



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY  
BUREAU OF PARKS AND LANDS  
22 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

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March 1, 2022

Dear Maine Landowner or Land Conservation Organization:

**The State of Maine is currently accepting applications to the Maine Forest Legacy Program from interested forest landowners. Interested parties should contact the Bureau of Parks and Lands by May 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss proposed projects and receive application details.**

What is the Forest Legacy Program? The Forest Legacy Program was created by Congress in 1990 to help landowners, state and local governments, and private land trusts identify and protect environmentally important forest lands that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. The program also ensures that forest lands remain available to contribute to a sustainable flow of wood products and provide an array of public benefits. This federally supported program funds up to 75 percent of the costs for acquisition of lands or conservation easements from willing landowners. The program requires that the State hold right, title or interest (through fee or conservation easement ownership) in any lands protected with Forest Legacy Program funds.

The Forest Legacy Program operates on a competitive basis, nationwide. Maine projects, selected through an evaluation process by an established Maine Forest Legacy Committee, are ultimately evaluated by a national panel against projects in 48 other states and territories. The program solicits proposals on an annual cycle. To be eligible for FY2024 funding, applicants must first contact the Bureau of Parks and Lands by May 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the proposed project. Full applications details will be provided following this initial contact.

Maine's Forest Legacy Program: Each state has established a program within this general umbrella program. Maine's Forest Legacy Program aims to prevent the conversion of Maine's forest to non-forest uses, thereby protecting an array of traditional forest uses and a wide range of public values that Maine's forest provides. Public values include the production of timber, fiber and other forest products; economic benefits from non-timber resources; public recreation opportunities, including tourism activities; high value plant and animal habitat as identified by state, regional, or federal programs; habitat for rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species; and rare or exemplary natural communities; water supply and watershed protection, and/or important riparian areas, wetlands, shorelines, or river systems; scenic resources; and historic/cultural/tribal resources of significance. Traditional forest uses can include, but are not limited to public access, timber harvesting, hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, camping, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, picnicking, boating, swimming, bicycling,

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snowmobiling, foraging, outdoor education and nature study including scientific and archeological research, and nature observation.

Since 1994, Maine has received more than \$76 million through the Forest Legacy Program and has permanently protected by fee or easement the public values and traditional forest uses of over 755,000 acres of Maine's forest. This has been accomplished through the completion of thirty-one projects located from York County to Aroostook County and ranging in size from 72 acres (a small inholding lot on Seboomook Lake) to 328,364 acres (the West Branch project).

How to Apply: You are being contacted because you hold a significant amount of forestland or work with forest landowners within the area designated in Maine as eligible for Forest Legacy Funding. To find out more about how to apply, please see the guiding document for Maine's Forest Legacy program, titled "February 2020 Final Modified Assessment of Need" which is available on the Maine Forest Legacy Program website: <http://www.maine.gov/dacf/forestlegacycommittee>

If you are interested in pursuing a Forest Legacy application, please review the Modified Assessment of Need document in its entirety; application guidelines and evaluation criteria begin on page 9. Funding requests may not exceed \$20 million. **Applicants should contact the Bureau by May 13<sup>th</sup>** to discuss proposed projects and receive further application details.

All applications will be evaluated by Maine's Forest Legacy Committee in order to develop a list of priority projects to forward to the U.S. Forest Service for consideration for fiscal year 2024 Program funding. Maine's projects must be submitted to the U.S. Forest Service by October 3, 2022. The Bureau is available to answer questions about the application process any time prior to the application deadline. Applicants will be invited to give a brief presentation about their project to the Maine Forest Legacy Committee at its summer meeting.

To discuss proposed projects, or for any questions about this call for projects or the Forest Legacy Program, please contact Liz Petruska, Director of Acquisitions and Planning at [liz.petruska@maine.gov](mailto:liz.petruska@maine.gov) or 207-557-0352. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Andy Cutko  
Director, Bureau of Parks and Lands