

How do I sign up?

1. Priority in Iowa is given to private forests that:
 - a. Possess a Forest Stewardship Plan
 - b. Are located within a designated Forest Legacy area.
 - c. Properties are threatened by conversion to non forest use
 - d. Landowners are willing to contribute in-kind to the 25% match requirement
2. Contact your local district forester to get a Forest Stewardship Plan completed – there is no cost or obligation.
3. Complete the Forest Legacy Landowner Application expressing interest in the program and attached as much documentation as you can.

The State Forest Stewardship Committee recommends Iowa private forests for the program, at their annual meeting each Summer. Applications are reviewed on an irregular basis depending upon the availability of federal USDA Forest Service funds – the application review process takes anywhere from 6 to 18 months before funding is known or available.

For more information about the Forestry Legacy Program contact:

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or visit

www.iowaDNR.gov/conservation/forestry

- Click **Forest Action Plan**
- Then the **'Private Lands'** Tab
- Then **'Forestry Legacy Program'**



FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM



Background:

As part of the 1990 Farm Bill, Congress created the Forest Legacy Program to identify and protect environmentally important private forestlands threatened with conversion to non-forest uses. This program promotes the concept of protecting “working forests” and allowing continuation of traditional forest uses as long as it follows a state forester approved Forest Stewardship Plan.

Why a Forest Legacy Program in Iowa?

Private forests that border or are nearby publicly owned forests are under threat of parcelization from agriculture, gravel pits, residential and commercial development



Goals of the Forest Legacy Program

- To protect environmentally important forests that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses, such as conversion to agriculture, gravel pits/mining, and residential and commercial development,
- To protect Iowa’s publicly owned or permanently protected forested tracts from environmental threats caused by the development of nearby forest areas,
- To prevent and reverse the fragmentation/parcelization of Iowa’s contiguous forests by reconnecting parcels of land and keeping forests in contiguous parcels, and
- To preserve the beauty and public enjoyment of Iowa’s forested landscape.

Definition of an Environmentally Important Forest:

1. Scenic or significant view shed values such as overlooks, vistas or is visible from main highways or public trails
2. Recreation opportunities for public access for such uses as hunting, fishing, hiking biking, etc
3. Riparian areas that are adjacent to major waterways, drinking water supplies and public lakes
4. Unique and or contiguous fish and wildlife habitat
5. Known threatened and endangered plant and animal species dependent upon forest habitat
6. Known unique archeological, cultural or geologic resources that could be lost or damaged
7. Opportunities for the continuation of traditional forest uses, such as management, timber harvesting and other commodity use and outdoor recreation that benefit economic values in neighboring communities
8. Borders or enhances the natural values of existing federal, state or local government owned or permanently protected forests or non governmental forests or other permanently protected forests
9. Protects and enhances water quality and watershed values of a public drinking water supply,
10. Contains unique or isolated tree species and forest stand conditions
11. Key to minimizing local fragmentation
12. Allows opportunities for continuation of traditional forest management and use.



Means of Protection:

Acquisition of Tracts through the purchase of conservation easements/fee acquisition. Concept is purchasing the development rights of forested lands only.

Identified Forest Legacy Areas (FLA) in Iowa:

- Loess Hills
- Upper Des Moines River Valley
- Mississippi River Blufflands
- Iowa/Cedar River Valleys
- Driftless Area
- State Protected Waterways
- Southern Iowa Drift Plain

Funding

The Forest Legacy program is federally funded, and will pay up to 75% of the total market value of the Conservation Easement (development rights) of private forests. Funding is dependent upon Congressional review for specific tracts and projects. So advanced applications are required to be reviewed at the state level to be built into the Federal budgeting process for the USDA Forest Service. Demand for Forest Legacy work nationwide is always greater than the supply of funding – so each state prioritizes forest legacy applications, works with the USDA Forest Service and other state forestry agencies to prioritize forest legacy applications nationwide each year to make the best use of available funding.