



Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Forest Resources Division

FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM NOMINATION APPLICATION

This information is required by authority of Part 501 of the Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, to be considered for nomination.

Co-sponsored by:

USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry Program
Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Forest Resources Division

DUE DATE: May 8, 2026

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Forest Resources Division (FRD), in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, has established a Forest Legacy Program (FLP) to protect privately owned forest lands from being used for non-forest uses. Funding is federal money from the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry Program, FLP (CFDA 10.676). **Participation in Michigan's Forest Legacy Program is strictly voluntary.**

The purpose of Michigan's Forest Legacy Program is to use federal funds and matching funds to purchase development rights, conservation easements, or fee simple interest on those environmentally important forests threatened by conversion to non-forest uses within designated geographic areas, known as Forest Legacy Areas. Unless fee simple interest is purchased, these forests shall remain in private ownership except for the conveyed easement items, such as development rights, which become State-owned and protected. **Michigan's Forest Legacy Program requires that the rights of public access be conveyed to the State on all land or interest in land acquired with FLP funding.**

Please note all easements and interests in land acquired for Forest Legacy 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 2028, the deadline for application submittal is May 8, 2026.

Please note all submitted materials become the property of the State of Michigan 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 Michigan's Forest Legacy Program.

For additional information, visit the DNR website at Michigan.gov/DNR, or contact:

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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM NOMINATION APPLICATION

This information is required by authority of Part 501 of the Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, to be considered for nomination.

Instructions: Applications will be accepted from individuals and privately-owned corporations, or from agents such as a land trust or conservancy, or other legally authorized representative.

The application must demonstrate that property nominated for consideration does not have preexisting agreements attached to the deed which are in opposition to the purpose and function of the FLP.

PART I

This portion of the application provides information on ownership, location and size of the parcel nominated, as well as providing straightforward information regarding the estimated appraisal value of the property and the easement. It also provides information as to whether or not the landowner participates in other federal land programs, as well as indicating if this parcel is subject to any other land protection agreements or easements that could affect its participation for the FLP.

Primary Landowner's Name		Contact Person (Individual Contact Name)	
Address		Address	
City, State, ZIP Code		City, State, ZIP Code	
Telephone	Fax/E-mail	Telephone	Fax/E-mail

Check One: Corporation Individual

Land Protection Method: **(Check One):**

- Conservation Easement Fee Simple Acquisition
- Written Forest Management or Multi-Resource Management Plan by the DNR approved consultant/forester? If checked, please provide: A copy of your management plan with this application, along with the following:

Consultant's/Forester's Name	Telephone	E-mail
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FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Estimated appraisal value of property:	\$
Estimated appraisal value of interests transferred by conservation easement to the Michigan Forest Legacy Program: <i>Note: This is not necessarily the funding requested from the Michigan Forest Legacy Program.</i>	\$
Proposed Management and Monitoring Entity	

PROPERTY INFORMATION

County	Township	Township, Range, Section
Total Property Acres	Total Forested Acres	Current Land Use Zoning
By category, state below how much total acreage is nominated for participation in Michigan's Forest Legacy Program.		
Total Forested Acres	Total Open or Cleared Acres	Total Acres of Water
Is any of this nominated land currently enrolled in any of the following State or Federal land protection programs? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If yes, state number of acres below).		
Commercial Forest Program Acres	Qualified Forest Acres	Conservation Reserve Program Acres
Wetlands Reserve Program Acres	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program Acres	Environmental Quality Incentives Program Acres
Other (Identify)		Acres

Is any other land protection program or easement that affects or impacts the use or management of those acres nominated for participation?
 Yes No. If "Yes", please state name of agency (s), organization (s), corporation (s), or individual(s) involved, and acres affected.

Agency(s)	Acres	Organization(s)	Acres
Corporation(s)	Acres	Individuals(s)	Acres

Liens and Encumbrances (that may affect the eligibility of this parcel for nomination in the FLP. Failure to complete this section may result in immediate dismissal from consideration in the Program.

Please list any and all liens and encumbrances on the property proposed for enrollment in Michigan’s 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, stone, etc.); tax liens; dump sites; underground fuel tanks; or any other environmental hazards, etc.

Landowner Goals and Objectives (why this parcel is important to the landowner and what benefits the landowner receives as the result of owning this property)

Describe long-term goals and objectives for nominated property. This may include stating why property is important to you, what benefits you accrue from owning it (e.g., financial, aesthetic, spiritual), present use and considerations for future management (e.g. timber products, biodiversity, recreation, aquatic habitat).

List of Rights Wishing to be Retained by Landowner (essential information that identifies what parts of your ownership you are willing to sell or convey to the FLP). It is not a commitment form, but should be considered very seriously since it provides us with key information regarding the parcel’s potential to meet Forest Legacy goals and objectives. It will affect the desirability of your parcel and its appraised value. Please indicate whether you wish to “KEEP”, “SELL”, OR “UNSURE” for each of the interest or uses stated in this section. Be sure to check every item. You may add other interests to this section if needed.

Note: “KEEP” means this is a forest use or interest you wish to retain or control. All other rights may become the property of the State of Michigan upon successful completion of negotiations between the State of Michigan and yourself. **“SELL”** means you are interested in selling this forest use or interest to the program. Checking “Sell” 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. **“UNSURE”** means you need more information or have not yet decided on this use or interest.

Note: Checking “Keep” or “Sell” does not commit you to anything at the time of application. Completion of this checklist is a tool to help the Stewardship Advisory Committee when inspecting, prioritizing, and evaluating your parcel. Also, development rights are the minimum rights purchased on Forest Legacy Parcels and therefore are not included on the list below.

Forest Use or Interest	Keep	Sell	Unsure
Timber and wood product rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mushroom/herb and root/craft material collection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mineral rights (including, but not limited to oil, gas, coal, metallic, non-metallic, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to limit or control public or control public access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Retain control of the following recreational activities	Keep	Sell	Unsure
Hunting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Camping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hiking or other passive recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bicycling/Mountain Bike Riding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Horseback Riding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Motorized Vehicle Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Forest uses within easement areas ***	Keep	Sell	Unsure
Grazing (amount of area _____ acres)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farming (amount of area _____ acres)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Road Construction (other than for forest management/protection)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buildings and other improvements (amount of area _____)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The first section provides financial information about your parcel and the forest uses or interests that you are willing to sell or donate to the FLP. This information will help in ranking your application. An official property appraisal is not required to complete this section but doing so may help in the project priority ranking process. Any offer by the FLP to purchase easements or fee simple must utilize an appraisal that meets the December 2000 edition of "Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions." These appraisals are coordinated by the DNR after the project has been selected as a candidate to receive Forest Legacy funds.

The following estimates are for preliminary use only. Any final offer for a conservation easement or fee simple purchase cannot exceed fair market value, as determined by an appraisal meeting federal appraisal standards.

Estimated total value of nominated property \$	Estimated value of the interests proposed for transfer by conservation easement \$	
How were these values determined? (e.g. landowner's personal estimate, licensed appraiser, realtor, written legal appraisal)		Date of Appraisal
Are you willing to donate part of the easement value? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Percentage of easement value to donate %	Approximate asking price for interests being offered \$

NOTE: Donations may constitute a charitable contribution for income tax purposes, depending on applicable Internal Revenue Service guidelines and regulations

PART II. SELF-EVALUATION AND SCORING (Please provide a narrative for each category)

The narrative information provided here will be crucial in helping us in a preliminary scoring and ranking of your proposal. This section helps to identify nominated parcels that have state, regional, and national significance. Refer to the "Eligibility Criteria" and the associated rating descriptions as aids in completing this section.

Traditional Forest Uses Maintained: Traditional forest uses provide timber and other forest products and amenities. Explain the traditional forestry values of this parcel and if they are maintained with a DNR-approved resource management plan.

Scenic Resources and Public Recreation Opportunities: Please explain how your parcel provides these values, especially with respect to proximity to a national trail, major fall color tour, or one of the Great Lakes shorelines.

Riparian and Hydrologic Areas: Please describe and explain how your property provides water resource values, such as cold-water trout habitat, wetlands, floodplains, riparian corridors, or areas of high groundwater recharge potential. Also state if your property has frontage on a Federal Scenic and Wild River or State-Designated Natural River.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat: Explain how your property protects and enhances wildlife and fish habitat and values.

Habitat for Known, Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species: Describe if your property contains rare, threatened, or endangered plant and/or animal species.

Known Historic, Cultural, and Archeological Resources: Describe if your property contains such resources as Native American burial sites, or areas with artifacts related to early European settlement or any other artifacts you think fit this category.

Other Ecological Values: Describe if your property has other significant ecological values. Examples include area(s) of globally imperiled natural communities (Hemlock-Yellow Birch Forest, Wooded Dune and Swale), Coastal Dune area, or Niagara Escarpment based communities.

Size and Contiguity: Describe the size of your parcel(s), and if the property nominated is in large contiguous blocks (greater than 1,000 acres).

This self-scoring section provides you and the FLP more precise information regarding how your parcel meets the goals and objectives of Michigan's Forest Legacy Program.

Please score the following criteria using points to the right of each specific description. Note: These criteria shall serve as guidance for the Selection Committee to use in the overall process of prioritizing and ranking projects. The committee may also use other information to qualify and determine project ranking and selection.

Criteria	Total Points	Comments
Conversion Threat		
Conversion threat is imminent and will occur within 2 years if no action to acquire easement occurs.	40 Pts.	
Conversion threat is present and is likely to occur within 3-5 years.	20 Pts.	
Conversion threat is a possibility within 6-10 years.	10 Pts.	
Conversion is unlikely in the foreseeable future.	0 Pts.	
Public Access		
Full access to entire parcel allowed throughout the year.	40 Pts.	
Limited access to parcel.	20 Pts.	
Public access restricted to protect environmentally important resources.	20 Pts.	
Limited access to only one portion of the parcel.	10 Pts.	
No access allowed.	0 Pts.	
Abuts Public or Other Protected Forest Land		
Abuts lands owned and managed by the DNR, NPS, USFS, or USFWS.	40 Pts.	
Abuts property owned or protected by land trust or other conservation group.	20 Pts.	
Abuts municipally owned property managed as park or open space.	10 Pts.	
Size and Contiguity of Forest Land		
Parcel is contiguous block > 5,000 acres in UP, > 2,500 acres in NLP or > 250 acres in SLP.	20 Pts.	
Parcel is contiguous block > 2,500 acres in UP, > 750 acres in NLP or > 150 acres in SLP.	10 Pts.	
Parcel is contiguous block > 1,000 acres in UP, > 350 acres in NLP or > 80 acres in SLP.	5 Pts.	
Parcel does not meet size and contiguity criteria for pertinent region.	0 Pts.	
Traditional Forest Uses		
Approved management plan properly implemented, with parcel providing sustainable flow of timber and fiber; site quality and productivity for forest products is high.	40 Pts.	
Approved management plan properly implemented, etc.; site quality and productivity medium to fair.	20 Pts.	
Approved management plan properly implemented, etc.; site quality and productivity fair to poor.	10 Pts.	
Scenic Resources		
Parcel has frontage on one of the Great Lakes shoreline, designated Wild and Scenic, or Natural River.	20 Pts.	
Parcel has frontage on North Country Trail, designated fall color tour route, or regional scenic views.	10 Pts.	

Criteria	Total Points	Comments
Known Historic/Archeological/Cultural Resources		
Parcel contains two or more archeological/historic sites in good to excellent condition, as documented by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).	20 Pts.	
Parcel contains one SHPO documented archeological/historic site in fair condition.	10 Pts.	
Parcel may contain significant site or artifacts.	5 Pts.	
Fish and Wildlife Habitat		
Majority of parcel adjacent to or contains stream or inland lake regulated by the DNR, or for trout and/or salmon OR parcel provides and is managed to provide for a diversity of wildlife habitat (e.g., old growth to seral tree species, mixed conifer/hardwood stands, coarse woody debris) beneficial to game and non-game wildlife.	20 Pts.	
Portion of parcel managed for wildlife or cold-water habitat suitable for trout and or salmon.	10 Pts.	
Parcel adjacent to another forest parcel > 200 acres.	5 Pts.	
Riparian and Watershed Resource		
Parcel has > 1,000' frontage on perennial cold-water river or stream(s) or contains > 20 acres of lake or open water wetlands within easement boundary.	20 Pts.	
Parcel has > 300' frontage on perennial cold-water stream or > 10 acres of lake/open water wetland within easement boundary.	10 Pts.	
Parcel has < 300' frontage on perennial cold-water stream or > 5 acres of lake/open water wetland.	5 Pts.	
Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species or Special Communities		
Parcel supports at least three Federally or State listed T&E species.	20 Pts.	
Parcel contains at least one natural community rated G3 or higher or supports at least one Federally listed T&E species.	10 Pts.	
Parcel contains at least one State listed species.	5 Pts.	
Other Ecological Values		
Parcel contains coastal dune (>100 acres) OR Niagara Escarpment community (>20 acres) OR old growth forest (>50 acres, average age > 120 years) with element occurrence rank "B".	20 Pts.	
Parcel contains one or more of the above communities, but less than desired acreage OR contains other natural communities of "exceptional" quality.	10 Pts.	
Parcel contains at least one element occurrence or at least one vernal pond.	5 Pts.	
Non Timber Products		
Parcel produces native seed of medicinal plants for commercial sale and use.	20 Pts.	
Parcel produces other non-timber forest products desired by public.	10 Pts.	
Parcel capable of producing valued non-timber products.	5 Pts.	
Readiness		
Source of 25 percent match identified, and adjoining parcels' uses are compatible with values/goals of the FLP.	40 Pts.	
Written support to purchase parcel easement from the DNR, land trusts, or other conservation groups.	20 Pts.	
Parcel is in good ecological condition with traditional uses compatible with parcel's natural values.	10 Pts.	
Climate Resiliency		
Parcel is entirely located within an identified priority climate resilience protection area	40 Pts.	
Parcel is partially located within an identified priority climate resilience protection area	30 Pts.	
Parcel is located directly adjacent to an identified priority climate resilience protection area	10 Pts.	
Parcel is not located in or adjacent to an identified priority climate resilience protection area	0 Pts.	
TOTALS		

OTHER PERTINENT FACTORS: Please check all those factors that qualify as this will also help in the scoring and ranking of your proposal. **Please check as appropriate.**

- Parcel adjoins another accepted or nominated FLP parcel.
- Parcel complements other federal investments or initiatives (e.g., 319 watershed projects, Forest Stewardship or Forest Land Enhancement).
- At least 50 percent of the easement value is to be donated or paid for by other sources.
- Parcel conveys rights in addition to development rights.
- Partnerships involved and identified.

TESTIMONY AND PERMISSION

Please be sure to sign and date this part of the application. This section asks for signed approval to allow designated program staff to review the nominated property and to attest to the information provided in your application. It is not necessary that all property owners sign this application. However, the person signing this application must have legal authority and provide documentation of proof of this to represent this property and the owners.

The information in this application is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I/We, as the landowner(s) or authorized agent (proof of authorization must accompany the application) agree to allow inspection, appraisal, and survey of the property being offered for consideration under the Michigan Forest Legacy Program. I/We agree to allow members of the DNR, the Michigan Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee, or their designated staff, to inspect the property at any reasonable time for the purposes of this application. I/We understand I/We shall be notified in advance of all inspecting visits. I/We also understand this property (conservation easement or fee simple rights) 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 Michigan Forest Legacy Program. Conservation easements and fee simple rights will only be purchased from willing sellers.

Signature(s) of Landowner(s) or Legal Agent

Date

APPLICATION PACKET SUBMITTAL INFORMATION

This completed application must be submitted along with each of the following items:

(If you cannot locate or obtain these items, please contact the FLP manager for the appropriate substitute.)

- Application Form Part I and Part II thoroughly completed and signed.
- Copy of the county map showing location of the property. Please outline the property and the proposed Forest Legacy area. Copy of plat or survey map of the parcel.
- Copy of the "last deed of record" for the parcel.
- Copy of the forest management or multi-resource stewardship plan.
- Aerial photo of the property (Available at your local Farm Services Agency or Natural Resources Conservation Office.) Please outline property and proposed Forest Legacy area.
- Map identifying dams, underground fuel tanks, dumps or waste disposal sites on the property.
- Map or list of permanent improvements on the nominated parcel (e.g. roads, buildings, ponds, dams, wells, and other structures and approximate acreage occupied by these improvements).
- Any written comments you wish to provide.

Please note that all submitted materials become the property of the State of Michigan and are non-returnable.

Submit this completed application and all required documentation (listed above) to:

**MS. KERRY HECKMAN
FOREST RESOURCES DIVISION
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
TELEPHONE: 517-643-1256
E-MAIL: HeckmanK1@Michigan.gov**

Applications must be submitted electronically by May 8, 2026.

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