

Landowner Application

Minnesota Forests For the Future Program and the Minnesota Forest Legacy Program

August 2009

Due Date: September 30, 2009



General Information:

The Minnesota Forests for the Future Program (MFF) was established by the Minnesota Legislature to protect and conserve private forests throughout the state that in combination with public forestlands provides one or more of the following public benefits:

1. public recreational access;
2. timber production and other economic opportunities
3. ecological values including habitat protection

The Minnesota Forest Legacy Program has been established in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service to protect privately owned forest from being converted to non-forest uses.

Both programs use federal, state, and private funds to purchase conservation easements or fee simple interest in land in order to protect and conserve private forestland throughout the state.

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is available to all individuals regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, age, sexual orientation, membership or activity in a local commission, or disability. Discrimination inquiries should be sent to MN-DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4031; or the Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

For more information contact:
Richard Peterson
Forest Legacy
Coordinator
Minnesota Department
of Natural Resources,
Division of Forestry
1810-30th St NW
Faribault, MN 55021
507-333-2012 x222 or
email at
Richard.Peterson
@state.mn.us.

To learn more about the
Minnesota Forests for
the Future Program
and/or the Minnesota
Forest Legacy Program
visit the DNR website at:
<http://www.state.mn.us/forestlegacy/index.html>

Eligibility Criteria

1. Eligible land includes: a. forest land; b. desirable land adjacent to forest land, or c. land beneficial to forest resource protection.
2. Eligible land must be five (5) acres in size or larger.
3. Eligible land must not be set aside, enrolled, or diverted under another federal or state program unless enrollment in the Minnesota Forests for the Future Program would

provide additional conservation benefits or a longer term than under the current federal or state program.

4. Eligible projects must provide one or more of the following public benefits:
- Opportunities for public recreational access
 - Provide timber and other forest products that help support forest-based jobs and industries.
 - Provide ecological, fish and wildlife habitat, other cultural and environmental values
 - Contribute to protection of large forest blocks.

NOTE: All conservation easements and interests in lands acquired for the Minnesota Forests for the Future Program and the Minnesota Forest Legacy are perpetual.

The information requested below will be used by the Project Review Committee to evaluate the tract you propose to enroll in the Minnesota Forests for the Future Program and/or the Minnesota Forest Legacy Program. This information may also be used to rank Forest Legacy applications nationally. Information provided in this application may be released to the public, at the discretion of the State. You may submit any additional information (such as a survey or appraisal) that you believe might assist us in our review of your proposal. Attach additional pages if necessary. If you have any questions please call the Forest Legacy Program Coordinator at 507/333-2012 x222. Please note that all submitted materials become the property of the State of Minnesota and are non-returnable. Disclosure of information on this form is voluntary.

Please return the completed application and supporting material **by September 30, 2009** to:

Richard Peterson
Forest Legacy Program Coordinator
Division of Forestry
1810-30th St. NW
Faribault, MN 55021

Office Use Only Date Received: _____ Received By: _____ Tract #: _____ Project Name: _____
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Property Information

1) Property Location and Acres

County: _____

Township: _____

Section(s) _____

Total Property Acres: _____ Acres you are interested in enrolling: _____

2)	Owner	Additional Owner	Agent
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Name:	_____	_____	_____

Address:	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____

Day Phone:()	_____	()	_____	()	_____
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Evening Phone:()	_____	()	_____	()	_____
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3) Property address if different from above:

Address: _____

Name of person in residence (if applicable): _____

4) Are there any known land title defects or encumbrances or liens on the property including mortgages, easements, contracts, leases or outstanding rights of record, (e.g. industrial contracts with landowners for management, timber rights, mineral rights, etc.) or are you participating in any of the following programs: MN 2C tax program, Sustainable Forestry Incentive Act, Conservation Reserve Program, Reinvest in Minnesota Program, etc ?

YES _____

NO _____

If yes, please identify:

5) Are there any permanent improvements such as houses, barns, sheds, dams, antennas, all season roads, utility rights of way with structures, pipeline rights of way, etc. on the property? YES ___NO ___

If yes, please explain and show on map:

6) To the best of your knowledge, are there any known present or past environmental hazards or waste on the property or abutting properties? YES _____ NO _____

If yes, please explain:

7) Tract Description (acreage)

Forest Land

Productive Forest Land _____

Nonproductive Forest Land _____
(rocky slopes, wet soils, etc)

Total Forested _____

Non-Forested Land

Open Field/Agricultural _____

Water/Wetland _____

Roads _____

Gravel Pits _____

Other (specify) _____

Total Non-Forested _____

Total Ownership Acreage _____

Acreage Proposed for Easement _____

8) How much frontage does the property have on lakes, rivers and streams?

<u>Water Body Name</u>	<u>Frontage (feet)</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

9) Please describe the characteristics of your property and the current uses of your property. Include a brief description of the topography, soils, forest types, trails and roads, and the kinds of activities that occur on the property (such as hunting, residential use, trail riding, farming, etc) and a brief overview of the lands surrounding your property (i.e. small private tracts, public ownerships, mixed ownership).

The following resource characteristics should be described as they pertain to this tract?

- Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Public Trails or other Public Use Areas Located on the Property or Adjacent to the Property.
- Riparian Areas
- Rare, Threatened and/or Endangered Species or Natural Communities
- Unique or Unusual Species or Natural Communities
- Part of a Large Contiguous Block of Forest Land
- Cultural Resources
- Scenic Resources
- Timber Management
- Water and Wetland Features
- Other Ecological Values or Public Benefits

Description of the Property, Current Uses and its Resource Values. Include documentation of information sources if appropriate (attach additional sheets if necessary):

10) Is there a written forest stewardship plan or multi-resource plan on this tract?

YES _____ NO _____

11) How would you rate your property for production of wood products?

Above Average _____ Average _____ Below Average _____

12a) Identify the threat of conversion of this parcel to non-forest use, for example are there nearby or adjacent housing developments, large parcel subdivisions that suggest development pressure is occurring in the area:

12b) Describe tract characteristics that make it suitable or desirable for conversion/development (soils, terrain, views, road or water frontage, etc).

13a) Does the property lie within, or in close proximity to a high priority conservation area as identified by a local, state or federal program or initiative? YES _____ NO _____

If yes, please explain:

13b) Is the property in close proximity to local, State, or Federally owned conservation land (e.g. National Forest, State Forest, State Park, National Wildlife Refuge, County Forest)? YES _____ NO _____

If yes please explain:

13c) Is the property in close proximity for privately owned & protected conservation land? YES _____ NO _____

If yes please explain:

14a) The Minnesota Forests for the Future program and the Minnesota Forest Legacy Program promote public access. One of the primary purposes of the program is for the State to obtain public pedestrian access onto Minnesota Forest for the Future and Forest Legacy properties for activities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, cross country skiing, and also snowmobiling and/or other motorized uses on designated roads and trails where these uses are appropriate and consistent with other purposes of the programs. Please explain any limitations to public recreational access on this property that you would request in this project.

14b) One purpose of the Minnesota Forests for the Future Program and the Minnesota Forest Legacy Program is to retain properties in perpetuity as a sustainable tract of land for the production of forest products. Please explain how this property is consistent with that purpose.

14c) One of the purposes of the Minnesota Forests for the Future Program and the Minnesota Forest Legacy Program is conservation of fish and wildlife habitat; biodiversity; rare plants and animals and their habitats; native plant communities; lakes, streams, riparian areas and the quality of groundwater and water resources; and scenic and cultural resources. Please explain how this property contributes to that purpose.

14d) One of the purposes of the Minnesota Forests for the Future Program and the Minnesota Forest Legacy Program is to protect large blocks of forest land. How does your property contribute the protection of large forest blocks?

15) What rights will be retained or sold by the owner and how will those rights further the stated purposes of the Minnesota Forests for the Future Program and /or the Minnesota Forest Legacy Program? Note: Checking agree, disagree or unsure does not commit you at this time, however it may be used by the Project Review Committee when evaluating and prioritizing your parcel.

Agree Disagree Unsure

- _____ I'm willing to allow public access, including hunting and fishing by the general public.
- _____ I'm willing to allow non-motorized trails (hiking, cross-country skiing) on the property.
- _____ I'm willing to allow motorized uses (snowmobile, atv) on designated trails on the property.
- _____ I'm willing to restrict building or developments on the property.
- _____ I'm willing to restrict subdividing of the property.
- _____ I'm willing to follow sound forest management principals and an approved forest management plan (Forest Stewardship Plan) on my property when conducting forest management activities.

16a) Has there been an appraisal of the property and if so would you be willing to supply a copy of the appraisal to the State (this document would be kept confidential at applicants request)? Yes _____ No _____

16b) Estimate fair market value of the rights being sold (fee or easement): \$_____

16c) How was this value determined (appraisal, landowner estimate, realtor)?

17) Are there sources and amounts of match funds for these projects? Please describe.

18. What organizations support this project?

Testimony and Permission: The information in this application is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I (we), as the landowner, authorize and approve inspection, appraisal, and survey of the property being offered. I (we) agree to allow staff from Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Project Review Committee to inspect the property as needed at any reasonable time for purposes of this application. I (we) understand I will be notified in advance of all visits. I (we) also understand that during any appraisal of this property, the appropriate federal and/or state appraisal standards will be met and I (we) will be informed of the fair market value of the property and that a title search will be made to ensure the title is free and clear and/or that title insurance is secured in the name of the State for the full value of the protected property. This property will not be purchased if negotiations do not reach an amicable agreement or if the property does not meet the needs of the Minnesota Forests for the Future Program and/or the Minnesota Forest Legacy Program. Conservation easements will only be purchased from willing sellers and eminent domain will not be used. I (we) also certify and attest that all owners of these rights identified in this proposal for acquisition are aware of this application and approve its submission.

SIGNATURES ON THIS APPLICATION FORM SHALL NOT CREATE ANY ENFORCEABLE LEGAL RIGHTS ON BEHALF OF ANY APPLICANT OR TITLE HOLDER, NOR DOES SIGNING CONSTITUTE A COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF ANY PROPERTY OWNER TO SELL THE PROPERTY OR OF THE STATE TO PURCHASE THE PROPERTY. IT IS MEANT ONLY TO INDICATE THAT ALL PARTIES ARE AWARE OF THE PROJECT, THE TERMS OF THE PROJECT, AND THAT IT IS BEING PREPARED FOR SUBMISSION TO THE MINNESOTA FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE PROGRAM AND/OR THE MINNESOTA FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM WITH THE ENDORSEMENT AND WILLINGNESS OF ALL PARTIES.

Signature of landowner(s) _____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

Please attach with this application the following:

1. Print a copy of application and sign.
(Remember to save a copy for your files.)
2. Warranty deed or other proof of ownership.
3. Current Forest Stewardship Plan if applicable.
4. Map and/or aerial photograph of property showing boundaries.
5. Letters of support from governments or organizations.
6. Photographs of your property.
7. Any other written comments you would like to add.

