



FLP Proposals Must Be Postmarked By July 31

ALASKA FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM (FLP) PROJECT PROPOSAL FORMS

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) conserves environmentally important forests in targeted areas of Alaska that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses by fee simple acquisition or conservation easement so these threatened forests may remain intact and provide traditional forest benefits. As defined by statute, environmentally important forestlands must possess one or more of the following ecological values:

- Opportunities for continuing traditional forest uses
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Threatened and endangered species
- Riparian areas
- Public recreation opportunities
- Cultural resources
- Scenic resources

Grants are awarded through a highly competitive funding process at the state, regional, and federal levels. For a schedule of the funding process, see <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/grants/flp/processal09.pdf>

It is important to describe your proposed project in a manner that will resonate with individuals unfamiliar with Alaska. For instance, while you may consider grizzly bears to be commonplace, a photo of a grizzly bear on the subject property will, in Washington D.C., provide extra emphasis to a bullet that says grizzly bears travel through the subject property. Should your proposal reach the national level it will be evaluated by a team of individuals evaluating anywhere from 100 to 150 proposals. Maps, photos, and well-chosen words within the Core FLP Criteria bullets are critical and will be ALL that the reviewers see. The other components of this application are equally important for Alaska's Forest Stewardship Committee consideration, the first step in the competitive process.

Due to the length of the application process and federal funding cycles, a grant cannot be guaranteed nor can a grant be issued for approximately 12 - 18 months after the application deadline.

INSTRUCTIONS

To nominate a forested property to Alaska's Forest Legacy Program (FLP), review these instructions, visit the following websites, and complete the FLP Proposal Form.

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/grants/flp.htm>

http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/commis/opmp/grants/forest_legacy/forest_legacy_proposal_help.htm

<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flp.shtml>

The FLP Proposal Form is located at the following websites:

<http://www.dnr.state.ak/parks/grants/flp.htm>

http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/commis/opmp/grants/forest_legacy/forest_legacy_proposal_help.htm

Before submitting a FLP Proposal Form, please contact Project Coordinator Carol Fries, at (907) 269-8425 or carol.fries@alaska.gov or Steve Neel at (907) 269-8709 or steve.neel@alaska.gov to ensure your proposal meets Alaska and Federal Forest Legacy Program requirements and for assistance in developing your proposal.

A proposed property will be evaluated and prioritized for inclusion in the program based on answers provided in the FLP Proposal Form and required appendices. Use Microsoft Word software and stay within any stipulated space limitations.

Please pay attention to the following information to ensure a competitive proposal:

PART I – TESTIMONY AND SIGNATURE

The FLP Proposal Form must be signed by the landowner and/or legal agent.

PART II – PROJECT NOMINATION

- 1) and 2) The name and contact information are required for both the entity submitting the FLP Proposal Form and the owner(s) of the proposed property.
- 3) If the entity proposing a property is not the landowner, proof of the landowner's willingness to participate in the Forest Legacy project must be provided in Appendix A to the FLP Proposal Form.

PART III – PROPERTY INFORMATION

Information about the proposed property is an important part of the FLP Proposal Form. The information requested in this section provides the necessary details for the proposal to be understood and evaluated by DNR and the Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee.

For the purposes of the FLP program, note the following definitions:

<u>Property:</u>	A property represents the interest in land to be purchased in the FLP funding request.
<u>Project Area:</u>	A larger landscape project or conservation strategy that may require phases and/or multiple sources of funding to complete. The proposed property (request for federal funding) is a part of a project area.
<u>Tract:</u>	A tract is an identifiable piece of property that is part of the same acquisition project. A tract may be a fee simple or conservation easement acquisition and may also be considered a parcel that comprises the "Property" and/or is part of the "Project Area."

The name of the property, location, and legal description are requested in 1) through 4). **Note: Only projects located in Alaska's Forest Legacy Area as defined in Alaska's Assessment of Need (AON) are eligible for the Forest Legacy Program.** Alaska's Assessment of Need is found at the following webpage: <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/grants/flp/ak-aon.pdf>

- 5) and 6) Provide the total value of the property and what this valuation is based on, such as landowner's personal estimate, licensed appraiser, realtor, written legal appraisal, etc. If the

property has been appraised, provide the date of the appraisal.

- 7) Encumbrances, such as liens, mortgages, easements, leases, etc., are to be listed and explained.
- 8) The subsurface estate is the dominant estate and may have the potential to impact conservation values of the surface estate. Describe the ownership of the property's subsurface estate and whether the subsurface estate is included in the FLP proposal.
- 9) Does the owner have legal access to the property? If yes, please describe the access.
- 10) In describing any structures on the property, be sure to address any buildings, sheds, roads, improvements, dams, wells, ponds, fences, powerlines, pipelines, irrigations systems, trails, etc. Please include an approximate acreage occupied by improvements.
- 11) Neither the State nor the Forest Legacy Program will assume liability for hazardous materials currently on the property. In the due diligence phase of a FLP project, a hazardous materials assessment will be performed. Describe any activity that may have left hazardous materials or waste that the property owner will need to clean up before the property is purchased.
- 12) The proposal may include more than one tract. Refer to the definition above and provide the number of tracts.
- 13) Provide the total number of acres of the proposed tracts. For example, if the project consists of two tracts (Tract A with 50 acres and Tract B with 1,003 acres), the total number of acres of project is 1,053.
- 14) If the proposed project is a component of a larger conservation strategy, please explain and describe any FLP project proposals that may be submitted in the future. Identify these proposals as tracts with an estimated year for submittal. "Can the current proposal be phased?" provides an opportunity to secure partial funding for the project should the full amount of funding be questionable. Projects comprised of several tracts provide reviewers with logical options for partial funding. This is a strategic consideration.

Property being nominated for the Forest Legacy Program may be acquired by a fee simple transaction or a conservation easement encompassing a lesser bundle of rights.

In a *fee simple acquisition* or *fee title sale*, the purchaser acquires all rights, title and interest in a property from a seller or owner. This option removes land from private ownership. The Forest Legacy Program requires that title be held by a government entity.

In a *conservation easement* acquisition, restrictions on the use of the land are attached to the property deed. This legally binding document is registered in the local land evidence records and transfers the rights from the landowner to the buyer (the State or government entity). The State considers specific criteria before agreeing to accept conservation easements. See http://www.dnr.alaska.gov/commis/reclands/cecriteria_31109.pdf

Conservation easements typically address development rights, right to harvest timber and/or other wood products, public access for recreation, grazing rights, farming rights, etc. A Forest Stewardship Plan or Multi-resource Management Plan is required for a conservation easement. The landowner is then paid for the loss in the value of the property due to the restrictions. In this sale, the landowner keeps title to the land, which can then be sold, transferred, or held. The deed restrictions, however, are binding in perpetuity upon future owners.

If the proposed project is a Fee Simple (FS) Acquisition, the proposer must answer questions 15) through 17).

- 15) through 17) The Forest Legacy Program requires a government entity to hold title of the purchased property. **The only proposals for fee simple acquisitions that are eligible for the Alaska Forest Legacy Program are those with proof that a**

government entity has agreed to hold title. Proof may be a letter, memorandum of understanding, ordinance, or other official evidence about the government entity's willingness to hold title, and the documentation is included in Appendix B to the FLP Proposal Form.

If the proposed project is a conservation easement (CE), the proposer must answer 18) through 23).

18) through 23) The Forest Legacy Program requires a Forest Stewardship Plan or multi-resource management plan to be approved by the landowner and State Forester or designee prior to project closing; the Forest Legacy Program also requires that a government entity has agreed to manage the conservation easement and monitor that the property is being managed consistent to FLP requirements in perpetuity. **The only proposals for conservation easements that are eligible for the Alaska Forest Legacy Program are those where the landowner is willing to utilize a forest stewardship plan or multi-resource plan in the management of the property and those where a government entity has agreed to manage the conservation easement and monitor the property to ensure consistency with FLP requirements in perpetuity.** A signed statement from the landowner confirming the landowner's intent to utilize a forest stewardship plan or multi-resource plan in the management of the property is to be included in Appendix C of the FLP Proposal Form. Also, documentation of a government entity's agreement to manage the conservation easement and monitor the property to ensure consistency with FLP requirements in perpetuity is to be included in Appendix C to the FLP Proposal Form.

24) Tract Chart.

In the chart, provide the name of each tract, whether a fee simple transaction or conservation easement is being proposed for each tract, and the number of acres of each tract that are forested, open or cleared, have water, and the total acreage. Forestlands are defined as lands that can support 10% native tree cover under natural conditions, and that allow for management of one or more forest resources including timber, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, aesthetics, and other public benefits.

The total number of acres of all tracts should equal the number provided in response to question 13).

PART IV – PROJECT FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Forest Legacy Program will cover up to 75 percent of the total project costs, including the costs of appraisals, surveys, closing costs, title work and insurance, and other real estate transaction expenses. The other 25 percent must be matched by either the landowner or an assisting entity, such as a non-profit organization or non-federal government agency.

1) The proposer must complete a chart of projected funding information for all phases of the project. The proposer must provide the year of funding requested, name of each phase, and total project acres.

The FLP Federal Request is the federal financial contribution to the project and cannot be more than 75% of the total project cost.

The Non-Federal Match is the required 25% cost share provided by the landowner, non-profit organization, or state. The non-federal share may consist of (1) the value of land, or interest in land, dedicated to the FLP that is not paid for by the federal government, (2) non-federal costs associated with program implementation, and (3) other nonfederal costs associated with a grant or other agreement that meets FLP purpose.

Other Funding Sources is other federal, state or private funding not accounted for in the total project and not included in the 25% Non-Federal Match.

- 2) Letters documenting matching contributions are required as part of the proposal and must be included in Appendix D to the FLP Proposal Form. Letters showing the organization's financial commitment must be specific to the proposed acquisition and must be prepared on letterhead, signed, and dated. **Note: Proposals without letters documenting matching contributions are not eligible for the Forest Legacy Program.**

PART V – PROPOSED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A narrative description of the property and project is required. The description should address the property's general location, position in the landscape, description of the property, and, if appropriate, its contribution to a larger project.

The description should include reasons why this property should be funded based on the August 23, 2002 Alaska Forest Legacy Program Assessment of Need, which can be found on the following webpage: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/flp/ak-aon.pdf>

The description should also present a compelling case as to why the State of Alaska should include the property in its list of FLP projects for national consideration. Note that the State also prioritizes the pursuit of grant funds consistent with the criteria identified at http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/reclands/grant_screening_criteria_final.pdf

The narrative description of the property is limited to three 8" X 11" sheets of paper at font size 10. A description that does not adhere to these limits will not be accepted.

Note: If the director of DNR Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation forwards the proposal to the national FLP competition, the project description will need to be rewritten by the proposer, with consultation from the Alaska FLP Coordinator. Information about a property nominated for FLP consideration must be entered into a special federally-sponsored database called Forest Legacy Information System (FLIS). FLIS has space limitations: **FLIS restricts the project description to 1100 characters, including spaces and punctuation.**

PART VI – BOLSTERING ALASKA'S ASSESSMENT OF NEED

Alaska's Assessment of Need includes a number of goals and objectives to be accomplished by the Forest Legacy Program. The information requested in this section provides an opportunity for the proposer to explain how the property will help the State meet its FLP goals and objectives.

Timber Management Opportunity

Goal One (1) is to protect environmentally important forest areas threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. The property can only be acquired from a willing owner. Additionally, the property must have a strong likelihood of being converted to a non-forest use within ten years, the property may remain forested but ownership is likely to become fragmented within ten years, or the property's development would threaten important ecological processes and/or natural lands recreation values of adjacent or nearby land already under conservation or forest management.

- 1) In the space provided in the FLP Proposal Form, describe the property's timber management opportunities. In this description, use figures provided in Part III related to acreage of forested land, such as the percentage of forested acres and percentage of commercial quality forested acres. Also provide any available qualifying data that will support this goal.

Habitat Protection

Goal Two (2) is to protect important fish and wildlife habitat and maintain habitat connectivity, habitat diversity, and related values needed to ensure biological diversity and healthy fish and

wildlife populations. The FLP program places special emphasis on properties that contain significant habitat for native species and properties that support species requiring large, specialized and/or diverse habitat areas to maintain healthy populations; are critical to important stages in wildlife and fish life cycles (e.g., denning, migration, hibernation, calving, etc.); support rare, threatened or endangered species; and support species that have economic importance to Alaska communities. A nominated property should also contain a diversity of habitats and corridors that link habitats or areas that reduce biological isolation, buffer or enhance areas of high biological significance; and be used by migratory species for resting and feeding.

- 2) In the space provided in the FLP Proposal Form, describe the fish and wildlife habitat located on the property.

Recreation Opportunities

Goal Three (3) is to protect and enhance existing natural lands recreation opportunities throughout the Forest Legacy Area and to create new opportunities for natural lands recreation, especially near communities and existing roads.

- 3) In the space provided in the FLP Proposal Form, describe how the property protects an area currently used for natural lands recreation from fragmentation, incompatible adjacent uses or loss of access; enhances an existing natural lands recreation area by providing new or improved access or recreational opportunities; and/or provides new or enhanced recreational opportunities that are (in order of priority) accessible by an existing road or roads, accessible by boat, or accessible by plane.

Buffering, Protection and Enhancement of Conservation System Units

Goal Four (4) is to buffer, protect and enhance the natural ecosystem functions and natural lands recreation value of lands in conservation system units. Many of Alaska's state and national parks and forests, wildlife refuges and other designated conservation lands contain in-holdings or are adjacent to lands that are privately owned. Protection of the surrounding or adjacent properties may remove risks to the ecological functions and recreational values of the existing conservation lands.

- 4) In the space provided in the FLP Proposal Form, identify whether or not the property is located within, is adjacent to, or compliments an existing conservation unit, and how its protection would buffer, protect or provide opportunities to enhance the natural ecosystem function or natural land recreation value of that unit.

Forest Fragmentation

Goal Five (5) of the program is to prevent forest fragmentation.

- 5) In the space provided in the FLP Proposal Form, describe how the property provides a link between other forested areas, or contains large, contiguous forested area, and how protection of the property would prevent subdivision that would otherwise likely occur within ten years.

Importance to Alaska's Communities

Goal Six (6) is to protect areas important to Alaska's communities for water supplies, traditional uses, and economic purposes.

- 6) In the space provided in the FLP Proposal Form, describe how protection of the property would help community water supplies, would support traditional uses, would preserve scenic and other values, and if the property has trails, boat landings or other features that help provide a transportation and/or recreational link between communities. Include how protection of the property would economically benefit local, natural lands recreation-based businesses or a community, how it would provide environmental education or research opportunities or "forested greenspace" near communities or provide landscape linkages, or

protect a scenic viewshed in or near a community or significant transportation corridor.

Protection of River Systems, Wetlands, Coastal Areas

Goal Seven (7) is to protect river systems, wetlands, coastal areas and their associated hydrologic functions and upland habitats.

- 7) In the space provided in the FLP Proposal Form, describe how the property contains or is upland of a river, stream, wetland, or marine shore; has extensive river, stream or marine shoreline; contains part of a 100-year flood plain; contains a minimum 50-foot buffer of trees along shorelines as a sediment buffer; includes or is adjacent to a designated scenic river, stream or wetland; contains or is adjacent to ecologically significant wetlands such as isolated bays, estuaries, bogs, depression meadows and ponds, or includes the surface watershed or the ground water aquifer of a public or community water supply.

PART VII – FLP CORE CRITERIA

FLP core criteria provide the basis for evaluation and ranking at the regional and national levels and include:

- a) importance of the forested property, (30 points max)
- b) threat to conversion to non-forested use, (30 points max)
- c) strategic importance, (30 points max) and
- d) project readiness. (5 points max)

In the space provided in the FLP Proposal Form, provide a minimum of five (5) individual bullets or points (i.e., *impressive arguments, facts or details*) for each of the core criteria that describe the public benefits gained from the protection and management of the property. State, regional and national FLP reviewers will score proposals on the FLP core criteria, therefore, the proposer should articulate the special qualities and value of the proposed project by crafting compelling bullets in this section.

To be competitive at the national level, a property must have a high threat of being converted to non-forest use within the next 10 years. Be sure to provide strong evidence that the property being nominated is about to be developed or will be fragmented. Equally important are benefits that the parcel may provide to threatened or endangered species (T&E), state species of concern, the greater ecosystem and larger conservation efforts, adjacent conservation system units, contiguous habitat, migration corridors, water quality and any unique geologic, cultural or historical features. References to supporting documents or plans lend credibility to statements made. Examples of well regarded proposals can be found on the websites previously mentioned.

More than one bullet may be written for each numbered item below, and there is no limit to the number of bullets. Examples of bullets from funded FLP projects across the nation may be requested from the Alaska FLP coordinator or on the FLP Proposal Help web page.

Because each of the bullets must be entered in FLIS, each bullet for Importance and Threatened is limited to 255 characters, including spaces and punctuation. Each bullet for Strategic is limited to 600 characters, including spaces and punctuation. Bulleted items that do not adhere to this limit will not be accepted and, as a result, will negatively impact the proposal's competitiveness.

Importance (30 Points)

- 1) Productive forest land (e.g., *forest productivity, soils, site information, etc.*):
- 2) Suitability for resource production (e.g., *long-term potential as working forest, commodity production, etc.*):
- 3) Wildlife and habitat benefit (e.g., *discuss benefits, diversity, identify species, connectivity, plant communities, threatened and endangered species, state species of concern, etc.*):

- 4) Contains critical habitat (e.g., *federally recognized species, state species, etc.*):
- 5) Ecological community and connectivity values (e.g., *a property may have other exceptional ecological conditions important to the area, such as geology, proximity to public lands, etc.*):
- 6) Water quality protection (e.g., *priority watershed, aquifer recharge, effects tributaries/streams, riparian areas, shellfish, etc.*):
- 7) Fisheries (e.g., *presence of important species, spawning, rearing, etc.*):
- 8) Recreational values (e.g., *public recreation opportunities are defined as those having non-commercial and non-landowner users, such as subsistence hunting and fishing, hiking, biking, x-country skiing, dog mushing, boating, rock and ice climbing, etc.*):
- 9) Scenic values (e.g., *scenic aspects of a natural resource area may often be subjective. Describe the special qualities that make this property stand out as a scenic resource, such as lakes, mountains, glaciers, waterfalls, seasonal palette of colors, flora and fauna, fences, etc.*):
- 10) Known cultural, historical, or prehistoric areas (e.g., *material evidence of previous human occupation, such as petroglyphs, house pits, midden, bedrock mortars; other historical features, such as cemeteries, pioneer homesites, old grist and sawmill sites, cabins, mining sites and equipment, saltry and cannery sites, military sites, etc.; and natural landscape features.*):

Threatened (30 Points)

- 11) Identify development potential/threat (e.g., *segregated, planned development, etc.*):
- 12) Potential for conversion (e.g., *nearby property has been converted, owner has been approached by developers, etc.*):
- 13) In some cases a property might be subject to a zoning designation. If this is true for the proposed property, please provide a brief explanation.
- 14) What is the land use of all adjacent lands?
- 15) What will likely happen if the property is not conserved within ten years?

Strategic (30 Points)

- 16) The project supports federal/state conservation efforts/plans (i.e., *state park management plans, watershed plans, Tongass Forest Plan, coastal zone management plans, species conservation plans, etc.*):
- 17) The project complements state and/or federal land investments in the area (e.g., *land base, land management, land purchase, conservation programs, etc.*):
- 18) The project is part of an organized land conservation effort (e.g., *initiatives by local, regional, and/or state entities, other conservation strategy or campaign, etc.*):

Readiness

- 19) Landowner commitment (e.g., *willing seller, status of negotiations, written or verbal agreements, purchase options, etc.*):
- 20) Status of transaction/due diligence (e.g., *appraisal, conservation easement document, purchase and sale agreement, environmental assessment, baseline documentation, title research, management plan, etc.*):

Points are awarded for completed appraisal, purchase agreement, option agreement, Phase I, title review etc.. It is important to describe ALL completed due diligence efforts.

21) Describe sources and amounts of non-federal match:

22) Describe sources of other federal or private funds and amounts:

PART VIII – SUPPORTING PARTIES

A strong proposal will have documented evidence of community and financial support from individuals and groups, associations, partners, agencies (local, state, tribal and/or federal). List each supporting party and include a letter from that party in Appendix E of the FLP Proposal Form. The only supporting parties that will be considered by the Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee and by the reviewers at the regional and national levels will be those evidenced by a written letter.

PART IX – MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

At least one aerial map and one color photograph are required as part of the proposal and should be included in Appendix F to the FLP Proposal Form. More maps may help the proposal's competitive edge. The map and photograph should show the property, project area and adjacent ownership. A map(s) should provide information to support and emphasize conservation benefits, threats, strategic importance, and adjacent landscape conservation planning efforts.

Maps and photographs are critical. It is important that the map depicting the proposal clearly place the parcel in context. Given the size of our state and the size of various land management units this is a challenging task but one that is clearly worth the time required.

PART X – APPENDICES

A checklist has been provided for the proposer to ensure that applicable appendices have been included in the proposal. The proposer is strongly encouraged to review these instructions and double check to make sure no required appendices are omitted. Eligibility for the Forest Legacy Program is based on the proposer submitting a complete FLP Proposal Form.

Please note that it is important to describe your proposed project in a manner that will resonate with individuals unfamiliar with Alaska. For instance, while you may consider grizzly bears to be commonplace, a photo of a grizzly bear on the subject property will resonate more firmly than a bullet that says grizzly bears travel through the subject property. Maps and photographs are critical. It is important that the map depicting the proposal clearly place the parcel in context. Given the size of our state and the size of various land management units this is a challenging task but one that is clearly worth the time required. Should your proposal reach the national level it will be evaluated by individuals evaluating anywhere from 100 to 150 proposals. Maps, photos, and well-chosen words within the Core FLP Criteria bullets are critical.

ELIGIBILITY AND SCORING CRITERIA

Each proposal must meet eligibility criteria in order to be considered for funding. These criteria include:

- The landowner or legal agent has signed the Testimony and Signature page
- The property is located within Alaska's Assessment of Need
- For a fee simple acquisition, documentation is included that a government entity has agreed to hold title.
- For a conservation easement, documentation is included that the landowner is willing to utilize a forest stewardship plan or multi-resource plan in the management of the property.
- For a conservation easement, documentation is included that a government entity has agreed to manage the conservation easement and monitor the property to ensure consistency with FLP requirements in perpetuity.
- Letters documenting matching contributions, as described in the instructions, have been included.
- Map(s) and color photograph(s) have been included.

Proposals meeting the eligibility threshold will be reviewed and scored by the Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee. The Committee will base their scores on the how well each proposal helps the State meet its FLP goals and objectives as specified in the Assessment of Need and how well each proposal meets the FLP Core Criteria (PART VI and PART VII respectively of the FLP Proposal Form). This committee will make recommendations to the Director of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, and the Director will decide which proposals will be submitted to the Forest Legacy Program's regional level of funding competition.

SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSAL

- 1) Submit one (1) original project proposal and three (3) paper copies of the proposal (including color maps and photos) to:

Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Forest Legacy Program
Attn: Steve Neel, Grants Administrator
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1380
Anchorage, AK 99501-3561

- 2) Send an electronic copy of the project proposal to carol.fries@alaska.gov.
- 3) When submitting an electronic copy of the project proposal, maps and photos must be submitted as .jpg image files.
- 4) Project proposals must be postmarked by July 31, 2008.