is an opportunity for their assistance through technical assistance and training.

A discussion on NRCS partnership with FLEP and FSP. NRCS is going to be contracting with outside professionals to provide management plan preparation for private landowners interested in EQIP and WHIP. NRCS agreed that FSP plan writers could provide this assistance, after they receive some training from NRCS that would qualify them for preparing plans for NRCS programs. This could be done at our next workshop, and can be included as we certify new FSP plan writers.

Cara told the committee that the DNR will be delaying the cost-share part of FLEP for one year, and concentrate the funding received on technical assistance, education, outreach and workshops. Warren expressed concern that many people are ready to implement practices. Without a system of delivery yet, however, it would not be a smart move to implement cost-share. We are still waiting word from Washington DC offices (USDA Forest Service and Farm Service Agency) as to how FSA will be able to assist with FLEP.

#### **FSP PLAN WRITING WORKSHOP**

Jerry Grossman announced that over lunch, a committee for coordinating a workshop this year has been put together. Jerry, Rory Mattson, Marilyn Shy, Tom Stone and MSU Extension volunteered to be on the committee. Workshops will take place in January or February in two locations. The purpose of the workshop is to show how management planning can be integrated into consultant's daily work, and to re-invigorate plan writers. A motion was made to spend up to \$2000 for the training sessions, supported by Marilyn Shy. 1 Nay. Motion carried.

A budget and agenda needs to be submitted to the DNR.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

December 10, 2002  
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

**Appendix J. Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee Approval of Final Draft of AON**

June 20, 2003

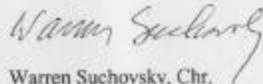
Mr. Bernard Hubbard  
Acting State Forester  
Forest, Mineral and Fire Management  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 30452  
Lansing, MI 48909

SUBJECT: Forest Stewardship Committee Approval of AON

Dear Mr. Hubbard:

I am writing this letter to inform you that the Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee, acting on recommendation from a subcommittee formed to review the final draft of Michigan's Forest Legacy Assessment of Need (AON), has approved this document. The Committee understands the Michigan (AON) is a "living document" and is subject to modification to ensure that it reflects updates to the Forest Legacy Program made through program advancements, new information, and the preferences of Michigan citizens as well as those of the Forest Stewardship Committee provided these modifications are within the federal statutory guidelines that apply to the Forest Legacy Program.

Sincerely,



Warren Suchovsky, Chr.  
Michigan Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee

Cc: Cara Boucher, MDNR  
Rich Hausler, MDNR

**APPENDIX K. Forest Legacy Draft AON Mailing List**

---

Draft Needs Assessment Requests  
8-19-02

Donald Bryson  
609 Johnson St.  
Box 378  
Pulaski, WI 54162

Rory Mattson  
2003 Mnpls. Ave.  
Gladstone, MI 49837

Lauri LaBumbard  
227 Valli Rd.  
Skandia, MI 49885

Bonnie Hay  
Gratiot Lake Conservancy  
P.O. Box 310  
Mohawk, MI 49950

Janet Person  
Antrim Conservation District  
4820 Stover Rd.  
Bellaire, MI 49615  
231-533-8363

Sherry Blaszak  
Misaukee Conservation District  
6180 W. Sanborn Rd., Suite 3  
Lake City, MI 49651  
231-839-5411  
231-839-5411(fax)  
e-mail: sherry-blaszak@mi.nacdnet.org

## APPENDIX L. Michigan Forest Legacy Information List

AON general information, including meeting dates, was sent to the following individuals and organization membership lists.

Dennis Wes, Northern Initiative, [dennis\\_west@northernminits.com](mailto:dennis_west@northernminits.com),  
Kathleen Ryan, [Kathleen.ryan@mi.usda.gov](mailto:Kathleen.ryan@mi.usda.gov)  
Jill Scarzo, [info@huronpines.org](mailto:info@huronpines.org)  
Dennis Fox, MUCC, [dfox@mucc.org](mailto:dfox@mucc.org); also included announcement in newsletter.  
[MACDall@mi.nacdnet.org](mailto:MACDall@mi.nacdnet.org);  
Lauri LaBumbard, Forester, Marquette Co Conservation District, 227 Valli Rd, Skandia, MI  
49885, [lauri-labumbard@mi.nacdnet.org](mailto:lauri-labumbard@mi.nacdnet.org)  
Inter-Tribal Council - to all tribes in Michigan  
Janet Persons, [jperson192@aol.com](mailto:jperson192@aol.com), Antrim Conservation District & Huron Pines Conservation  
District (special mailing)

All Local Land Trusts in Michigan - several mailings, see separate list  
All Michigan Conservation Districts - Marilyn Shy, Exec Dir., [MDISTRICTS@aol.com](mailto:MDISTRICTS@aol.com)  
Jim Hudgins, Fish and Wildlife Service, (special distribution to USFWS in Michigan)  
Mac Smith, Michigan Forestry Association, [mfa@l-star.com](mailto:mfa@l-star.com)  
Warren Suchovsky, Suchovsky Logging LLC, [swarrensuchovsky@fastmail.fm](mailto:swarrensuchovsky@fastmail.fm)  
Anne Wiewode, [anne.wiewode@sierraclub.org](mailto:anne.wiewode@sierraclub.org) (asked to review and pass on to chapters)  
Michigan Townships Association, Evelyn David, [evelyn@michigantownships.org](mailto:evelyn@michigantownships.org)  
Michigan Association of Counties, J. Douglas Warren, [warren@micounties.org](mailto:warren@micounties.org)  
Timber Producers Association of Michigan & Wisconsin, [timberpa@newnorth.net](mailto:timberpa@newnorth.net)  
Trout Unlimited, [trout@tu.org](mailto:trout@tu.org), Michael Slater, Michigan Council Chairman, TU  
Society of American Foresters, Michigan Chapter, John Kotar

Bonnie Hay, Gratiot Lake Conservancy, PO Box 310, Mohawk, MI 49950  
Will Winger, [vinekeeper@forestfarm.org](mailto:vinekeeper@forestfarm.org)  
Matthew D. Sands, [mds@netonecom.net](mailto:mds@netonecom.net), 320 S. St., Apt. B-2, Cadillac, MI 49601-2458,  
Manistee National Forest Zone Silviculturist, Baldwin, MI (forest owner and registered forester)

Jim Fuerstenau, Exec Dir, Mich Farmland & Community Alliance, 7373 W. Saginaw Hwy,  
Lansing, MI 48917  
Doug Lee, Timbermen, [douglee@timbermen.org](mailto:douglee@timbermen.org), distributed to membership  
Rory Mattson, [rory-mattson@mi.nacdnet.org](mailto:rory-mattson@mi.nacdnet.org), 2003 Mnpls, Ave. Gladstone, MI49837  
Michigan Audubon Society, [MAS@MichiganAudubon.org](mailto:MAS@MichiganAudubon.org)

Dean Solomon, Michigan State University, [solomon@msuc.msu.edu](mailto:solomon@msuc.msu.edu) (meeting facilitator)  
John Amrhein, MSU Extension, [amrhein@msue.msu.edu](mailto:amrhein@msue.msu.edu), (meeting facilitator)  
Christine Hall, The Nature Conservancy, Michigan, [Chall@tnc.org](mailto:Chall@tnc.org) (meeting facilitator)  
Rita Hodgins, [Hodgins@msue.msu.edu](mailto:Hodgins@msue.msu.edu) MSU Extension, (meeting facilitator)  
[Cathy.s.johnson@worldnet.att.net](mailto:Cathy.s.johnson@worldnet.att.net) MSU Extension(meeting facilitator)  
Great Lakes Fisheries Trust, [glft@pscinc.com](mailto:glft@pscinc.com); posted on website & Peg Kohring made  
presentation  
Jason Dinsmore, MUCC, 2101 Wood St. Lansing, MI 48909, [jdinsmore@mucc.org](mailto:jdinsmore@mucc.org) (returned  
survey)

Donald Bryson, 609 Johnson St. Box 378, Pulaski, WI 54162

Scott McEwen, Michigan River Serve, [scott@watershedcouncil.org](mailto:scott@watershedcouncil.org) (returned survey)  
Paul Call, [paul.call@weyerhauser.com](mailto:paul.call@weyerhauser.com)  
John Griffith, [griffith@pasty.com](mailto:griffith@pasty.com)  
Marshall Gilbert, [mfg@meadwestvaco](mailto:mfg@meadwestvaco)  
Pat Toczydowski, [t-11@pasty.com](mailto:t-11@pasty.com)

Mike Ehinger, 5670 Stillwagon Rd., Gladwin, MI 48624, [vmehinger@hotmail.com](mailto:vmehinger@hotmail.com), NWTF  
Jim Fish, 8123 Bendere Rd, Hickory Corners, MI 49060  
Jim Schuler, Huron Manistee National Forest 1755 Mitchell St. Cadillac, MI 49601  
Jan Schultz, Hiawatha National Forest, 1030 Wright St., Marquette, MI 49855  
Gerald Grossman, Grossman Forestry Co, 1013 S Newberry Ave, Box 426, Newberry MI 49868  
Rex Ennis, Huron Manistee N.F., 1755 Mitchell St. , Cadillac, MI 49601  
Bill Rockwell, Plumline Statistical Resource Systems, 700 S. Oakland, St Johns, MI 48879  
[Rockwell@mich.com](mailto:Rockwell@mich.com)

Brad Homeier, MeadWestvaco, Box 1008, Escanaba, MI 49829  
John Johnson, MeadWestvaco, same  
Cheryl Kemmer, Mead, same

Sherry Martine MacKinnon, MDNR-Newberry Forest Management, Newberry, MI 49868  
Jim Ekdahl, MDNR-UP Field Headquarters, 1990 US Hwy 41 S, Marquette, MI 49855  
Stephen J. Hicks, J M Longyear, LLC, 210 N. Front St. 1<sup>st</sup> Fl, Marquette, MI 49855  
Jacob E. Hayrynen, J M LONGYEAR, LLC, same  
Don Howlett, Hiawatha N F. 2727 N. Lincoln Rd, Escanaba, MI 49829  
Walter T. Arnold, International Paper, 25947 Red Jacket Rd, Calumet, MI 49913, Dave  
Kluesner, Int'l Paper, 16 N. Carroll St., Suite 800, Madison, WI 53703-2716  
Bill Steigerwaldt, Keweenaw Land Assoc Limited, 1801 E. Cloverland Dr. E. US Hwy 2, Box  
188, Ironwood, MI 49937  
Gerald Grossman, Grossman Forestry Co, 1013 S. Newberry Ave., Box 426, Newberry, MI  
49868  
Christopher D. Burnett, Big Creek Forestry, 550 Karen Rd, Marquette, MI 49855,  
Richard W. Bolen, Gogebic County Forestry Commission, Courthouse, 200 N. Moore St.  
Bessemer, MI 49911-1099  
Philip B. Musser, Keweenaw Industrial Council, 306 Mason Ave, Hancock, MI 49930  
Carl Lindquist, Chocoday River Watershed Project, 1030 Wright St. Marquette, MI 49855

## APPENDIX M. Public Comments



**GROSSMAN FORESTRY COMPANY** Consulting Foresters  
1013 S. Newberry Ave. \* P.O. Box 426 \* Newberry, Michigan 49868

---

Gerald H. Grossman  
Phone: (906) 293-8707  
Fax: (906) 293-8198  
E-mail: [gfc@up.net](mailto:gfc@up.net)

September 30, 2002

Garrett M. Johnson  
Michigan Chapter The Nature Conservancy  
101 East Grand River  
Lansing, MI 48906-4348

VIA E-MAIL & US MAIL

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Michigan Forest Legacy Program Assessment of Need – Draft dated September, 2002.

The document does a good job of laying out the need for a Michigan program. The following comments are fairly minor and may be cleared up in other documents to follow.

There are several statements that appear to be unsubstantiated and add little, if any to the assessment of need:

- III.A. 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph – “Continued demand for aspen pulp and for management of wildlife species that prefer aspen should slow this decline.” I am not aware of any data to support this statement.
- IX.A. 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph – “In addition, there is a recognition that some management practices are diminishing the ability of some forests to function as they normally would.” I not sure where this is coming from or going?? It is a potentially inflammatory statement that should be substantiated or eliminated.

There are several administrative questions that come up in reading this document and may be answered in the future. How will limited federal funds be allocated to the States? How will limited funds available to Michigan be allocated to competing sites?

Overall this is a good start if Michigan is going to participate in this Federal program.

Please call or write if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Gerald Grossman, ACF, CF  
MI Registered Forester #567

Cc: Cara Boucher – via E-Mail  
Kathy Arney – via E-Mail

### SUMMARY OF FOREST LEGACY PUBLIC MEETINGS

There were 5 public meetings held to review the draft Forest Legacy Assessment of Need. The following is a summary of the comments and perspectives.

#### FOREST LEGACY PUBLIC MEETING SEPTEMBER 9, 2002 MARQUETTE, MI

The Forest Legacy public meeting to review the draft Assessment of Need was attended by 7 people in addition to Tina Hall and Peg Kohring. The participants were Marshall and Margaret Gilbert, Warren Suchovsky, Mr. and Mrs. David Allen and a couple who did not sign-in. No one had read the draft Assessment of Need. Tina Hall and I used the session as an opportunity to provide information about Forest Legacy. The following questions and comments were asked:

1. Which agency will hold the easement? How will the easement be monitored?
2. How will the Forest Stewardship Plan be developed and monitored?
3. Can industrial owners sell easements?
4. The group thought that there should be a priority given to lands next to state and federal ownership.
5. There was a concern expressed about whether a successful Forest Legacy Program in Michigan would have major property tax consequences.
6. There was a question about how priorities would be determined based on the eligibility criteria in the document. The Forest Stewardship Committee is advisory to the DNR, does this mean that DNR makes the final decisions?
7. A couple individuals asked if the Bishop Trust lands were being considered by the program.
8. How does the Forest Stewardship Committee recruit members?
9. Are we going to put the draft Forest Legacy document in libraries?
10. Where is the state going to find the 25% match for Forest Legacy easements?
11. We revisited the property tax issue again and the suggestion was made to have the landowner make the 25% match to offset the property tax loss.
12. There was concern that the hunting community would require that the properties be open to public access for hunting and that this would discourage landowners from the program. There is a large group of landowners who are not in the Commercial Forest Act because they do not want public access. If public access was not a requirement the program may attract many of these landowners, which would be a good thing.
13. How often will the Forest Stewardship Plans be updated? There was a general discussion and a 10 year update was recommended.
14. Does the Department of Natural Resources support the program? There was no one from the DNR at the meeting.
15. There was a question about public input from each person attending the meeting or each couple. The participants said that they thought that this was an important

- program and they had not seen publicity about the meeting. There was not publicity that they had seen in the paper and many people did not have access to the web.
16. The minimum for a Forest Stewardship Plan is 1000 acres, will this be true of Forest Legacy as well?
  17. There were positive comments about how this program can insure that the family dream of putting together and managing land can continue beyond the current family members.
  18. When will the final plan be ready?

**FOREST LEGACY PUBLIC MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2002  
GAYLORD, MI**

Will Wininger attended the public meeting in Gaylord, Michigan and had general questions about Forest Legacy. Garret Johnson and Peg Kohring answered his questions. Mr. Wininger then submitted comments in writing on the draft Forest Legacy Assessment of Need, which are attached.

**FOREST LEGACY PUBLIC MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2002  
Lansing, MI**

No one attended the Forest Legacy public meeting in Lansing at the Chamber of Commerce.

**FOREST LEGACY PUBLIC MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2002  
Dearborn, MI**

No one attended the Forest Legacy public meeting in Dearborn at the University of Michigan.

**FOREST LEGACY PUBLIC MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2002  
Kalamazoo, MI**

Jim Fish attended the Forest Legacy public meeting and had the following comments on the Assessment of Need:

Please put page numbers on all pages of the report.

p. 5 - in the paragraph beginning "In addition..", it should say, "sale or donation of development rights" not property rights.

p.7 – under IB-it should say, “Michigan forests and timberlands” – in the southern part of Michigan the forests are important culturally for tourism and recreation.

p.9 – Aspen are a rare community type in Michigan

VI – One of the threats to environmentally sensitive forests in Michigan is property taxes in the southern portion of Michigan.

VII-B – In the last sentence – FLEP will not replace the Forest Stewardship Program.

VII-K – In the first paragraph, Hiawatha is mentioned twice-should be the Ottawa National Forest

Under the Michigan local land trust's – Yellow Dog should be capitalized

On the criteria for the Southwest Lower Peninsula – we are dependent upon wild land – dependent economies particularly in Barry County where there is much local revenue from hunting.

SEP 24 2002 1:03PM HP LASERJET 3200

P. 5

AOL.COM | Message View

*Lami - Page 1 of 5  
Pitt + cctc  
Rec:  
Frank Lloyd*

Subj: Fwd: MI Forest Legacy Assessment of Need (Forwarded TCF Email)  
Date: Thu, 12 Sep 2002 12:55:45 PM Eastern Standard Time  
From: "Peg Kohring" <pkohring@conservationfund.org>  
To: <PKohring@aol.com>  
Reply-To: pkohring@conservationfund.org  
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Subj: MI Forest Legacy Assessment of Need  
Date: Thu, 12 Sep 2002 10:53:34 -0700 (PDT)  
From: will wininger <vinekeeper@forestfarm.org>  
To: Peg Kohring <pkohring@conservationfund.org>  
Cc: Headwaters Land-Conservancy <headwaters@gtlakes.com>, Karen Serfass <rkwinserf@yahoo.com>, Peter Vellenga <pvell@freeway.net>, Kathy Arney <arney@state.mi.us>, Ruraldevelopment Council <rpm@ruralmichigan.org>, Russ Kidd <kidd@msue.msu.edu>, Keith Martell <keith.martell@mi.usda.gov>

12 Sept. 2002

To: Pat Kohring, Conservation Fund  
From: William Winger, Resource Research and Development  
RE: Michigan Forest Legacy Program  Assessment of Need Draft  Public Participation

*Lami -  
Please send him  
minutes from stakeholder  
meeting  
Thanks!  
CC: Conat + Cathy  
Kathie*

Dear Pat:

Following is an outline of questions and comments related to our discussion at Hartwick Pines State Park on 10 September 2002 regarding the Michigan Forest Legacy Program.

I thank you again for your leadership of this effort and the resource issues at hand. There is much to be appreciated and respected in your Assessment of Need draft document. It already has proven to be an invaluable reference work to me.

As your document is a "draft", so are these comments. I regret that I could not have participated in the stakeholders survey.

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS**

**SHAREHOLDER SURVEY:** Twenty-eight responses is a stunning small sample. It appears that at least half of the respondents were government employees.

Appendix D states "In addition, a critical component is to measure the interest and concerns of stakeholders who may be involved in the future of private forestland."

I could not agree more. Given the critical importance of this measure of interest, I am deeply concerned that the responses of 28 folks could not possibly accomplish this component.

<http://webmail.aol.com/fmsgview.adp?folder=SU5CT1g=&uid=4215862>

9/12/02

**Q?** Who are the 28 respondents? Can I look at the raw survey data?

*I would also request the opportunity to read the minutes from each of the regional public comment meetings scheduled between September 9<sup>th</sup> in Marquette through the last meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>*

**FLP BACKGROUND by Kathie Arney:** The last sentence in the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph reads: "Fragmentation and the parcelization across our state is resulting in the loss of these valuable ecosystems and the biological, economic and social values they provide."

This statement needs some clarification and backup.

**Q?** By "fragmentation" is it meant fragmentation by ownership, actual physical fragmentation of biological functions, or both?

This fragmentation question is obviously critical. But what is the actual extent of title and biological fragmentation? Mike Meriwether, the conservation district forester for Antrim and Kalkaska Counties recently reported (much to general surprise) that the trend of fragmentation by ownership as measured by the 1980 and 1992 forest surveys which saw average parcel size fall by about a third has been REVERSED by recent data. That is, average parcel size actually increased between 1993 and 2002.

On the question of biological fragmentation, which is really the more important focus of the question, the 1992 forest survey again surprised many of us by indicating that the acreage classified as forest actually INCREASED between 1980 and 1993!

I think this whole question of fragmentation  what is meant and what is the significance of documented changes needs to be thoroughly fleshed out and clarified. A clear definition and clear data would be enormously valuable here. Perhaps you have this data and could point me toward it?

**SENSITIVE AREAS IDENTIFICATION:** Still in Ms. Arney's background of the FLP. The first sentence of the third paragraph reads: "The FLP is a voluntary program that protects sensitive areas that are identified by the state."

**Q?** Who will be these identifiers within the state structure? How will it be decided whom the identifiers should be?

Further down, it states that "The landowner must have a multi-resource management plan prepared and approved."

**Q?** Prepared and approved by whom?

**Q?** Who IS, or is likely to be the "lead agency"?

**ADVISORY GROUP:** The last paragraph of Kathie Arney's page one states: "The FLP requires the state to have an advisory committee. This advisory group would advise the State Lead Agency on setting program criteria."

**Q?** How will this advisory committee be selected, and by whom?

**SELECTION CRITERIA:** In the draft assessment of need section XI, it states that "Criteria marked

with a "\*" are required and must be clearly addressed in the project proposal application to establish eligibility."

Q? Who is doing the requiring? Is this in response to federal guidelines? Are the federal guidelines publicly available?

Criteria #9: "Size:" How will these criteria (presently numbering 25) be weighted?

At the September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting at Hartwick Pines I heard the following statements:

*"The FLP program will be EXTREMELY competitive."*

*"The FLP will provide multiple benefits to all the stakeholders." One of the benefits stated was "the FLP might help the forest industry stay in business in Michigan." Also, The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund could be used in conjunction with the FLP to leverage financial resources and perhaps serve the cost share requirement."*

It was also clear that selected projects under the FLP program would be decided at the federal level. The necessity to involve our U.S. Representatives and Senators indicates that these decisions will be political.

It seems possible that, under these conditions, the question of the "SIZE" weighting is crucial. Since this criteria is a "required" one, it would seem we would have to live with it, but that the relative weighting is within state hands. "SIZE" is, in effect, double weighted in the list of criteria. Given the declared intensity of competition within the program, and the political component, landowners with the greatest size (private industrial forests owned by large corporate bodies) will have an inherent competitive advantage in every criteria listed.

If "SIZE" is to remain a criteria, its relative weighting MUST be held in check  that is to say minimized and held in balance, or the FLP program could easily come to be dominated by corporate interests. Corporate type interests may not be the kind most needed for Legacy Stewardship. Perhaps there should be a "reserve" component  say no more than 50% of FLP projects and funding can be allotted to private industrial (corporate) landowners.

There MUST be a balance provided in the competitive process. The largest and by far the most ecologically and economically valuable component of Michigan's total forest resource is held in private *nonindustrial* hands. These should be subject to at least 50% of the of the weighting and consideration.

If a conscious and well-defined balance is not found here, the FLP program runs the risk of a public perception, real or not, that the program is a corporate subsidy. Both the perception and the reality must be avoided at all costs.

I recognize that ultimate decisions will be made in an environment of intense competition and political influence, and that the concerns listed above may really need to be addressed at a federal level. But that does not relieve us at the state and regional level from recognizing and acknowledging potential imbalances as we see and understand them. The Michigan FLP Proposal should reflect this level of equity and awareness.

AOL.COM | Message View

**A MOST IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL CRITERIA:**

A thorough and documented argument could be put forth which would postulate that **the greatest threat** to the economic viability and sustainability of a resource system **is an uneducated and indifferent populace.**

One of the threats articulated in this draft assessment is that of fragmentation of ownership. We have implied that fragmentation of ownership will directly effect the sustainability of economic and biological futures. We also imply that the acquisition of the commodity forest raw materials of this state resource will be complicated to the degree that important economic and industrial sectors could be adversely and seriously effected.

A professional government forester in the Gaylord area was recently quoted publicly as saying that the present forest industry in Michigan *"profits from the ignorance of private landowners, and is designed to keep them that way."*

A thorough, honest, and candid look at the history of resource stewardship in Michigan, and in particular the history of forest utilization is not a very pretty one. *Ethics of corporations can no longer be presumed to be in the best interests of the cultures in which they exist.* If conditions are to improve, and if these critical resource systems are to be sustained, then cultural awareness and especially the awareness and mature involvement of private nonindustrial forest landowners must be transformed.

**A NEW SELECTION CRITERIA:**

*Projects which demonstrate, teach, involve and inform the society in general and private forest stewards in particular, should be THE most heavily weighted selection criteria.*

This criteria is not even currently represented in the proposed list. If it is presumed that an enlightened and informed culture is implicit in or the result of the listed selection criteria, that presumption is wrong. Make societal awareness explicit, and **make it a priority.** The best path to a long future of sustainable use of natural resources is through the continuous and general education and awareness of all citizens.

**SUGGESTION □ CONCLUSION:**

Given the acknowledged critical importance of public involvement in this resource stewardship program, I would strongly urge that Michigan's FLP proposal NOT proceed to the Secretary of Agriculture with the unfortunate dearth of public input and involvement at the level of the stakeholders assessment survey and now, the level of public input on the draft assessment. To take this proposal to the federal level without a much broader and more genuine component of public participation would be an unnecessary and unfortunate mistake.

Michigan has unfortunately delayed participation in the Forest Legacy Program for far too long. To rush this proposal and fail at the public information and involvement component is not justified. If we have failed to participate for over ten years, we can at least take a few months more to do the right thing.

I know this will not be a popular input, but take the time to make public involvement truly meaningful. Take a few months if necessary and do a real survey of stakeholders. I believe there are thousands of them who can and would give meaningful input to this process, and I believe they can be accessed and involved without undue cost or time.

SEP 24 2002 1:06PM HP LASERJET 3200

P. 9

AOL.COM | Message View

Page 5 of 5

The real success and the real sustainability of such truly unique and tragically undervalued natural resources in the state of Michigan deserve no less.

If I can assist in any way in the advancement and success of the Michigan FLP, I would consider it my duty to volunteer as needed. I look forward to all the positive possibilities sensed within a Michigan FLP, and to working to support your work. Please keep me involved and informed.

All best wishes for your great success !

Respectfully Submitted,

William Winger

512 Eddy School Road

Mancelona, MI 49659

[vinekeeper@forestfarm.org](mailto:vinekeeper@forestfarm.org)

<http://webmail.aol.com/fmsgview.adp?folder=SUSCT1g-&cuid=4215862>

9/12/02



## MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

Upper Peninsula & Lower Peninsula Chapters

---

### FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

Article #64, October, 2002

By Bill Cook

One of the greatest threats to our Michigan forests is development and parcelization, although these things might be a little harder to see in the Upper Peninsula. Development might be changes such as houses, golf courses, and commercial enterprises. Parcelization is the break-up of larger forest ownerships into increasingly smaller ownerships.

A forest converted to something other than a forest, or divided into pieces too small to manage, results in the reduction of the many values forests generate. This is a nation-wide concern.

An important recent study was made in the forests of the southeastern states. The single largest threat to those forests was identified as development. Michigan forests have remarkably similar pressures.

Development is something necessary as our population grows, yet particularly sensitive or valuable forests need to be protected. One of the ways to accomplish this is through the use of conservation easements.

A conservation easement is an agreement attached to the land, for a specific period of time or forever, which specifies how the land can and cannot be used. Most easements prohibit residential and commercial development and may specifically allow forest uses such as timber harvest and forest management. Landowners are then eligible for any tax reductions due to restrictions placed upon the property.

Conservation easements are entered into voluntarily by the landowner and the forest remains in private ownership. Property rights and restrictions are passed with the land from owner to owner, similar to Michigan's Commercial Forest Program.

The federal government has recognized the need to keep important forests as forests. The "Forest Legacy Program" provides money to purchase conservation easements, and in some cases, full fee purchase. Specifically, this program purchases development rights, in perpetuity, in order to keep working forests working. If a landowner has forest that meets program criteria, and is willing to sell their development rights, the federal government stands ready to purchase them. Each forest owner enters into an agreement specific to their property. This does not give the federal government any claim to rights not specifically agreed

upon by the landowner.

Before these federal dollars are released, a lead state agency must be named and an assessment of need must be done. That means specific forests must be identified that will become eligible for the program. In Michigan's case, the DNR has contracted with The Nature Conservancy to provide this assessment.

Already, about 35 states have signed-on or are in the process of participating in the Forest Legacy Program. Wisconsin has proposed over 35,000 acres. For more information about Michigan's program, visit the DNR website at: [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) and click on the "Forests, Land, and Water" button, or try the national site at: [www.fs.fed.us/spl/coop/flp.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/spl/coop/flp.htm).

The Forest Legacy Program is one example of a "conservation easement". The concept is not new. Various land trusts and organizations offer similar programs to forest owners wishing to permanently protect their forests.

The long-standing Michigan Commercial Forest Program has been successful among corporate landowners. However, among private, non-industrial forest owners, the big catch is allowing foot access for hunting and fishing. Wisconsin has a two-tiered program where landowners can opt to open or close public access to hunting and fishing. Owners who wish to keep their property closed still receive tax reductions, but not quite as much as if they opened their property.

It is sometimes a sad thing to see forest land subdivided and sold off to numerous people. Perhaps like having a good will, forest owners should consider long-term protection of the values they hold for their land. There is more than one way to skin that cat.

---

*Prepared by Bill Cook, UP Extension Forester, 6005 J Road, Escanaba, MI 49829  
906-786-1575 (voice), 906-786-9370 (fax), e-mail: [cookwi@msu.edu](mailto:cookwi@msu.edu)  
Michigan State University is an affirmative action equal opportunity institution.*

*The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital status or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)*

---

#### Newspaper Directory Page MSAF Home Page

*This website is maintained by Bill Cook, Michigan State University Extension Forest in the Upper Peninsula. Comments, questions, and suggestions are gratefully accepted. Editorial issues can be addressed to Eric Thompson.*

*Last update of this page was 30 September 2002.*

<http://forestry.msu.edu/msaf/Newspaper/064-0210.htm>

04/30/2003