

FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

Protecting Private Forest Lands From Conversion to Non-Forest Uses

Development of the nation's forested areas poses an increasing threat to maintaining the integrity of our country's valuable forest lands. Intact forest lands supply timber products, wildlife habitat, soil and watershed protection, aesthetics, and recreational opportunities. However, as these areas are fragmented and disappear, so do the benefits they provide. While local governments commonly guide development away from the most sensitive areas through traditional land use controls (like zoning and performance standards), sometimes these measures are not sufficient to fully protect the forested component of our natural resource base.

The U.S. Forest Service administers the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) in cooperation with the Nevada Division of Forestry. FLP encourages partnerships with local governments and land trusts, recognizing the important contributions landowners, communities, and private organizations make to conservation efforts. FLP includes a state grant option that allows States a greater role in implementing the program.

Protecting Private Forest Lands

FLP is designed to encourage the protection of privately owned forest lands. FLP is an entirely voluntary program. To maximize the public benefits it achieves, the program focuses on:

- acquisition of partial interests in privately owned forest lands,
- development of landowners forest conservation plans, and
- encouragement and support of acquisition of conservation easements, which are legally binding agreements transferring a negotiated set of property rights from one party to another, without removing the property from private ownership. FLP conservation easements restrict development, require sustainable forestry practices, and protect other values.

Nevada Division of Forestry's FLP works with private, local government, and Federal programs to focus on conservation in two ways:

- Directly supporting property acquisition. FLP funded acquisitions serve public purposes identified by participating states and agreed to by the landowner.
- Supporting efforts to acquire donated conservation easements.

Eligibility

Participation in Forest Legacy is limited to private forest landowners. To qualify, landowners are required to prepare a multiple resource management (forest stewardship) plan as part of the conservation easement acquisition. The federal government may fund up to 75% of project costs, with at least 25% coming from private, State or local sources. In addition to gains associated with the sale or donation of property rights, many landowners also benefit from reduced taxes associated with limits placed on land use.

Five areas in Nevada are eligible for Forest Legacy Projects:

Sierra Front
Muddy River Area
Schell Creek Mountains Wilderness Area
Mt. Charleston
Jarbidge Wilderness Area

For more information about NDF's Forest Legacy Program, please contact:

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