



WASHINGTON STATE DEPT OF
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**



FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM REQUESTS FOR FY 2024 IRA PROJECT PROPOSALS

INSTRUCTIONS

To nominate a tract of forestland into the State of Washington's Forest Legacy Program (FLP), review these instructions, visit the DNR and US Forest Service websites, and complete this project proposal.

DNR: <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/leaving-legacy-forests> (or enter Forest Legacy in the search box)

U.S. Forest Service: www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flp.shtml

Round 1 Project proposals are due by 5:00 PM, October 5, 2023

Round 2 Project proposals are due by 5:00 PM, April 4, 2024

Contacts: Mark Reed, project manager, 360-902-1408 or mark.reed@dnr.wa.gov
Robin Searl, program assistant, 360-280-1892 or robin.searl@dnr.wa.gov

We recommend consulting with the program staff before submitting an application to ensure that your proposal meets state and federal Forest Legacy requirements. In addition, successful applicants who receive funding will be required to sign the State's conservation easement document or accept Forest Legacy deed language for fee acquisitions. Templates are posted on the Forest Legacy website.

Selection Process: DNR will evaluate your proposal and prioritize the project for inclusion in the program based on the information you provide in the application. Part I is the nomination form and **Part II** is the **Project Brief**, which is the portion that will be scored based on the national criteria (see Scoring Guidance posted on the Forest Legacy web page). The Project Brief should reflect the goals of the Forest Legacy program found in the October 2004 State of Washington Assessment of Need publication available on the DNR website at http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/amp_fl_aon2004.pdf. Reading the FAQ document, also posted on the web page is also recommended. Each state and territory can submit up to five projects in each round for funding consideration within the following project types/category:

1. One Large Landscape project – *not to exceed \$50 million per project.*
2. One State-Tribal Partnership project – *not to exceed \$50 million per project.*
3. Three Strategic Small Tract projects – *not to exceed \$1.5 million per project.*

Instructions to Complete the Form and Brief: Please submit the application in a word processing format (not PDF), preferably MS Word. Read the specific instructions for each section of the application as character limits will apply when the information is entered into the federal database. If you choose, you may enter Part II of your application (the Project Brief)

directly into the federal Forest Legacy Information System (FLIS). To obtain a logon ID and instructions for this system contact Mark Reed.

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 FY 2024. Please describe the interest (Land Acquisition or Conservation Easement) to be purchased in your FY 2024 IRA Forest Legacy Program funding request. In describing benefits of the proposal focus on the specific tract.

FY24 IRA Changes

Core criteria and additional considerations remain the same, with only a few planned changes

- Alignment with Justice40 Initiative goals by adding emphasis on benefits for disadvantaged communities in the Importance and Strategic sections
- Incorporating Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (geoplatform.gov) data as an Additional Consideration to identify geographic alignment of proposed projects with disadvantaged communities (will offer separate learning event soon on this topic)
- Refinements to the readiness criteria – comparative market analysis is an eligibility requirement not part of the readiness score

Please send your application **electronically** to mark.reed@dnr.wa.gov. Include maps and photos in .jpg format files – any other format will be rejected. If you use FLIS, indicate that your project brief is available in that system. If you have hard-copy items you wish to mail, please address to Robin Searl at Department of Natural Resources, Conservation, Recreation & Transactions Division, PO Box 47014, Olympia, WA, 98504-7014.



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PART I

FY 2024 IRA FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM PROJECT NOMINATION FORM

OWNERSHIP INFORMATION

1. Proposal submitted by:

Representing:

Contact person if different from above:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Email:

Preferred Phone:

2. Owner(s) of the proposed Tract:

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Note: The TRACT is the property for which you are seeking funding in this application. It may be part of a larger PROJECT that has several tracts, including those funded in the past, those for which you may seek future funding, and any properties that may contribute acres as cost share for the grant.

The Tract in this application does not have to be one contiguous parcel but must be described as one package. For a successful application all the parcels in a Tract should meet the selection criteria together and individually.

Project Category (check one)

- Large Landscape project
- State-Tribal Partnership project
- Strategic Small Tract project

1. Tract Name:

2. U. S. Congressional District(s) in which the tract lies:

3. Tract Acres:

4. Total Project Acres (for multiple tracts or phases):

5. County (ies):

6. Tax Lot #:

(For large Tracts, attach a map or spreadsheet showing tax parcel #s)

7. County Zoning:
8. Legal Description (Section, Township and Range):
(For large Tracts attach map with S-T-R grid, or description from a title report)
9. What percent of the Tract acres are forested?
10. What is the intended future use of this Tract?
11. Describe the surrounding land uses:
12. Does the Tract have legal access?
Describe main legal access (public roads or private easements):
13. Who owns the mineral rights on this Tract?
14. Are there any structures on the Tract?
Describe any buildings or other improvements:
15. Are the owners willing to manage the Tract under a Forest Stewardship Plan?
16. Conveyance: Have the owners reviewed the State's conservation easement or required deed language? Do they accept the mandatory terms? (Copies posted on Forest Legacy web page)
17. If the proposal is implemented, who is the intended fee owner of the Tract?



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PART II

FY 2024 IRA PROPOSED PROJECT BRIEF

The **Proposed Project Brief** describes both the tract and the project. The final ranking of the nominated tract will be based on the information provided in this brief.

A copy of the federal “Project Scoring Guidance” is available on DNR’s website to help you fill out this brief.

Please use font size 10 and try to keep responses within the character limits shown below. This information will be placed into the Forest Legacy Information System (FLIS) and is subject to editing by DNR staff.

The headings shown below are based on the project attributes used to score applications at the national level.

FUNDING SUMMARY – Please show how you propose to fund your project. The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) will fund a maximum of 75% of the total project and requires a minimum of 25% cost share (match) in property, cash or in-kind services. Cost share can be provided by the landowner, a non-profit organization or state or local government entities. **Note: FLP funding and cost share should equal the total tract cost, even if cost share is property not connected to the tract.** (For information on figuring the cost share amount see the FAQ document on the web page.)

<u>FY</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Total Tract Cost \$</u>	<u>FLP Funding (75%)</u>	<u>Cost Share \$ (25%)</u>
2024 IRA				

In the following sections, we give examples that may apply to your project. Please contact DNR if you have questions about acceptable description statements.

DESCRIPTION *Limit this description to 1250 characters including spaces.* This information should include the following elements: (1) general location; (2) position in the landscape; (3) whether the project is a fee or conservation easement purchase (4) brief description of the Tract and its contribution to the larger Project; and (5) summary of why this parcel should get funding. (Tip: Don’t just repeat the points in the Importance section. Tell the story of why this property is significant.)

IMPORTANCE

A maximum of 20 statements is allowed. Each statement can have a maximum of 300 characters including spaces (can break longer statements into two parts but that counts as two statements).

This criterion focuses on the attributes of the property and the environmental, social, and economic public benefits gained from the protection and management of the property and its resources, now and into the future. This criterion reflects ecological assets as well as the economic and social values conserved by the project and its level of significance.

National significance of a project is demonstrated in two ways:

1. A project that solidly represents a majority of the components outlined below under “Attributes to Consider” is viewed as nationally significant because of its strong alignment with the purposes of the Forest Legacy Program.
2. A project that supports Federal laws (such as Endangered Species Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and Clean Water Act) contributes to Federal initiatives or contains or enhances Federal designations (such as Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic Byways, National Recreation Trails, and cultural resources of national importance). When determining Federal importance, interstate/international resources (such as migratory species, or trail and waterways that cross state or international boundaries) will also be considered.

Attributes to consider: The descriptions list below represents the ideal project for each attribute. *These attributes are not listed in priority order:*

- **Economic Benefits from Timber and Potential Forest Productivity** – This category includes three independent components: (1) Landowner demonstrates sustainable forest management in accordance with a management plan. Additional points should be given to land that is third party certified (such as Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Forest Stewardship Council, and American Tree Farm System). (2) Forestry activities contribute to the resource-based economy for a community or region. (3) The property contains characteristics (such as highly productive soils) to sustain a productive forest over time.
- **Economic Benefits from Non-timber Products and Recreation** – Provides non-timber revenue to the local or regional economy through non-timber forest products (maple syrup, pine straw, ginseng collection, etc.); recreation and tourism (local or regional benefits related to lodging, rentals, bikes, boats, outdoor gear, guided tours for fishing, hunting, or birdwatching, etc.); hunting leases; and/or ranching.
- **Threatened or Endangered Species Habitat** – The property has documented threatened or endangered plants and animals or designated habitat. Documented occurrence and use of the project area should be given more consideration in point allocation than if it is habitat without documented occurrence or use. Federally listed species should be given more consideration than state-only listed species when evaluating the significance of this attribute. See Attachment A for a glossary of terms for Threatened and Endangered species information.
- **Fish, Wildlife, Plants, and Unique Forest Communities** – The property contains unique forest communities and/or important fish or wildlife habitat as documented by a formal assessment or wildlife conservation plan or strategy developed by a government or non-governmental organization. The importance of habitat to an international initiative to support and sustain migratory species can be viewed as national importance if conserving the property will make a significant contribution. Occasional use of the property or a modest contribution to an international initiative does not raise the property to national importance.
- **Water Supply, Aquatic Habitat, and Watershed Protection** – (1) The property has a direct relationship with protecting the water supply or watershed, such as providing a buffer to public drinking water supply, containing an aquifer recharge area, or protecting an ecologically important aquatic or marine area, and/or (2) the property contains important riparian area, wetlands, shorelines, river systems, or sensitive watershed lands. When allocating points consider

the importance of the resource, the scope and scale of the property, magnitude, and intensity of the benefits that will result from protection of the property. Merely being located within an aquifer recharge area or in a water supply area should not be given the same consideration as a property that makes a significant conservation contribution to water, riparian, and aquatic resources and habitats.

- **Cultural/Tribal/Historic**– The property contains features of cultural, Tribal, and/or historical significance that are documented by a governmental, Tribal, or a non-governmental organization. A Federal designation should receive greater consideration.
- **Public Access** – Protection of the property will maintain or establish new/expanded access by the public for recreation (including waterfront access); however, restrictions on specific use and location of recreational activities may be allowed. More consideration should be given to projects that expand or provide certainty of public access as a result of the proposed project.
- **Scenic** – The property is located within a viewshed of a government designated scenic feature or area (such as a trail, river, or highway). Federal designation should be given more consideration than state-only designations when evaluating the significance of this attribute.
- **Carbon Sequestration/Climate Resilience, Adaptation to Climate Change*** – Protection of the property will result in benefits related to climate resilience and adaptation, and carbon sequestration.

*Many of the elements in Importance relate to climate resilience and adaptation. For example, forest productivity, health, rare or unique plant communities where species range is discussed, and water resources. Landscape scale conservation and its impacts on resilience and adaptation are also discussed in Strategic. Carbon sequestration and management are important impacts of the program and of land conservation. The potential long terms carbon management contributions may be best viewed as optimizing carbon sequestration among the host of values and services from conserved forest rather than a focus on maximization of carbon within a limited span of time. Sustainable carbon management results from effective conservation and management of ecosystems; maintaining, restoring, and enhancing health and productivity. Forest Service General Technical Review-GTR WO-95 2017 [Considering Forest and Grassland Carbon in Land Management](#) provides a good discussion and overview of carbon as a consideration in forest management.

THREATENED

A maximum of 10 statements is allowed. Each statement can have a maximum of 300 characters including spaces.

This criterion estimates the likelihood for conversion. More points will be given to projects that demonstrate multiple conditions; however, a project need not have all the conditions listed to receive maximum points for this category.

During the evaluation of a threat, a landowner interested in conserving their land should not be penalized in allocating points because they are not marketing their lands, have not subdivided their land, or sought approval for a subdivision plan. Also, a property with an approved subdivision plan should not, without question, receive a high score in the Threatened section. The attributes outlined below must be considered to determine if the conditions exist to make conversion of a property likely and points should be allocated accordingly.

If the property has been acquired by a third party at the request of and/or with the support of the State, threatened will be evaluated based on the situation prior to the third-party acquisition.

In many cases the threat of conversion is fueled by residential or industrial development. However, this is not the only driver. Other types of conversion may include agricultural expansion, installation of wind or solar technology, or other uses that substantially remove or fragment forest cover. These other types of

conversion may also be considered based on the degree of threat or how much of a given parcel is threatened.

Discussion about which project attributes will be threatened if the project is converted should be included under the “Importance” category and not in this section.

Attributes to consider: The descriptions listed below represent the ideal project for each attribute. *These attributes are not listed in priority order.*

- **Lack of Protection** – The lack of temporary or permanent protections (e.g., current zoning, temporary or permanent easements, moratoriums, and encumbrances that limit subdivision or conversion) that currently exists on the property and the likelihood of the threat of conversion.
- **Land and Landowners Circumstances** – Land and landowner circumstances such as property held in an estate, age of landowner, interest of ownership and stewardship of property by heirs of current landowners is uncertain, property is for sale or has a sale pending, landowner anticipates owning the property for a short duration, landowner has received purchase offers, land has an approved subdivision plan, landowner has sold subdivisions of the property, etc.
- **Adjacent Land Use** – Adjacent land use characteristics such as existing land status, rate of development, growth, and conversion, rate of population growth (percent change), rate of change in ownership, etc.
- **Ability to Develop** – Physical attributes of the property that will facilitate conversion, such as access, buildable ground, zoning, slope, water/sewer, electricity, etc.

STRATEGIC

A maximum of 10 statements is allowed. Each statement can have a maximum of 400 characters including spaces.

This criterion reflects the project’s relevance or relationship to conservation efforts on a broader perspective considering scale, location, and relative contribution to landscape scale conservation goals. When evaluating strategic, three considerations should be made: 1) how the project contributes to an existing or new a conservation initiative, strategy, or plan; 2) how the project complements protected lands; and 3) the relative contribution of the project to landscape scale conservation goals and public benefits.

The submitted project map should support this category and it is important to make sure the text and map are consistent. See Recommendations and Best Practices for the Project Brief Map of this Scoring Guidance (at the end of this document).

Attributes to consider: The descriptions listed below represent the ideal project for each attribute. *These attributes are not listed in priority order.*

- **Conservation Initiative, Strategy, or Plan** – How the project contributes to either an existing or new conservation initiative, strategy, or plan. Describe the relative contribution of the property to achieving the conservation goals of the plan, strategy, or initiative considering scale, location, and project attributes. Conservation plans that have been formally designated by a governmental, tribal, or non-governmental entity should be given more consideration. Contributions to a new strategy or a strategy under development may also be discussed. This can be useful if a project would contribute to, or catalyze, a new conservation initiative, strategy, or plan. For new initiatives specific goals should be defined, and potential contributions of how the project advances those goals should be highlighted.
- **Complement Protected Lands** – How the project is strategically linked to enhance already protected lands including past FLP projects, already protected Federal, State, or non-governmental organization lands, or other Federal land protection programs (REPI, NRCS, NOAA, etc.).

- Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities – Projects that benefit disadvantaged communities (as defined in the Importance section) and/or address environmental justice should receive additional consideration.
- Other Landscape Scale Goals and Public Benefits – How the project strategically contributes to the advancement of larger scale conservation goals and public benefits. Examples of larger scale goals and benefits could include but are not limited to climate resilience and mitigation, reduced community impacts from wildfire, floods, invasive species, etc., expanded public access, and protection of critical water supplies. Provide specifics on the project's contributions to the larger scale goals and benefits.

Special Emphasis Criteria – Large Landscape Projects:

A maximum of 12 statements is allowed. Each statement can have a maximum of 400 characters including spaces.

- 1 High impact – exceptional economic, social, and environmental benefits and high strategic importance in a priority landscape aligned with National Core Criteria (as described in proceeding sections). Applicants should expand on the exceptional quality and unique strategic benefits of the proposed project to supplement the information provided under the National Core Criteria (Strategic, Threatened, Important).
- 2 National goals - significant contributions to one or more of the following national goals:
 - a. Climate resilience
 - b. Carbon sequestration
 - c. Habitat connectivity
 - d. Benefits for disadvantaged or Tribal/indigenous communities
- 3 High leverage – projects with higher non-federal cost share than the minimum required of 25 percent will be given greater consideration.
- 4 Efficiency of scale – a large investment now will be more cost effective and efficient than phasing overtime.
- 5 High readiness and capacity – States will need to demonstrate high readiness and capacity for successful project implementation within 3 years of grant award. Recent performance and current capacity will be carefully considered.
- 6 Stewardship Capacity – State has sufficient funding and plans in place for long term monitoring and stewardship of this large acreage project.

Special Emphasis Criteria – State-Tribal Partnership Projects:

A maximum of 12 statements is allowed. Each statement can have a maximum of 400 characters including spaces.

- 1 Active Engagement of Tribes – Meaningful support and involvement of Tribes (beyond letters of support) in the design, implementation, and stewardship of the project.
- 2 Strong Partnerships – Establishes or enhances long-term, stewardship-oriented relationships between States and Tribes. There is legal certainty and clarity around the agreement to co-manage the land.
- 3 Tribal/Cultural Values – Supports the protection of tangible or intangible cultural resources and/or traditions. The State and Tribe will work together to manage public access to protect cultural resources and traditions. Tribal members will have access to the property for cultural purposes.
- 4 National goals - significant contributions to one or more of the following national goals:
 - a. Climate resilience
 - b. Carbon sequestration
 - c. Habitat connectivity

- d. Benefits for disadvantaged or Tribal/indigenous communities
- 5 High readiness and capacity – States will need to demonstrate high readiness and capacity for successful project implementation within 3 years of grant award.
- 6 Co-Management – Provides for long-term Tribal engagement and co-management in stewardship of the project area. Management plans should incorporate traditional indigenous ecological knowledge/practices to reflect joint-stewardship.

Special Emphasis Criteria – Strategic Small Tracts:

A maximum of 8 statements is allowed. Each statement can have a maximum of 300 characters including spaces.

- 1 High strategic value – Inholdings or adjacent properties to already conserved lands (lands held in federal, state, or local public ownership; conservation easements, etc.), including tracts that complement previous program investments.
- 2 National goals - contributions to one or more of the following national goals:
 - a. Climate resilience
 - b. Habitat connectivity
 - c. Benefits for disadvantaged communities
- 3 Public access – Public access is expected, with the goal of enhancing public access to existing protected lands where applicable and strategic.
 - Public Access is access provided on a non-discriminatory basis at reasonable times and places but may be limited to protect cultural and natural resources or public health and safety.
 - Exceptions to the public access expectation will be rare and based upon justification of other applicable strategic values (habitat connectivity, protection of cultural/natural resources, and/or lack of public access on adjacent protected parcels, etc.)
- 4 High readiness and capacity – States will need to demonstrate high readiness and capacity for successful project implementation within 12 months of grant award.
- 5 Stewardship capacity – State has sufficient funding and plans in place for long term monitoring and stewardship of small tracts with multiple landowners.

READINESS

Items listed in this may provide extra points for your proposal in the national evaluation process.

Project Readiness is defined as the degree of due diligence applied and the certainty of a successful Forest Legacy Program project. To demonstrate project readiness, completed items need to be documented (including completion date). These will be entered in the Forest Legacy Information System (FLIS) and credit will only be given to those items documented.

1. Has information been documented to support the cost estimate, such as completed market analysis or preliminary appraisal? (A Market Analysis is required to support requested funding level.)

Date completed:

- 2 Draft conservation easement/deed language, or other comparable documentation, specific to the proposed project that demonstrates landowner and State agreement on easement or fee provisions including the requirements in the Implementation Guidelines (see Section 14 – Conservation Easement Language or Section 15 – Fee Simple Purchase Deed Language for specific examples).

Date Completed:

- 3 Cost share commitment has been obtained from specified source(s) and documented through funding commitment letters*, bargain sale agreement with landowner, etc.

Date Completed:

- 4 A signed option or purchase agreement is held by the State or at the request of the State OR at the request of the State, fee title has been pre-acquired by a third party.

Date Completed:

- 5 Title search has been completed and reviewed, including identifying any temporary or permanent protections and reviewing whether existing encumbrances impact project eligibility.

Date Completed:

- 6 Minerals rights have been evaluated through a title search and/or other research AND if rights are severed, then a minerals assessment and determination of remoteness has been completed. Have landowner and easement holder agreed to the easement or fee acquisition conditions? (The State can provide a template for a conservation easement).

Date completed:

1. Has a cost share commitment been obtained from a specified source?

Date completed:

2. Has an option or purchase and sale agreement been signed?

Date completed:

5. Has a title search been completed?

Date completed:

6. Have ownership of mineral rights and mineral potential been determined?

Date completed:

SUPPORTING PARTIES

80-character limit per item

This Legacy Project would be Supported by *(list organizations, partners, stakeholders, local and national leaders, and other interested parties who have given letters of support or would be willing to do so.)*

PHOTOS

(MAX 4, JPGS only)

- Any photos that demonstrate the importance of the project and enhance your application

MAP

(MAX 1, JPGS only)

- Show the project area, project phases, and vicinity. Add features that help demonstrate project significance and illustrate points made in the description (such as creek names, trails, or other described features), but be careful to keep the map clear and uncluttered.

Note: if your project is selected, a GIS shape file of the Tract will be required for submitting the application to the national committee.

General Recommendations

- Check spelling and grammar; write concisely.
- Maps are critical and can visually demonstrate the points raised.
- Many projects that score in the middle range present good facts but fail to elaborate on the implications of development and the benefits that the project area offers. By explaining key statements, the reader can see the larger picture of the project and doesn't have to guess what the writer is trying to convey.
- The top projects have benefits and supporters that cross over many different categories and are very diverse.
- Convincing points should be as *extensive* as possible but should not repeat facts or previous statements. We are looking for *quality not quantity*.

Recommendations for Maps from National Project Selection Panel

- First impressions matter. Many reviewers have indicated that the map was the first item they reviewed on a project brief. If the map is difficult to read, reviewers can become confused about why the project is important, threatened, or strategic.
- The project brief content and the map need to tell the same story. If the proximity of features are highlighted in the brief they should also appear on the map.
- The information portrayed in the map should be clear, concise, and easy to read. Some suggestions: Reserve bright colors for the project area and other Forest Legacy areas (e.g., highlight proposed projects in red). Other protected lands are easy to spot as saturated earth tones (e.g., different shades of green to differentiate federal, state and privately conserved land). The map is easier to analyze if the base map is light gray or neutral, so it doesn't distract from the map message. Don't clutter the map with unnecessary labels. Scale the map to show how the project tract fits into the area's conservation landscape. If the area is too large, use an inset map for location.