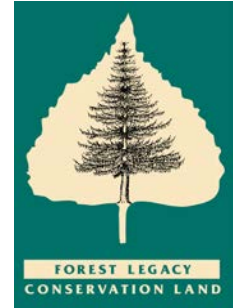




## **2021 FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM** **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**



### **Funding Summary:**

The Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) is currently accepting proposals for eligible projects for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 (October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021) Forest Legacy Program (FLP) funding. FLP assists private landowners with protecting working forests from being developed for non-forest uses through the creation of conservation easements and the direct acquisition of property. Nevada may submit up to three projects for national consideration – not to exceed a total funding request of \$10,000,000. Any single project may not exceed \$7,000,000 in requested funding.

Working forests are valuable because of their ability to provide sustainable timber products, high quality wildlife habitat, watershed and natural resource protection, and multiple recreational opportunities. Development and fragmentation of these forested areas threatens their forest-related benefits to current and future generations. Forest Legacy funding protects and conserves private forest lands that maximize public conservation values. NDF administers the federally funded program with oversight from the USDA Forest Service (USFS).

Additional information about the Legacy Program can be found at: <https://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/private-land/forest-legacy>.

### **Proposal Submission Deadline:**

Proposals must be received **by 5:00 PM (PDT), Friday, August 16, 2019**. Late proposals will not be accepted.

### **Primary Contact Information:**

**Heather Giger, NDF Legacy Program Coordinator, 775-684-2552 or [hdgiger@forestry.nv.gov](mailto:hdgiger@forestry.nv.gov).**

Please contact Program Coordinator, Heather Giger, with any questions about the FLP proposal process. Consultation with NDF staff prior to submitting an application is highly recommended to ensure that your proposal meets both state and federal FLP eligibility requirements.

### **Proposal Selection Process:**

Proposals will initially be reviewed by the Legacy Program Coordinator. Eligible proposals will be presented to the NDF [Advisory Committee](#) for evaluation and priority rankings. FLP proposals will be evaluated and prioritized based on the quality and completeness of each application. The Advisory Committee will select up to three proposals for development and submission to the USFS national selection committee in late November 2019. Projects that have been selected for funding will be announced in the spring/summer of 2020.

All applicants must complete the following forms: **Part I – Forest Legacy Program Project Nomination Form** and **Part II - Project Brief** to be considered for funding.

## Application Instructions:

Submit the application in a formatted Word document. Other formats will not be accepted. Follow the specific instructions for each section of the application and address each requested criteria in brief and direct statements. Character limitations are enforced at the federal level, requiring the length of applications to be restricted. Convincing points should be as extensive as possible, but should not repeat facts or previous statements. Both State and USFS evaluators base their project rankings on quality, not quantity.

Maps and photos are required as part of the proposal, and should show the **Tract, Project Area, and Adjacent Ownership**. Maps should provide information to support and emphasize conservation benefits, threats, strategic importance, and adjacent landscape conservation planning efforts.

**Tract:** Parcel or area being considered for inclusion in the Forest Legacy Program in FFY 2021. Please describe the type of funding required (either Direct Acquisition or Conservation Easement) in your proposal and project budget.

**Project Area:** Your request for federal funding may be part of a larger landscape project or conservation strategy that may require phases and/or multiple sources of funding to complete. If so, please describe the entire project area and show how the nominated tract fits within the project. List all sources of funding for the Project Area.

**Adjacent Ownership:** Label/describe the properties surrounding the project area. Are they public lands such as, National Forests or Parks, State Parks, open spaces owned and maintained by local government entities, or privately owned? If privately owned, what are the general zoning restrictions? Are housing developments an imminent threat? Project areas that connect with other public properties and fit into larger conservation strategies are more likely to receive funding than isolated parcels.

Submit applications **electronically** to [hdgiger@forestry.nv.gov](mailto:hdgiger@forestry.nv.gov). Include maps and photos – JPEG format preferred. Supplementary hard-copy documents may be mailed to:

Nevada Division of Forestry  
ATTN: Heather Giger  
2478 Fairview Drive  
Carson City, NV 89701

## General Recommendations:

- Proofread thoroughly and write concisely.
- Quality maps are essential and can visually demonstrate critical points.
- Many projects that score in the middle range present good facts but miss opportunities to elaborate on the negative implications of development and the benefits that the project area offers. Fully address the importance of your project on a national scale. Never assume that the reader understands the value of any given project area. This is especially true of federal evaluators that may be unfamiliar with Nevada.
- High ranking projects support an array of conservation values while demonstrating community interest and involvement.
- Each year many worthy projects compete for limited funds. Make a compelling argument for why your project should be selected.

## FLP Eligibility Criteria:

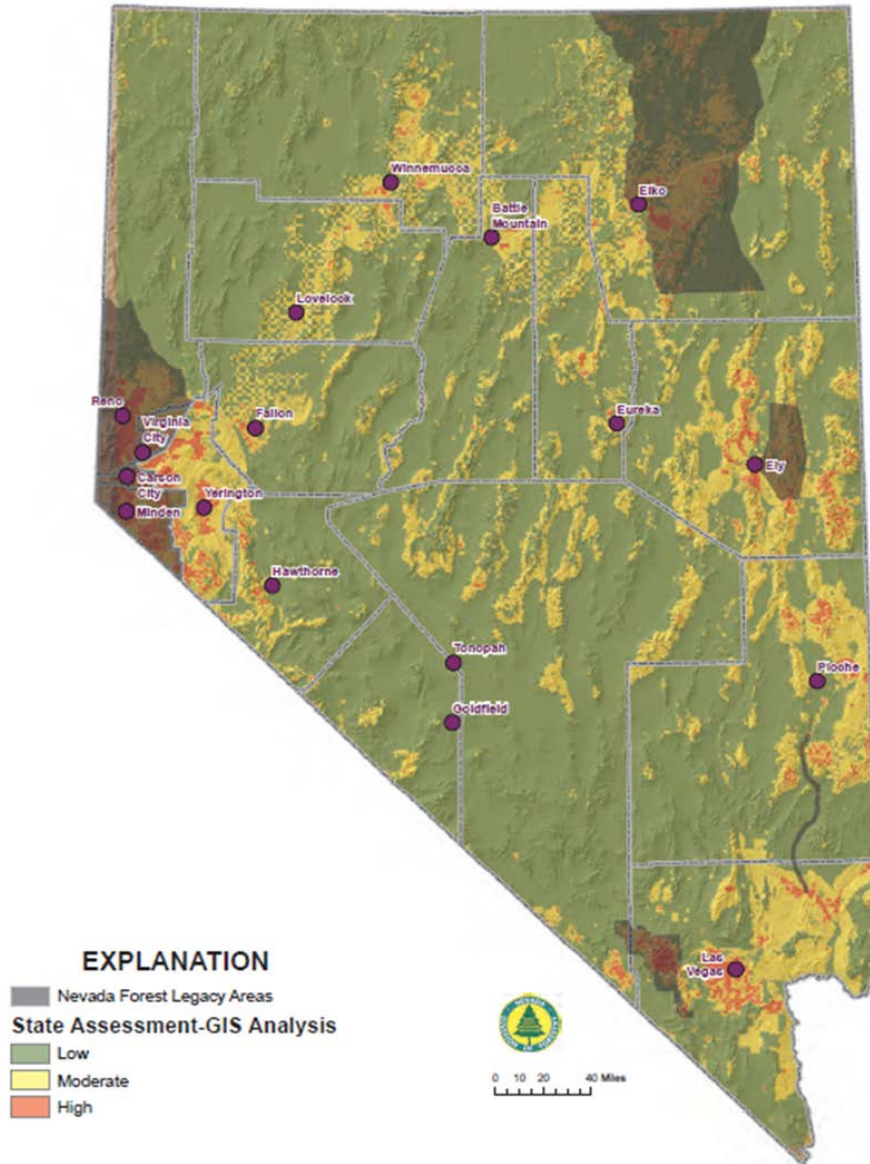
- Projects must be located within a designated Nevada Forest Legacy Area, or other high priority landscape, as identified in the Nevada Forest Action Plan.

- Identified Forest Legacy Areas (refer to **Figure 1** below):
  - Tahoe/Sierra Front
  - Mt. Charleston
  - Schell Creek
  - Muddy River
  - Jarbidge
- If you are uncertain if your property location is eligible, please contact the Legacy Program Coordinator for verification.
- Project must be sponsored by a land trust organization or local/tribal government agency.
- Project property must be privately owned.
- Project must be a minimum of five (5) acres in size.
- Projects must include a minimum 25% cash, in-kind, or property match that is NOT from a federal source. The FLP will fund up to 75% of total program costs (including acquisition costs plus other allowable expenses).
- Project area must be 75% forested.
- Landowners must agree to follow federal FLP requirements and implementation rules, which include, but are not limited to:
  - Accepting a land appraisal that meets standard federal appraisal guidelines.
  - Managing the property under a Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) approved through the NDF Forest Stewardship Program.
  - Agreeing that a funded project will not receive payment until federal funding has been secured.
  - Allowing annual conservation easement compliance monitoring.
  - Granting a perpetual conservation easement to the State of Nevada – or a State of Nevada designee – with the stated purposes of maintaining, enhancing, or conserving the forestland and conservation values of the property.
  - Abiding by additional conservation easement restrictions placed on construction, mineral extraction, installation of utilities, and any other activities that compromise conservation values within the easement.

**Criteria that Enhance Application Rankings:**

- Project Readiness – including a completed Forest Stewardship Plan, draft conservation easement, completed title report, and recently conducted mineral, wildlife, and/or cultural surveys.
- A non-federal match greater than 25%.
- Large contiguous project areas. Parcels smaller than 100 acres will rank as low priorities unless there are significantly unique environmental values to conserve.
- Designated public access uses, except in cases where the primary goal is protection of threatened and endangered species.
- Connectivity with other public or private protected lands.
- Contribution to recognized conservation strategies/initiatives and local economies.
- Protection of cultural, scenic or other public resources.
- Imminent threat of conversion to non-forest uses.

## Map of Nevada Forest Legacy Areas



**Figure 1.** Location of Forest Legacy Areas as described in the Nevada Forest Action Plan.