

FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

PURPOSE OF FLP

- To ascertain and protect environmentally important forest areas that are threatened to conversion to non-forest uses.
- Purposes include the protection of important scenic, cultural, fish, wildlife, and recreational resources, riparian areas and other ecological values.
- Traditional forest uses, including timber management as well as hunting, fishing, hiking and similar recreational uses are consistent with purposes of the FLP.
- Both purchased and donated lands and interests in lands through the use of conservation easements and fee-simple purchase are used to acquire forested land meeting FLP purposes from willing sellers or donors.
- Forestland protection is accomplished by funding the highest ranked projects as determined through a national competition and Congressional approval of the FLP budget.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPOSED PROJECTS

- Property must be in Forest Legacy Area as determined by AON
- Property must meet core FLP criteria (importance of forestland, threat to conversion to non-forest use, strategic importance, and project readiness)
- Willing seller
- Match is 25% of TPC
- Government entity must hold title
- If CE, owner and project sponsor must agree to manage the property according to an approved Forest Stewardship Plan or multi-resource management plan.

INITIAL SCREENING CRITERIA

AK FLP program requires the following information in the proposal:

- Name of property
- Location of property; in AON
- Legal description
- Property value and what value is based on. Date of appraisal, if appraised.
- Encumbrances
- Ownership of subsurface or mineral estate
- If there's legal access to property
- Description and acreage of any structures

- Hazardous materials or waste
- # of tracts
- Total acreage; chart of acreage of proposed tracts
- If this is a phased project
- Project financial information (federal funds being requested are the following federal fiscal year's appropriation)
- Project description
- Information about how the project bolsters Alaska's AON goals
- Information about how the project meets FLP core criteria
- Letters from partners and stakeholders
- Maps and color photographs

For fee-simple acquisitions:

- Government entity that will hold title
- Documentation that this entity is willing to hold title

For conservation easements:

- If a Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) or multi-resource management plan (MRMP) has been developed and approved by the landowner and State Forester or designee
- Documentation that the landowner is willing to manage the property according to FSP or MRMP
- Documentation that a government entity has agreed to manage the CE and monitor the property in perpetuity

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION AND FUNDING PROCESS

State prioritization and submission:

- Proposals undergo a threshold review. Those meeting threshold criteria advance to the Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (FSCC)
- FSCC reviews and evaluates proposals, authorizing statutes and other relevant direction and policy, and submits recommendations to director of Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR)
- DPOR director makes decision and sends prioritized list of proposals to FLP Regional Manager

USFS regional review:

- USFS Regions review State priorities and improves project viability, facilitates the national project selection process and submits projects to the FLP national office for funding consideration

National review:

- DC FLP office develops a prioritized national project list by convening a panel
- Project evaluations are based on national core criteria of Importance, Threatened, and Strategic

OMB and Congress

- DC FLP office submits a prioritized project list to OMB for funding consideration in the President's budget
- Appropriate House and Senate Committees and Subcommittees reviews FLP budget
- Congress passes final federal budget

SCHEDULE

- July 31, 2007: Proposals are due to DPOR Recreation
- By end of September: FSCC reviews/evaluates proposals and provides recommendations to DPOR director
- By October 1: DPOR director determines Alaska's final rank order and submits a prioritized list to USFS Regional FLP Manager.
- By October 1: Project data must be entered in FLIS
- January, 2008: National committee review/ranks projects and DC FLP office submits to OMB